

Evolv6: Complete Lifecycle Approach to IPv6

The June 2008 deadline for integrating IPv6 into federal government agencies' core networks is fast approaching, and some agencies are wondering what's in it for them, other than checking off the box. "It's a smart question," says Susan Shareshian, solution development manager for the Cisco® Federal Center of Excellence. "To get real value from the IPv6 integration, agencies first need to understand how new IPv6 capabilities can improve mission effectiveness. And that answer is different for every agency."

Obtaining IPv6 Expertise

IPv6 expertise is still rare, however, which led Cisco and its partner Command Information to offer Evolv6, a portfolio of services that spans the entire IPv6 lifecycle process in federal government. Agencies receive help from the very beginning of the planning process to ensure that the IPv6 integration is smooth, cohesive, and makes sense from a revenue or mission perspective, according to Shareshian. At the outset of the process, Cisco and Command Information interview agency executives and IT staff to understand the business needs. Then they assess the current state of the network and applications and develop a comprehensive plan to integrate IPv6 without disrupting current agency activities. The process continues right through developing applications that capitalize on the power of IPv6. "Agencies benefit from Evolv6 by getting all the integration services they need through the entire IPv6 lifecycle in a single service portfolio," says Shareshian. The partnership between Cisco and Command Information extends throughout all phases of service delivery, with one or both companies working with the agency as needed.

Most Important Service: Planning

A guiding principle of the Evolv6 service portfolio is that when IPv6 integration is approached correctly, agency employees don't even notice the protocol version. "Instead, they should notice improved government services that are made possible by the new capabilities in IPv6," says Shareshian. Agencies will take advantage of IPv6 in different ways, based on their mission, but examples include:

- New communications interoperability solutions that enable existing, incompatible communications systems based on IPv4 to tie into each other using the peer-to-peer capabilities in IPv6. "With Evolv6, agency IT groups receive training to understand how the IPv6-based solution affects not only the network, but also the applications and services that operate over the network," says Shareshian.
- A sensor-based data center solution from Cisco that dynamically monitors the temperature in the data center, racks, and even specific devices. Benefits to agencies include lower IT resource requirements, energy savings, and greener data center practices.
- The Advanced Incident Response System (AIRS) solution, developed by Cisco and Command Information with partners Arch Rock and pTerex, enables continuous monitoring and tracking of emergency response personnel as they enter an incident area. IPv6 sensors track the vital health signs of response personnel and also report environmental statistics of

the response area. As emergency response personnel enter the area, the solution takes advantage of the autoconfiguration and peer-to-peer networking capabilities of IPv6 to enable collaboration and interoperability among the sensors.

Ongoing Training and Guidance

“It’s important to acknowledge that IPv6 integration will take years,” says Sharesian. “Throughout the process, Cisco and Command Information provide training and guidance to minimize disruption and maximize the business benefits. Agencies that take advantage of Evolv6 prepare themselves to truly take advantage of IPv6 three or four years from now rather than simply checking off a box.”

For more information on IPv6, visit www.cisco.com/go/fedipv6. To learn more about Evolv6 services, visit www.cisco.com/web/strategy/docs/gov/evolv6.pdf.



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