



# A One-Year Study of IPv6 Internet Traffic

Scott Iekel-Johnson  
scottij@arbor.net  
Principal Software Engineer  
Arbor Networks

Haakon Ringberg (haakon@princeton.edu)  
Craig Labovitz (labovit@arbor.net)  
Danny McPherson (danny@arbor.net)



# Outline of Presentation

---

- 1. Goals and background**
- 2. Methodology**
- 3. Key results**
- 4. Conclusion and discussion**

## Goal: Global and longitudinal perspective on Internet IPv6 traffic

---

- **Part of Arbor Networks project providing global perspective on *all* Internet traffic**
  - Across geographic regions
  - And types of providers (content, higher ed)
  - Leveraging > 2k Arbor probe deployments
- **Key insights**
  - Growth in traffic for applications and services
  - Pervasiveness of unwanted traffic (e.g., DDoS)

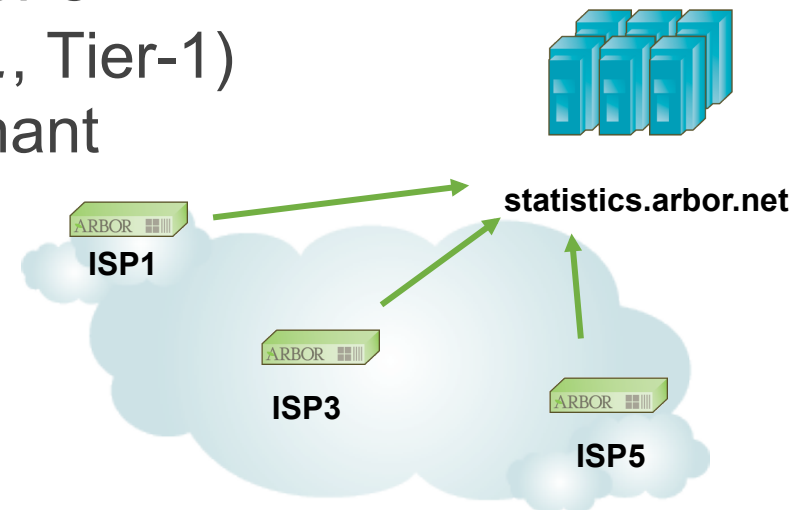
# Data Set

## Source

- ~100 voluntarily participating ISPs
- Self-categorization of type (e.g., Tier-1)
- Self-categorization of predominant geographic region

## Description

- One year period
- Traffic in/out network into 5-min samples
- Across top protocols, ports, ASNs, etc
- Largely based on IP flow measurements



# Global Footprint



- Global and longitudinal perspective
- 65 Americas, 27 EMEA, 6 AsiaPac
- Exceeding 5tbps of inter-domain traffic

# IPv6 Context

---

- **Imminent IANA IPv4 address exhaustion**
  - Widely predicted to happen within next few years (e.g., by CAIDA, Geoff Huston)
- **IPv6 has many more available addresses**
  - 28 orders of magnitude should be sufficient
- **There have been some government pressure to make the transition**
  - OMB mandate IPv6 to be available on routers
  - China's Next Generation Internet Initiative

# IPv6 Transition

- How much IPv6 *traffic* is on the Internet?

- Various indirect estimates published

- % ASNs with IPv6 BGP announcements - 3%<sup>[1]</sup>
- %Internet2 sites w/passing IPv6 grade - 1%<sup>[2]</sup>
- % Alexa Top 500 websites using IPv6 - 0.4%<sup>[1]</sup>
- IPv6 DNS queries as % IPv4 DNS load - 0.2%<sup>[3]</sup>

- IPv6 as % of all Internet traffic - 0.002%

[1] <http://bgp.he.net/ipv6-progress-report.cgi>, [2] [http://www.mrp.net/IPv6\\_Survey.html](http://www.mrp.net/IPv6_Survey.html),

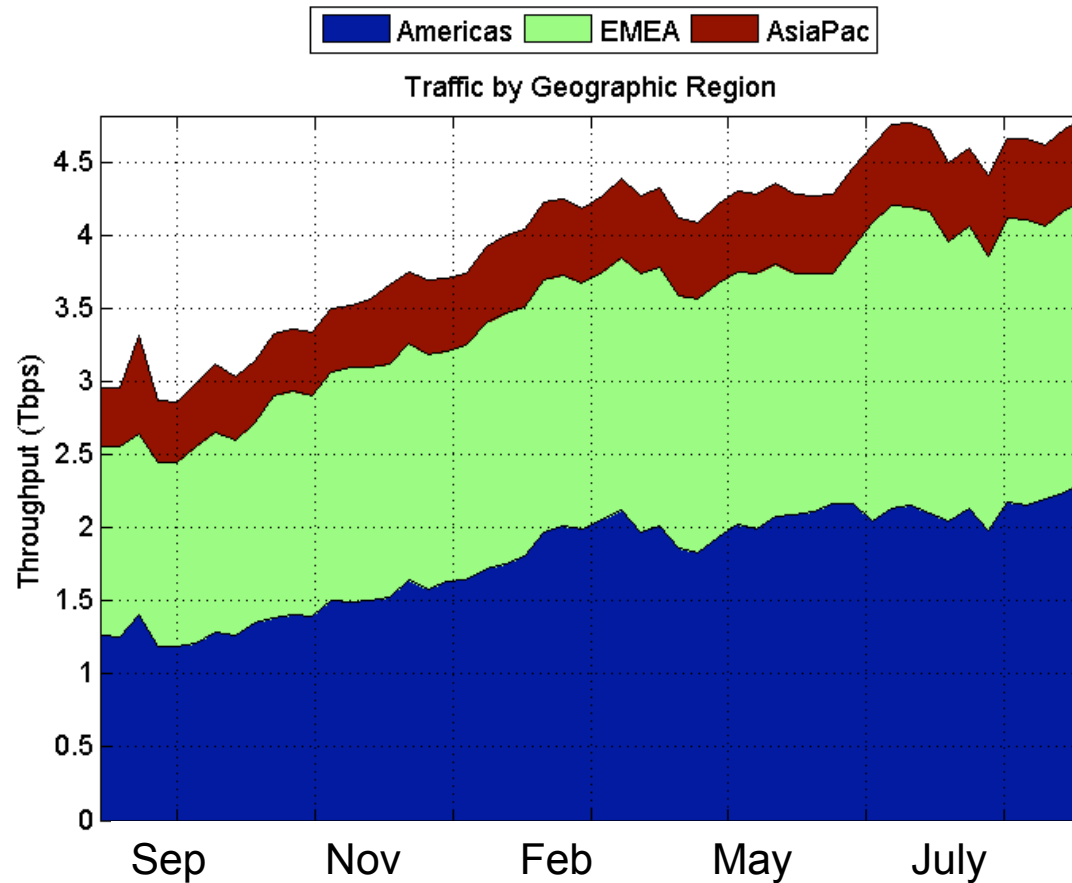
[3] <http://www.potaroo.net/presentations/2008-06-18-ipv6-deployment.pdf>

# IPv6 Measurement Methodology

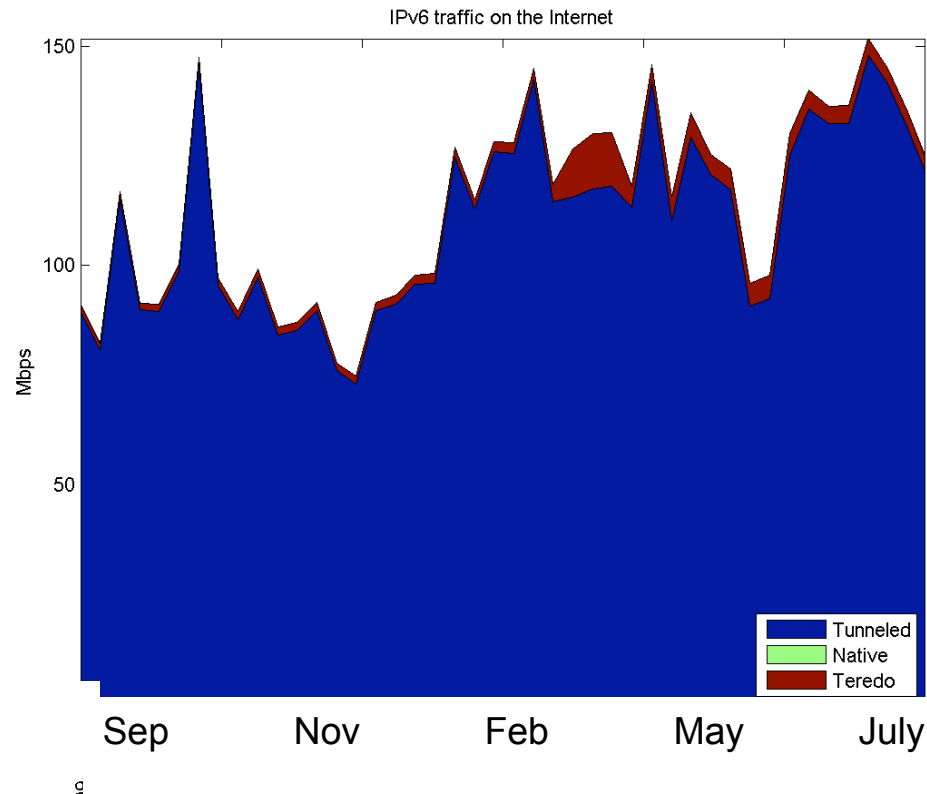
---

- **Inter-domain IPv6 traffic**
- **Native IPv6 traffic**
  - Requires that routers support NetFlow v9
- **Multiple forms of IPv6-over-IPv4 tunneled**
  - Tunneled over IPv4 protocol 41
  - Teredo traffic, tunneled over UDP port 3544

# Global and longitudinal traffic dataset

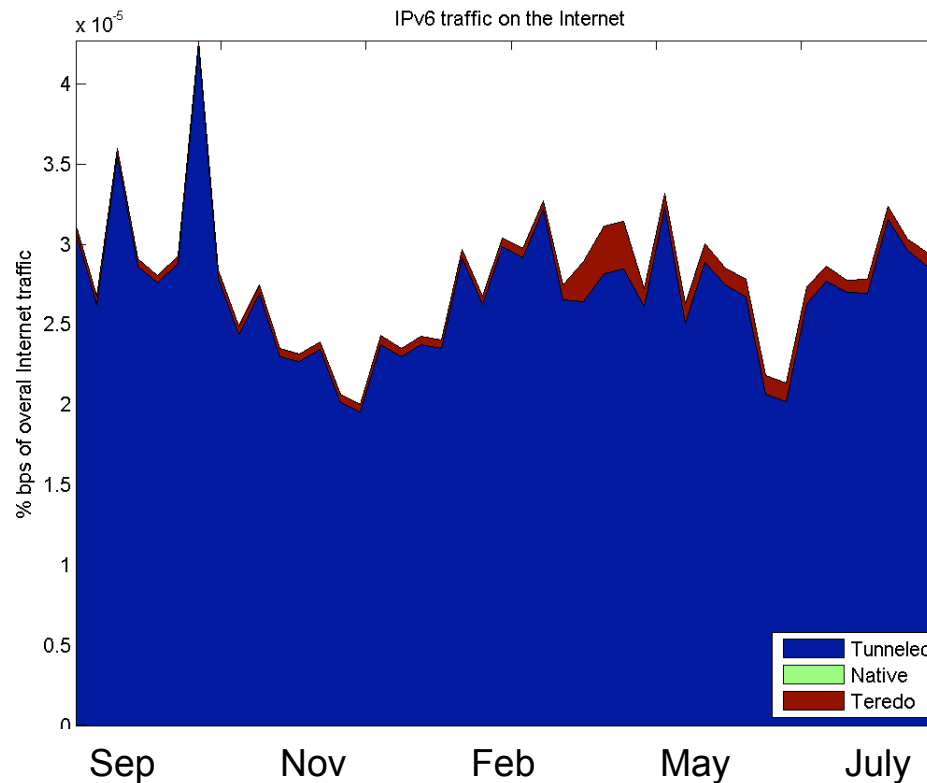


# IPv6 traffic is growing...



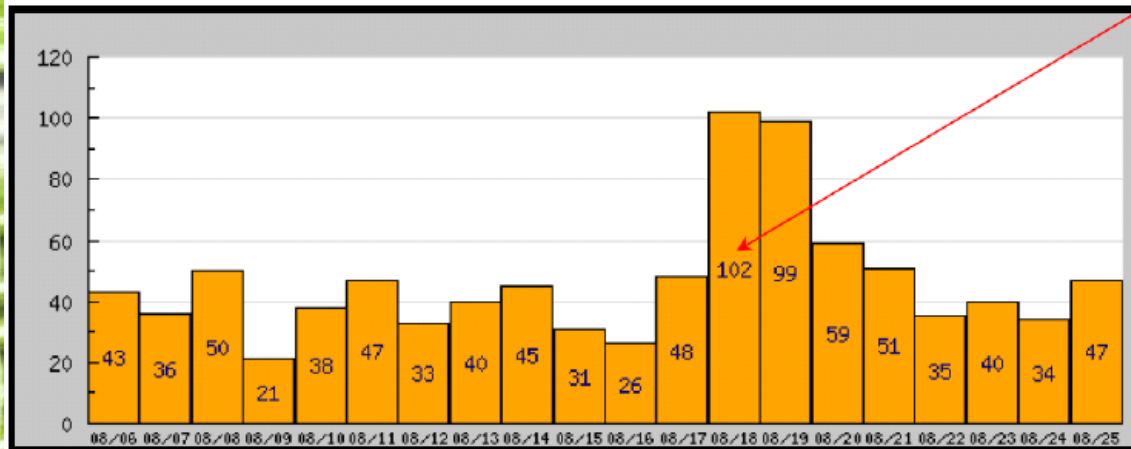
- > 30% increase between first and last quarter
- Approaching 150 Mbps of inter-domain IPv6

# IPv6 as fraction of Internet traffic

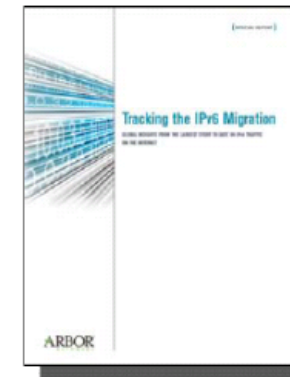


- *< 3 thousandths of 1 percent average*
- Growing more slowly than IPv4 inter-domain

# Immediate IPv6 Report Impact!



Arbor Networks "Tracking the IPv6 Migration" report released



Daily tunnel broker  
account signups for HE

Hurricane Electric Tunnel Broker – <http://tunnelbroker.net/>



# IPv6 Methodology Objections, I

---

- **Not monitoring *your* network**

- a) Please sign up today!
- b) 5tbps of inter-domain traffic is representative

- **North American / European bias to networks participating in study**

- **Focused on inter-domain traffic**

- Intra-domain not studied

- **Data set primarily flow based**

- More DPI measurements needed for future work

# IPv6 Methodology Objections, II

---

## ■ Undercounting native IPv6 traffic

- Monitoring requires NetFlow v9
- Many networks have not yet deployed NetFlow v9

## ■ Undercounting Teredo traffic

- Data traffic need not traverse UDP 3544
- Teredo relays and servers listen on 3544
- Only 2 deployments saw more than an occasional few kbps of UDP 3544 traffic

# Why So Little IPv6 traffic?

---

- **Findings**

- There is growth in IPv6 traffic
- But stagnant compared to overall Internet traffic
- And very little percentagewise

- **Why? Some thoughts:**

- Money: high costs, no added revenue
- Chicken/egg problem: no users, no content
- IPv4 is working well, why mess with it?



**ARBOR**<sup>®</sup>  
N E T W O R K S

# Thanks! Questions?

Haakon Ringberg  
Scott Iekel-Johnson  
Danny McPherson  
Craig Labovitz

**ARBOR**<sup>®</sup>  
N E T W O R K S

