

6bone Phaseout Planning

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- As clearly stated in RFC 2471, the addresses for the 6bone are temporary and will be reclaimed in the future. It further states that all users of these addresses (within the 3FFE::/16 prefix) will be required to renumber at some time in the future.
- Since 1999 planning for, and allocation of, IPv6 production prefixes by RIR community has been underway. During 2002 more production IPv6 address prefixes had been allocated than are allocated by the 6bone at the top level. It is generally assumed that this is one reasonable indicator that planning for a 6bone phaseout should begin.
- It is generally assumed that there is still some remaining need for the 6bone, at least for current usage that will take time to evaluate and possibly move to production IPv6 networks when possible.

How to plan a phaseout

- The original IETF home for the 6bone's oversight, the ngtrans wg, is now closed and replaced by the v6ops wg that did not include the 6bone in its charter
- It was thus assumed that it is appropriate to use the IETF Informational RFC process to determine a 6bone phaseout plan, as well as an appropriate way to get community feedback on the specifics of the 6bone phaseout
- In January 2003 a 6bone phaseout planning draft was released: [draft-fink-6bone-phaseout-00.txt](#)

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NOTE that Bob & Bob were both co-authors with
Jon Postel of RFC 2471

Proposed phaseout process

- 6bone pseudo TLA's (pTLAs) MAY continue to be allocated until July 1, 2004. Thus after the pTLA allocation cutoff date July 1, 2004, it is REQUIRED that **no new** 6bone 3FFE pTLAs be allocated
- To provide for sufficient planning time for 6bone participants to convert to production IPv6 address prefixes, all 6bone prefixes allocated by the cutoff time specified above, except for allocations withdrawn as a matter of 6bone operating procedures, SHALL remain valid until July 1, 2006
- Thus after the 6bone phaseout date July 1, 2006, it is REQUIRED that **no 6bone 3FFE prefixes**, of any size/length, be used on the Internet in any form

Phaseout implications

- It should be noted that this RFC does not intend to imply that a 6bone prefix holder, whether at the pTLA top level or lower, should seek a production IPv6 address prefix at any specific level
- It may be entirely reasonable for a 6bone prefix holder to seek a higher level, or a lower level, IPv6 prefix as their specific needs dictate
- It is anticipated that under this phaseout plan the 6bone will cease to operate by July 1, 2006, with all 6bone prefixes fully reclaimed by the IANA
- This plan is intended to obsolete RFC 2471, "IPv6 Testing Address Allocation", December, 1998. RFC 2471 would become historic.

IANA Considerations

- The IANA MUST reclaim the 3FFE::

(e.g., thus allowing production IPv6 networks to filter out the use of the 3FFE::

What's next

- Current comments mostly agree with the phaseout plan, with a slight preference for a shorter timescale before shut down and an allocation cutoff date closer to the shut down (e.g., Jan 1, 2005 cutoff for a July 1 2005 shut down)
- Suggested to make IANA 2-year non-reuse a SHOULD not a MUST to allow for possible other uses
- Encourage more discussion