# IPv6 Extension Headers and Testing Results

Presented by: Nalini Elkins

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### Vision

Multi-year project: IPv6 deployment at enterprises.

Provide training,

 Analysis of security and application conversion,

 Help enterprises plan their IPv6 deployment. India Internet Engineering Society (IIESoc) and Industry Network Technology Council (INTC)

# A few words about me

- President: Industry Network Technology Council
- Founder & CEO: Inside Products, Inc.
- Advisory Board: India Internet Engineering Society
- RFCs: RFC8250 (Embedded performance and diagnostics for IPv6) and others
- Product developer (OEMed by IBM and others)
- Working with IPv6 for 15 years
- Working with network management, diagnostic, performance issues at large brick-and-mortar enterprises for over 30 years



### Collaborators

Dr. Priyanka Sinha was most recently the IoT Analytics lead at Zenatix. She previously worked on Rédback Networks' SmartEdge 800, Itaas' interactive TV, and TCS Research's social IoT. She received her BTech in CSE from IIT Guwahati in 2004, her MS in Computer Engineering from Auburn University in 2007, and her PhD in CSE from IIT Kharagpur in 2022. She was a Vodafone fellow at Auburn, where she worked on autoconfiguration in multi-hop mobile adhoc networks.

 Vivek Jain is a PhD student at the University of California, Riverside.

### Agenda

- Introduction
  - IPv6 address structure
  - IPv6 extension headers
  - Past EH testing
- Cloud Topologies
- Cloud Testing Results

### The IPv6 Header

- IPv6 main header: fixed 40 bytes
- Source and destination addresses larger!
- Defined in RFC8200 (originally RFC2460)

Versio	Traffic Class	Flow Label					
Payload	Length	Next	Hop Limit				
Source Address							
Destination Address							

IDv6 Main Hoodor (10 Dutoe)

### **IPv6 Extension Headers**

- New: IPv6 extension headers
- Next Header field chains headers
- Rules:
  - May appear only once
  - Must appear in fixed order
  - Exception: Destination Options

IPv6 Main Header (40 Bytes)

Extension Header # 1 (next 5)

Extension Header # 5 (next 8)

Extension Header # 8 (next Data) Data

### Common IPv6 Extension Headers

Next Header (Hex)	Next Header (Decimal)	Header Name	Description
0	0	Hop-by-Hop Options	For all devices on the path
2B	43	Routing	0 – Source Routing (deprecated) 2 – Mobile IPv6
2C	44	Fragment	Only when packet is fragmented
32	50	Encapsulated Security Payload (ESP)	IPSec encrypted data
33	51	Authentication Header (AH)	IPSec authentication
3C	60	Destination Options	http://www.iana.org/assignment s/ipv6-parameters/ipv6-paramet ers.xml (Mobile IP, etc)

# Can IPv6 Extension Headers Be Used on the Internet?

- Controversy for many years
- A number of studies showing that IPv6 extension headers "don't work"
- Studies (by and large) sent "fake" IPv6 extension headers to Alexa top n sites
- If this is true, IPv6 extensibility is at risk. We DO NOT want, IPv6 + n!

## What we did

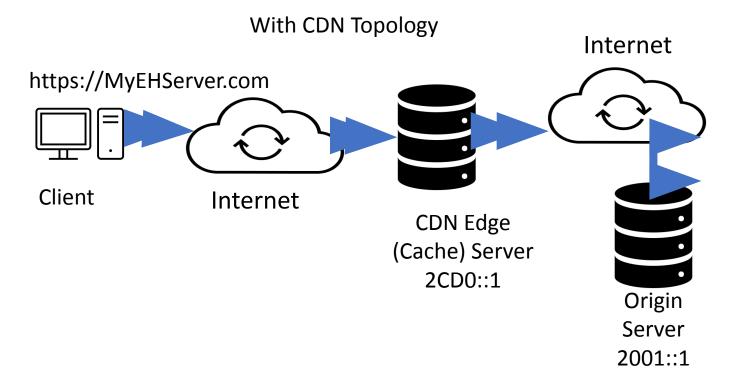
- Used a small hosting service (not one of the "brand-name" ones)
- Locations throughout the world
- 1. PDM-Warsaw
- 2. PDM-Toronto
- 3. PDM-Seattle
- 4. PDM-Mumbai
- 5. PDM-Melbourne
- 6. PDM-Frankfurt

All machines are FreeBSD with a modification to the kernel to send PDM IPv6 Destination option with every packet. (Now changed to Ubuntu using eBPF)

# Our Goals

- We are doing troubleshooting and trying to isolate and fix problems
- We are **NOT** doing large scale measurments
- We will do that after problems are fixed. Otherwise, moving target.
- Two large providers of Internet services appear to have changed their EH handling already. Conversation with a third (cloud vendor) is in progress. They stand ready to work with us.

### Also tested with CDNs



# Move Server Behind CDN

- Our server has a domain name: MyEHServer
- Our server also has an IPv6 address (also IPv4 probably)
- Let's say: 2001::1 and 201.1.1.1 (MyEHServer resolves to these)
- To move behind a CDN, you have to give the CDN authority to resolve MyEHServer
- Let's give the CDN IPv6 addresses starting with 2CD0::/64 (2CD0::1, 2CD0::2, etc)
- After CDN move, MyEHServer will resolve to some CDN cache server address (2CD0::1 for example)



We will now refer to our server as the "Origin Server"

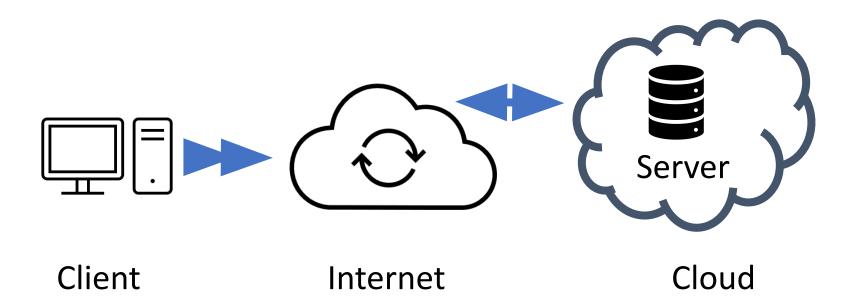
# **Cloud Topologies**

Various configurations:

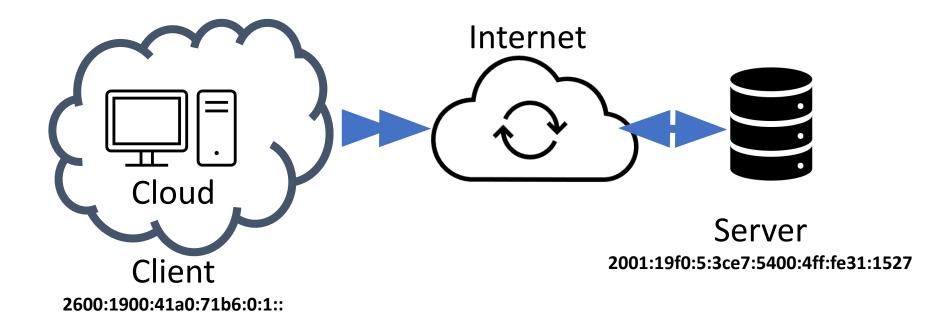
- Outside Cloud to Inside Cloud
  - Standalone to Cloud (OC-S)
  - Cloud to Standalone (S-OC)
  - Data center to Cloud (OC-D)
- Inside Cloud (IC),
  - Cloud #1 One Datacenter (IC-SD)
  - Cloud #1 Multiple Datacenters (IC-MD)
- Between Clouds (BC) cloud#1- cloud #2

# Cloud Testing: Outside Cloud to Inside Cloud

Standalone to Cloud (OC-S) Topology Simplest: Client – Internet -- Server



Cloud #1 – Standalone outside Cloud (S-OC) Cloud Client – Internet – External Server



### Packet trace with No Extension Headers

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ipv6				<b>V</b>				
No.	Time	Source		Destination	Info	0		
_ 2	84.609591	2600:1900:41a	0:71b6:0:1::	2001:19f0:5:3ce7:5400:4	ff:fe31:1527 56	5948 → 80 [SYN]	Seq=0 Win=64	
3	2 4.800563	2001:19f0:5:3	ce7:5400:4ff:fe31:1527	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:1	:: 80	$\rightarrow$ 56948 [SYN,	ACK] Seq=0 A	
3	3 4.800633	2600:1900:41a	0:71b6:0:1::	2001:19f0:5:3ce7:5400:4	ff:fe31:1527 56	5948 → 80 [ACK]	Seq=1 Ack=1	
3	5 4.800885	2600:1900:41a	0:71b6:0:1::	2001:19f0:5:3ce7:5400:4	ff:fe31:1527 GE	T / HTTP/1.1		
3	9 4.990622	2001:19f0:5:3	ce7:5400:4ff:fe31:1527	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:1	:: 80	) → 56948 [ACK]	Seq=1 Ack=15	
4	04.990826	2001:19f0:5:3	ce7:5400:4ff:fe31:1527	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:1	:: 80	$\rightarrow$ 56948 [PSH,	ACK] Seq=1 A	
<								
> Fran	ne 28: 94 byte	s on wire (752	2 bits), 94 bytes captur	ed (752 bits)				
> Ethe	ernet II, Src:	42:01:0a:01:0	00:03 (42:01:0a:01:00:03	), Dst: 42:01:0a:01:00:0	1 (42:01:0a:01:00	9:01)		
✓ Inte	ernet Protocol	Version 6, Sr	c: 2600:1900:41a0:71b6:	0:1::, Dst: 2001:19f0:5:	3ce7:5400:4ff:fe3	31:1527		
0	110 = Ver	sion: 6						
>.	0000 0000	····	= Traffic Cl	ass: 0x00 (DSCP: CS0, EC	CN: Not-ECT)	Cloud is c	lient.	
	0000 0000	0110 0011 1010	0 = Flow Label: 0x0063a	Contract Internation New York Contract (1985) Process				
Payload Length: 40 Going to								
N	ext Header: TC	Standalon						
H	op Limit: 64		-					
S	ource Address:	server outside						
D	estination Add	ress: 2001:19	f0:5:3ce7:5400:4ff:fe31:	1527				
> Trar	smission Cont	rol Protocol,	Src Port: 56948, Dst Po	rt: 80, Seq: 0, Len: 0		Cloud. No		

#### ARIN Online enter )

You searched for: 2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:1::

#### Network

WHOIS-RWS

Net Range 2600:1900:: - 2600:190F:FFFF:FFFF:FFFF:FFFF:FFFF:FFFF CIDR 2600:1900::/28 CLOUD Name NET6-2600-1900-1 Handle NET6-2600 (NET6-2600-1) Parent Net Type **Direct Allocation** Origin AS AS Organization Registration Date 2014-05-28 Last Updated 2015-09-21 \*\* The IP addresses under this netblock are in use by Comments Cloud customers \*\* Direct all copyright and legal complaints to https://suppor com/legal/go/report

WHO-IS LookUp shows that this is cloud provider #1.

#### What do we know so far?

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No.		Time	Source	Destination	Info
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	32	4.800563	2001:19f0:5:3ce7:5400:4ff:fe31:1527	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:1::	80 → 56948 [SYN, ACK]
	33	4.800633	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:1::	2001:19f0:5:3ce7:5400:4ff:fe31:1527	56948 → 80 [ACK] Seq=
	35	4.800885	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:1::	2001:19f0:5:3ce7:5400:4ff:fe31:1527	GET / HTTP/1.1
	39	4.990622	2001:19f0:5:3ce7:5400:4ff:fe31:1527	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:1::	80 → 56948 [ACK] Seq=
	40	4.990826	2001:19f0:5:3ce7:5400:4ff:fe31:1527	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:1::	$80 \rightarrow 56948$ [PSH, ACK]
<					

- IP addressing and firewalls set up correctly
- HTTP server set up correctly
- Traffic going back and forth

### **Bottom Line**

 IPv6 to Cloud Provider #1 with no IPv6 extension headers works fine. (PING and HTTP). Client can be inside cloud or outside cloud.

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, ip	v6.addr	== 2600:1900:41a0:71	b6:0:1::			
No.		Time	Source	Destination	Next Header	Info
+	227	25.279174	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:1::	2001:19f0:5:3ce7:5400:4ff:fe31:1527	Destination Options for IPv6	46378 → 80 [SYN] Seq=
	237	26.301452	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:1::	2001:19f0:5:3ce7:5400:4ff:fe31:1527	Destination Options for IPv6	[TCP Retransmission]
	241	28.317453	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:1::	2001:19f0:5:3ce7:5400:4ff:fe31:1527	Destination Options for IPv6	[TCP Retransmission]
	246	32.509455	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:1::	2001:19f0:5:3ce7:5400:4ff:fe31:1527	Destination Options for IPv6	[TCP Retransmission]
	247	40.701447	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:1::	2001:19f0:5:3ce7:5400:4ff:fe31:1527	Destination Options for IPv6	[TCP Retransmission]
	418	52.574124	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:1::	2001:19f0:5:3ce7:5400:4ff:fe31:1527	Destination Options for IPv6	41584 → 80 [SYN] Seq=
	420	53.597439	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:1::	2001:19f0:5:3ce7:5400:4ff:fe31:1527	Destination Options for IPv6	[TCP Retransmission]
	421	55.613447	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:1::	2001:19f0:5:3ce7:5400:4ff:fe31:1527	Destination Options for IPv6	[TCP Retransmission]
	436	59.645440	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:1::	2001:19f0:5:3ce7:5400:4ff:fe31:1527	Destination Options for IPv6	[TCP Retransmission]
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> Frame 241: 110 bytes on wire (880 bits), 110 bytes captured (880 bits)	
> Ethernet II, Src: 42:01:0a:01:00:03 (42:01:0a:01:00:03), Dst: 42:01:0a:01:00:01	(42:01:0a:01:00:01)
Internet Protocol Version 6, Src: 2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:1::, Dst: 2001:19f0:5:3c	e7:5400:4ff:fe31:1527
0110 = Version: 6	
> 0000 0000 = Traffic Class: 0x00 (DSCP: CS0, ECN:	Cloud is alight (.1)
0011 1001 1000 1001 0010 = Flow Label: 0x39892	Cloud is client (:1::).
Payload Length: 56	
Next Header: Destination Options for IPv6 (60)	Going to Standalone
Hop Limit: 64	Cong to Standalonio
Source Address: 2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:1::	a am car autaida Claud
Destination Address: 2001:19f0:5:3ce7:5400:4ff:fe31:1527	server outside Cloud.
> Destination Options for IPv6	
> Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 46378, Dst Port: 80, Seq: 0, Len: 0	Client has $EU(.1527)$
	Client has EH (:1527).

# What is received at other end?

- Nothing!
- (Only IPv4 packets!)

's try the other way								
Next Header	Info							
Destination Options for IPv6	57280 → 80 [SYN] Seq=0							
Destination Options for IPv6	[TCP Retransmission] [							
Destination Options for IPv6	[TCP Retransmission] [							
Destination Options for IPv6	[TCP Retransmission] [							
Destination Options for IPv6	[TCP Retransmission] [							
Destination Options for IPv6	58082 → 80 [SYN] Seq=0							
Destination Options for IPv6	[TCP Retransmission] [							
Destination Options for IPv6	[TCP Retransmission] [							
Destinction Ontions (en TDus	[Ten n-ku-minsion] [							
19:84:a9:af:ff)								
0:41a0:71b6:0:1::								
-ECT)								
> 0000 0000 = Traffic Class: 0x00 (DSCP: CS0, ECN: Not-ECT) 0111 0000 0001 1110 1010 = Flow Label: 0x701ea								
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Cloud is Ser	ver (:1::).							
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Cloud is Ser Client is Sta	ndalone							
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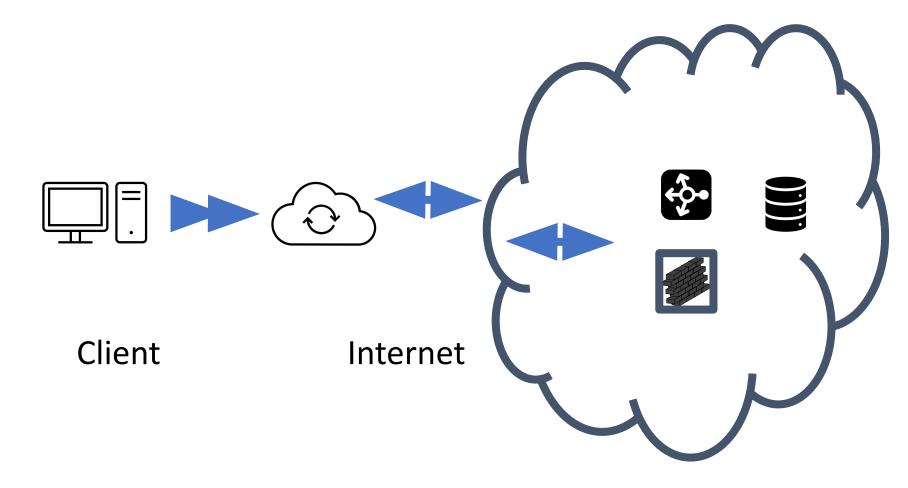
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- Nothing!
- (Only IPv4 packets!)

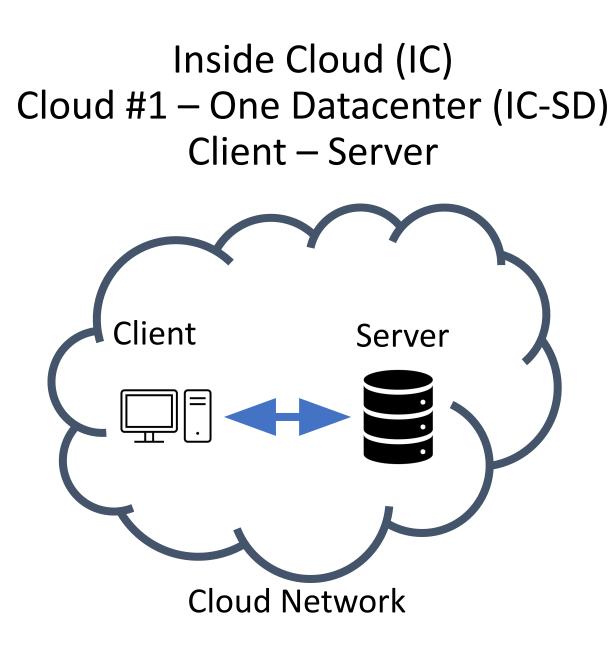
### **Bottom Line**

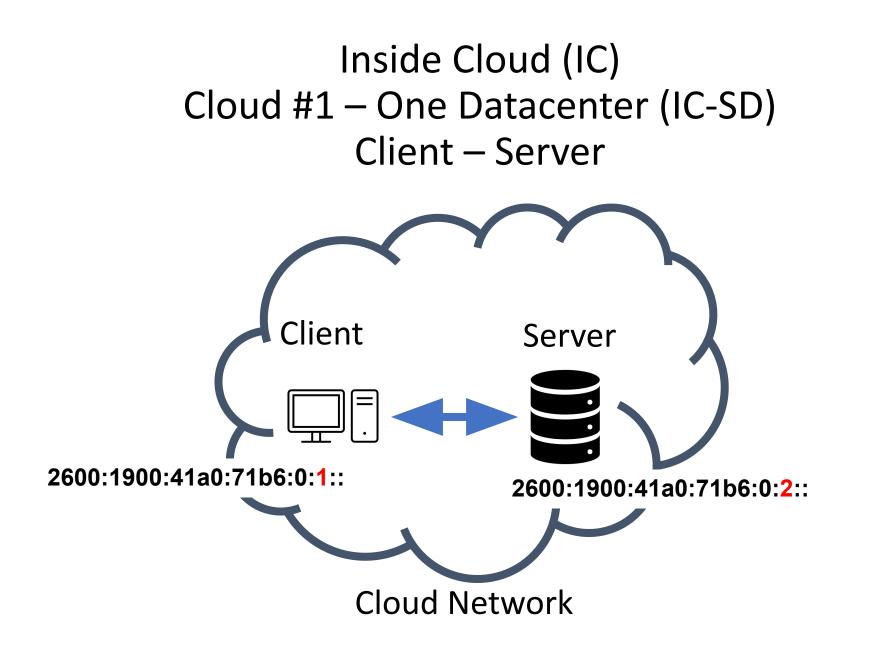
- IPv6 to Cloud Provider #1 with no IPv6 extension headers works fine. (PING and HTTP). Client can be inside cloud or outside cloud.
- IPv6 with Cloud Provider #1 with IPv6 extension headers does not work. Client can be inside cloud or outside cloud.
  - OS supports EHs
  - "Network" does not

### Realistic Topology Client – Internet -- Cloud Network



# **Cloud Testing: Inside Cloud**

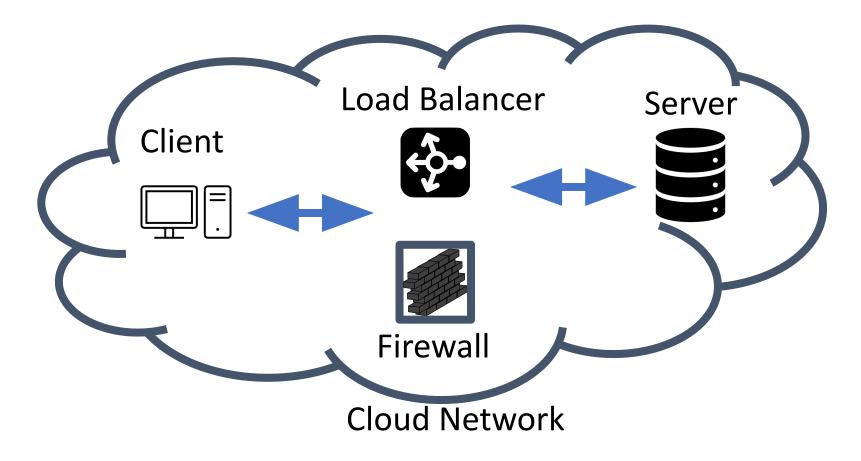




			WHO-IS LookUp shows
ARIN Online enter 💽	WHOIS-RWS		that this is cloud provider #1.
	You searched for: 2600:19	900:41a0:71b6:0:1:: This is th	ne :1:: address
	Network		
	Net Range	2600:1900:: - 2600:190F:FFFF:FFFF:FFFF	:FFFF:FFFF:FFFF
	CIDR	2600:1900::/28	
	Name	CLOUD	
	Handle	NET6-2600-1900-1	
	Parent	NET6-2600 (NET6-2600-1)	
	Net Type	Direct Allocation	
	Origin AS	AS1	
	Organization		
	Registration Date	2014-05-28	
	Last Updated	2015-09-21	
	Comments	** The IP addresses under this netblock are Direct all copyregal complaints to https://support.m/legal/go/report	in use by Cloud customers **

ARIN Online enter 💽	WHOIS-RWS		WHO-IS LookUp shows that this is cloud provider #1.
	You searched for: 2600:1	900:41a0:71b6:0:2:: This is the :2	:: address
	Network		
	Net Range	2600:1900:: - 2600:190F:FFFF:FFFF:FFFF:FFF	FF:FFF:FFFF
	CIDR	2600:1900::/28	
	Name	CLOUD	
	Handle	NET6-2600-1900-1	
	Parent	NET6-2600 (NET6-2600-1)	
	Net Type	Direct Allocation	
	Origin AS	AS	
	Organization		
	Registration Date	2014-05-28	
	Last Updated	2015-09-21	
	Comments	** The IP addresses under this netblock are in Direct all copyright and legal complaints to https://support.goom/legal/go/report	use by Cloud customers **

#### Inside Cloud (IC) Cloud #1 – One Datacenter (IC-SD) Realistic: Client – Load Balancer, Firewall, etc – Server

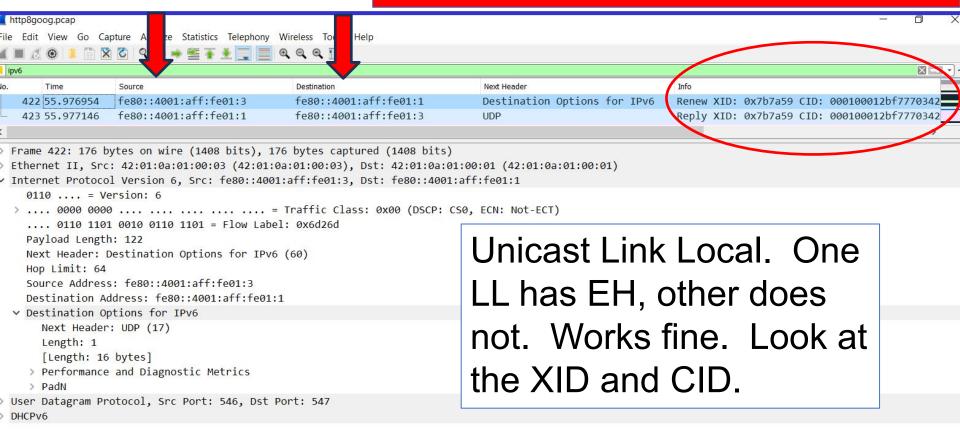


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, ipv	5								
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	50 7.037920	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:1::	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:2::	Destination Options	for IPv6	Echo (ping)	request id=0x000		
	53 7.038952	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:2::	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:1::	Destination Options	for IPv6	Echo (ping)	reply id=0x000a,		
	56 8.039165	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:1::	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:2::	Destination Options	for IPv6	Echo (ping)	request id=0x000		
	57 8.039452	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:2::	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:1::	Destination Options	for IPv6	Echo (ping)	reply id=0x000a,		
	62 9.057504	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:1::	2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:2::	Destination Options	for IPv6	Echo (ping)	request id=0x000		
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▼ I	<pre>&gt; Frame 3: 102 bytes on wire (816 bits), 102 bytes captured (816 bits) &gt; Ethernet II, Src: 42:01:0a:01:00:03 (42:01:0a:01:00:03), Dst: 42:01:0a:01:00:01 (42:01:0a:01:00:01) &gt; Internet Protocol Version 6, Src: 2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:11:, Dst: 2404:6800:4005:802::200a 0110 = Version: 6 &gt; 0000 0000 = Traffic Class: 0x00 (DSCP: CS0, ECN: Not-ECT)  1001 0010 1010 0001 1111 = Flow Label: 0x92a1f Payload Length: 48 Next Header: Destination Options for IPv6 (60) Hop Limit: 64 Source Address: 2600:1900:41a0:71b6:0:11: Destination Address: 2404:6800:4005:802::200a &gt; Destination Options for IPv6 Next Header: TCP (6) Length: 1 [Length: 16 bytes] &gt; Performance and Diagnostic Metrics</pre>								
> T	ansmission Co	ntrol Protocol, Src Port: 49510	, Dst Port: 443, Seg: 1. Ack	: 1, Len: 0					

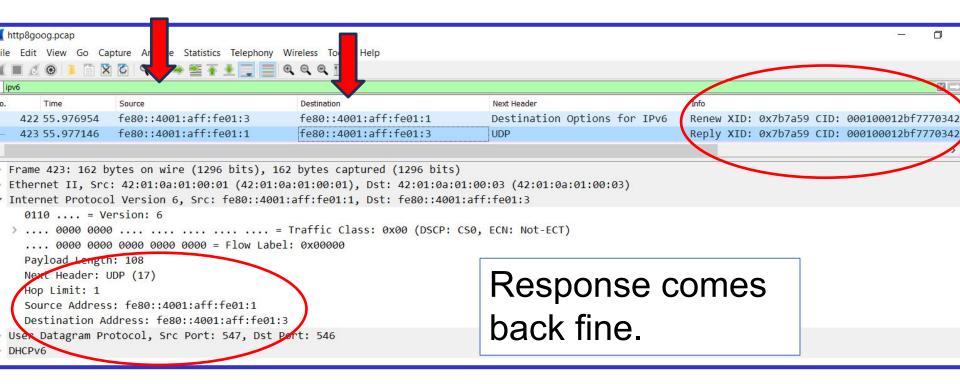
> Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 49510, Dst Port: 443, Seq: 1, Ack: 1, Len: 0

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	152 21.2	80670 2	2600:1900:4	1a0:71b6	:0:2::	2600:1900:4	1a0:71b6:0:1::	Destination	Options fo	r IPv6	80 → 60474	[SYN,	ACK] Seq=0 A
	153 21.2	80705 2	2600:1900:4	1a0:71b6	:0:1::	2600:1900:4	1a0:71b6:0:2::	Destination	Options fo	r IPv6	60474 > 80	[ACK]	Seq=1 Ack=1
-	154 21.2	80769 2	2600:1900:4	1a0:71b6	:0:1::	2600:1900:4	1a0:71b6:0:2::	Destination	Options fo	r IPv6	GET / HTTP/	1.1	>
	156 21.2	80921 2	2600:1900:4	1a0:71b6	:0:2::	2600:1900:4	1a0:71b6:0:1::	Destination	Options fo	r IPv6	80 → 00474	[ACK]	Seq=1 Ack=14
	158 21.2	81494 2	2600:1900:4	1a0:71b6	:0:2::	2600:1900:4	1a0:71b6:0:1::	Destination	Options fo	r IPv6	80 → 60474	[PSH,	ACK] Seq=1 A
	159 21.2	81494 2	2600:1900:4	1a0:71b6	:0:2::	2600:1900:4	1a0:71b6:0:1::	Destination	Options fo	r IPv6	HTTP/1.1 20	0 OK	(text/html)
	160 21.2	81545 2	2600:1900:4	1a0:71b6	:0:1::	2600:1900:4	1a0:71b6:0:2::	Destination	Options fo	r IPv6	60474 → 80	[ACK]	Seq=143 Ack=
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> E ~ I	thernet 0110 010 010 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	II, Src Protocol 000 0000 11 0101 d Length eader: D nit: 64 Address ation Ad ation Op Header th: 1 gth: 16	: 42:01:0a: 1 Version 6 ersion: 6 0 6 1 101 1010 1 4090 Destination 6: 2600:1900 ddress: 2600 tions for 1 : TCP (6)	01:00:01 , Src: 2  0110 = F Options 0:41a0:72 0:1900:42 (Pv6	(42:01:0a: 600:1900:41 Flow Label: for IPv6 (1 1b6:0:2:: 1a0:71b6:0:	01:00:01), D a0:71b6:0:2: raffic Class: 0x75da6 50)	:, Dst: 2600:19	its) 1:00:03 (42:01: 900:41a0:71b6:0 S0, ECN: Not-EC	:1::		Oes	-11	TP.

### Let's look at Link Local in Cloud



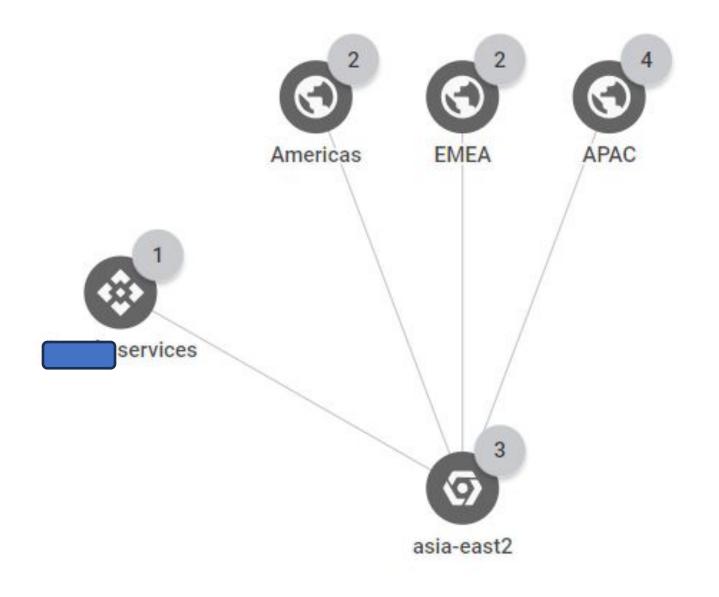
### From the other side Link Local



### **Bottom Line**

- IPv6 to Cloud Provider #1 with no IPv6 extension headers works fine. (PING and HTTP). Client can be inside cloud or outside cloud.
- IPv6 with Cloud Provider #1 with IPv6 extension headers does not work. Client can be inside cloud or outside cloud.
  - OS supports EHs
- "Network" does not
- Inside Cloud: IPv6 with Cloud Provider #1 with IPv6 extension headers works
  - OS supports
  - Internal "Network" appears to be not a factor
  - Link Local as well as Global Unicast works

### Cloud #1 – Multiple Datacenters (IC-MD)



### Next Steps ...

- Test with:
  - More cloud providers
  - Routers
  - ISPs
  - Load balancers
  - OSs
- Need to test ALL extension headers!
- This will be a multi-year process!



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