September 28, 2010

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICERS OF EXECUTIVE
DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

FROM: Vivek Kundra
            Federal Chief Information Officer

SUBJECT: Transition to IPv6

The Federal government is committed to the operational deployment and use of Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6). This memo describes specific steps for agencies to expedite the operational deployment and use of IPv6. The Federal government must transition to IPv6 in order to:

- Enable the successful deployment and expansion of key Federal information technology (IT) modernization initiatives, such as Cloud Computing, Broadband, and SmartGrid, which rely on robust, scalable Internet networks;
- Reduce complexity and increase transparency of Internet services by eliminating the architectural need to rely on Network Address Translation (NAT) technologies;
- Enable ubiquitous security services for end-to-end network communications that will serve as the foundation for securing future Federal IT systems; and,
- Enable the Internet to continue to operate efficiently through an integrated, well-architected networking platform and accommodate the future expansion of Internet-based services.

In order to facilitate timely and effective IPv6 adoption, agencies shall:

- Upgrade public/external facing servers and services (e.g. web, email, DNS, ISP services, etc) to operationally use native IPv6 by the end of FY 2012[1];
- Upgrade internal client applications that communicate with public Internet servers and supporting enterprise networks to operationally use native IPv6 by the end of FY 2014;
- Designate an IPv6 Transition Manager and submit their name, title, and contact information to IPv6@omb.eop.gov by October 30, 2010. The IPv6 Transition Manager is to serve as the person responsible for leading the agency's IPv6 transition activities, and liaison with the wider Federal IPv6 effort as necessary; and,
- Ensure agency procurements of networked IT comply with FAR requirements for use of the USGv6 Profile and Test Program for the completeness and quality of their IPv6 capabilities.

To facilitate the Federal government's adoption of IPv6, OMB will work with NIST to continue the evolution and implementation of the USGv6 Profile and Testing Program. This Program will provide the technical basis for expressing requirements for IPv6 technologies and will test commercial products' support of corresponding capabilities.

---

[1]To ensure interoperability, it is expected that agencies will also continue running IPv4 into the foreseeable future.

The Federal IPv6 Task Force will meet with agencies to explain the Government's IPv6 direction and to share best practices. Attached is the schedule of the initial meetings, which will be followed by TechStat Accountability Sessions that will be led by the IPv6 Task Force to ensure a timely and successful transition to IPv6.

Please direct any questions regarding this memo to Carol Bales, Policy Analyst, Office of Management and Budget, at 202-395-9915 or Carol_Bales@omb.eop.gov.

Attachment

Attachment A: IPv6 Task Force Schedule

November 15-19: Department of Energy, Department of the Treasury, National Archives and Records Administration, and Department of Interior

November 29 - December 3: U.S. Agency for International Development, Department of State, Department of Health and Human Services, and Department of Justice

December 6-10: Social Security Administration, Department of Labor, Department of Transportation, and National Science Foundation

December 13-17: Department of Education, Department of Agriculture, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and Department of Veterans Affairs

January 3-7: Department of Defense, Smithsonian Institution, and Small Business Administration

January 10-14: Department of Homeland Security, Department of Commerce, Environmental Protection Agency, and Office of Personnel Management

January 17-21: Department of Housing and Urban Development, General Services Administration, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers