

IPv6 for the GSCR

The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration (ASD(NII)) for the Department of Defense (DoD) has issued an updated policy on August 16, 2005 that defines a 3 Milestone process for transitioning to IPv6. A key tenant of the IPv6 transition strategy is to minimize later transition costs by ensuring that the products and systems acquired after October 1, 2003 are IPv6 capable. The goal of the policy is to complete a transition to IPv6 for all DoD networking by fiscal year (FY) 2008. Since the Defense Switched Network (DSN) is a component of the GIG, the policy applies to DSN and this section of the acquisition plan provides an IPv6 migration path for the Voice over Internet Protocol (IP Convergence) portions of the DSN.

The term IPv6 capable is defined according to the IPv6 Interim Transition Guidance dated 16 August 2005 as follows:

“An IPv6 Capable system or product shall be capable of receiving, processing and forwarding IPv6 packets and/or interfacing with other systems and protocols in a manner similar to that of IPv4.

Criteria to be considered IPv6 capable are:

- Conformant with IPv6 standards profile contained in DoD IT Standards Registry (DISR)*
- Maintaining interoperability in heterogeneous environments and with IPv4*
- Commitment to upgrade as the IPv6 standard evolves*
- Availability of contractor/vendor IPv6 technical support”*

The approach for addressing IPv6 for the GSCR 2003 Change 2 is shown in Table 1-3. The policy guidance is in the left column and the right column will require the vendors to provide a signed Vice Presidential Letter of Commitment stating to meet the policy requirements by providing the listed information in the right column.

The Assistant Secretary of Defense for Networks and Information Integration (ASD(NII)) for the Department of Defense (DoD) has issued an updated policy on August 16, 2005 that defines a 3 Milestone process for transitioning to IPv6. Similarly, the DSN Program office will implement a 3 step process in transitioning equipment requested to be listed on the APL to support IPv6 as follows:

Step 1: Obtain formal letters of commitment as specified above by 4th Qtr FY06:
Obtain formal Signed VP Letter of Compliance from the various switch vendors per the

DSN Policy Guidance Approach for meeting IPv6 Capable Criteria requirements as outlined in Table 1-3.

Table 1-3: DSN Policy Guidance Approach for meeting IPv6 Capable Criteria

IPv6 Capable Criteria	Signed VP Letter of Compliance
Conformant with the IPv6 standards profile contained in the DISR	Date by when vendor will have a planned software release available
Maintaining interoperability in heterogeneous environment with IPv4	Date by when vendor will have a planned software release available
Commitment to upgrade as the IPv6 standard evolves	Commitment that upgrade is currently funded and date by when vendor will have a planned software release available
Availability of Contractor/vendor IPv6 technical support	Date when technical support will be available and training program planned for technical support

Step 2: Conduct IPv6 Assessments beginning in FY07: Assessment testing of IPv6 will be a joint government and industry effort to develop IPv6 Technical requirement for RTS. This technical requirement will become part of the RTS GSRs as has the AS SIP technical requirement. Pilot testing of IPv6 is targeted for the CONUS Pilot based on availability of an IPv6 STIG.

Step 3: Conduct DSN IPv6 Certifications: Include IPv6 certification as part of the overall DODDI 8100.3 process for equipment submitted to be APL certified beginning in FY08.