What's an "IP Address" these days?

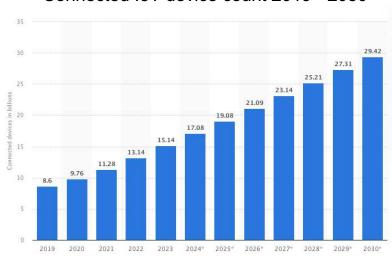
Geoff Huston AM APNIC





Connected Devices

Connected IoT device count 2019 - 2030

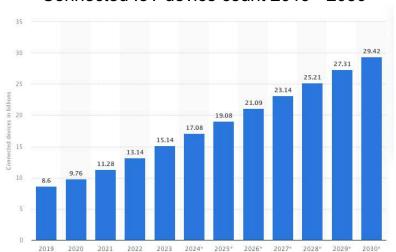


https://www.statista.com/statistics/1183457/iot-connected-devices-worldwide/ #apricot2024



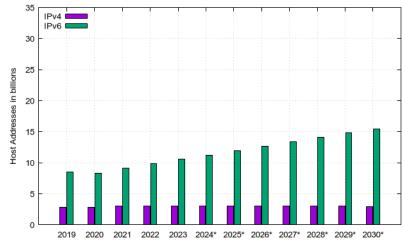
Addresses for Connected Devices

Connected IoT device count 2019 - 2030



https://www.statista.com/statistics/1183457/iot-connected-devices-worldwide/ #apricot2024

Advertised Host Addresses 2019 - 2030

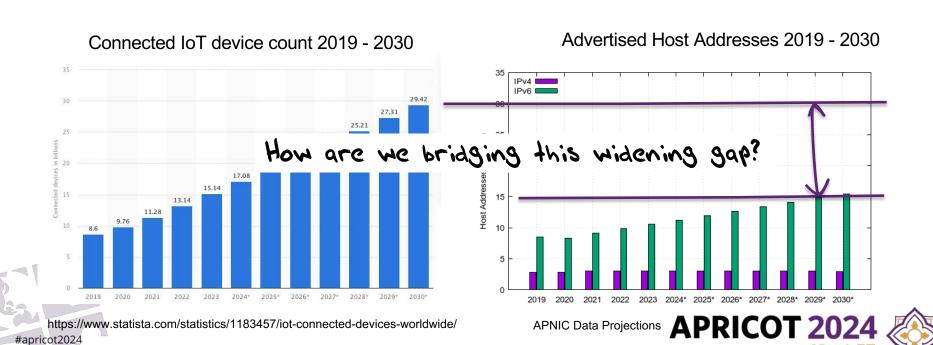


APNIC Data Projections





Addresses for Connected Devices



What did we need from Addresses?

Identity:

WHO - Every unique end point has a unique address value

Location:

 WHERE - Every unique address is associated with a location within the network

Reachability:

 HOW – Every address informs the network how to direct packets towards it



What did we need from Addresses?

The IP architecture uses an overloaded semantic framework for ated with a location within

HOW – Every address informs the network how to direct packets towards it



Running Short of Addresses

- Address scarcity has been a feature of public Internet services from the outset
 - "sharing" a dial-up modem bank across a larger pool of subscribers
 - "sharing" a single connection service across a set of connected local computers
- We responded to this scarcity by:
 - using common address pools and assigning addresses from the pool only when they were connected
 - Sharing a single external address across multiple internal devices (NATs)





Client/Server Architecture

- The expansion of the computer industry into "low end" client devices motivated a change in the network service architecture to differentiate between *clients* and *servers*
- Client platforms have no strict need for a persistent identity, and hence no strict need for a persistent address
- This adoption of a client/server architecture has taken the pressure off the addressing system in having to provide a permanent unique IP address to every client





Clients

Only need a persistent address to use for the lifetime of a connection





Clients

- Only need a persistent address to use for the lifetime of a connection
 - QUIC's form of client address agility allows the client to be assigned a different external address each 2 x RTT interval
 - We've shifted session identification away from the old 5tuple of addresses + ports to an application-level token



Servers

- What's the minimum address requirement for a multi-location service delivery platform?
 - 1 anycast address
- How does the platform differentiate between different hosted services?
 - The DNS
- How do we identify service endpoints?
 - The DNS
- How do we secure service identity?
 - DNS Name certificates!



Architectural Evolution

- The 1980's network architecture was an address-based architecture where every attached endpoint was uniquely addresses by its network attachment using a persistent address
- Names were seen as an alias for addresses as part of the applicationlevel framework intended to improve ease of use
- Addresses were isomorphic to identity





Evolutionary Changes

- We shifted to an asymmetric architecture of clients and servers
- We dispensed with persistent network-wide level identity for clients and used local context addresses instead – clients do not have an addresslevel identity
- We also dispensed with identity semantics for servers. The prevailing use of anycast service platforms implies that addresses are used for location and forwarding, but not for identity





Today's Name-based Network

- Today's service network is a name-based network
- Names provide identity, names underpin authenticity and security
- Addresses retain the semantics of location and forwarding, but have largely dispensed with the role of endpoint identification





Some Questions

- How well does IPv6 reflect this evolving network architecture that has shifted identity from addresses to names?
- Anycast provides a local scope for replicated service platforms. Can anycast also allow local-scoped client-side addresses?
- If every connected device does not need a permanent global address, then how many addresses do we need?





