TSSG hosts Irish IPv6 Summit in Dublin Castle

The TSSG organised the first Irish IPv6 Summit in January 2009. The event was chaired by Mr Mícheál Ó Foghlú, Executive Director Research TSSG, and opened by Minister of Communications Mr Eamonn Ryan. The Summit was streamed live over the Internet, and videos and slides of all the talks are available on-line (see web address below).

Our existing Internet infrastructure is based on the IPv4 standard, and will start to run out of addresses in mid-2011. This will have a severe impact on new Internet users. From 2012 onwards, it is likely to become either very expensive or not possible for new companies to go on-line, as doing so requires the availability of a publicly routable IP address. The whole ethos of the Internet is based on growth driven by: the accessibility from new devices

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Minister of Communications Mr Eamonn Ryan, with Mícheál Ó Foghlú, Executive Director Research TSSG, WIT at the opening of the Irish IPv6 Summit 2009 in Dublin Castle

such as mobile phones; the growth of sensor networks; and the increase in new user communities, which is now most pressingly seen in the large populations of China and India. The lack of address space will limit that growth, so it is time to address this problem now before the address space is depleted. The solution has been around since the mid 1990s: IPv6 is a re-engineered version of the existing Internet protocol. The analogy is that the move from IPv4 to IPv6 is like adding extra digits to a telephone number, to allow more phones to be used. IPv4 has 4,294,967,296 (2^{32}) addresses; IPv6 has 2^{128}, easily allowing many millions of devices per person alive in the world (world population about 6×10^9).

The TSSG has been involved in IPv6 since the late 1990s, mainly through EU-funded research programmes that explored the opportunities offered by the new protocol for security, mobility and managing quality of service. In 2004, the TSSG, with HEAnet and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR) co-founded the Irish IPv6 Task Force. In 2005 the Irish National IPv6 Centre was established, based on a partnership between the TSSG, the Hamilton Institute (NUI Maynooth), HEAnet and BT Ireland.

Through the Irish National IPv6 Centre and the Irish IPv6 Task Force, the TSSG is ensuring that Ireland takes a world leadership role in the challenges facing the future of the Internet.

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