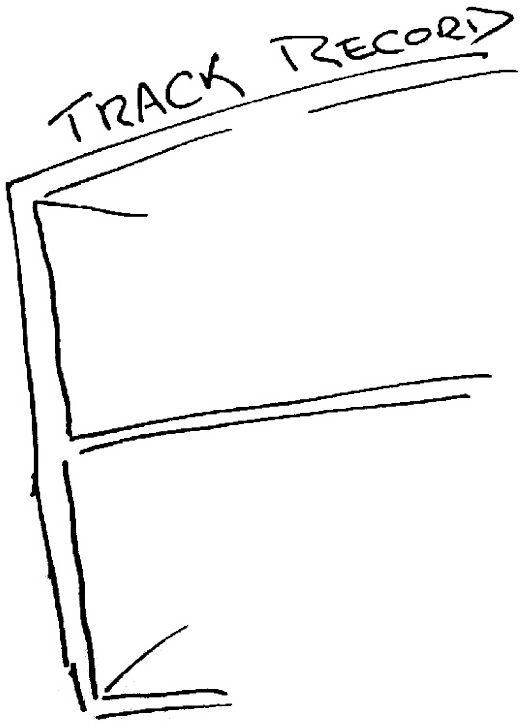
The Post-IPocalypse Internet

Geoff Huston

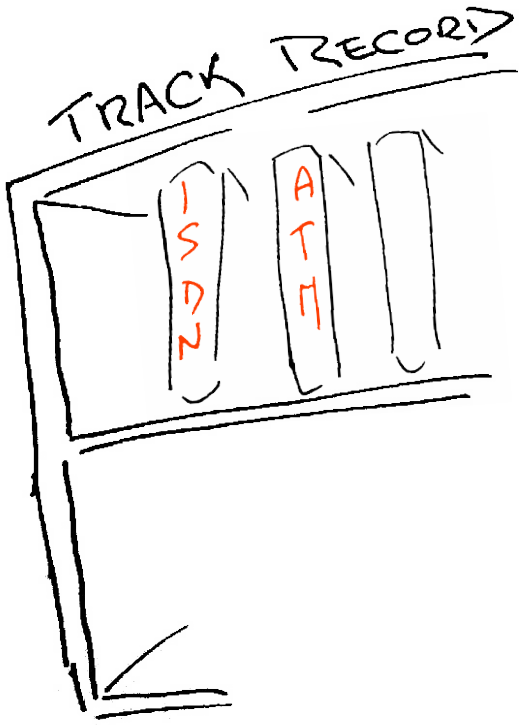
APNIC

The mainstream telecommunications industry has a rich history



The mainstream telecommunications industry has a rich history

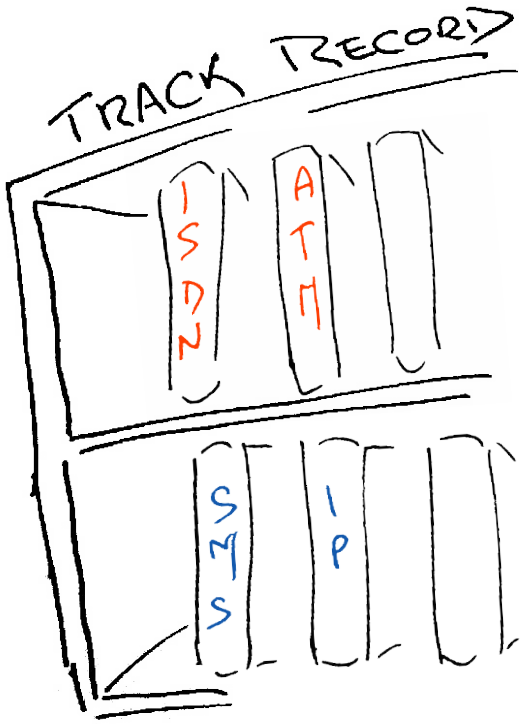
…of making very poor technology choices



The mainstream telecommunications industry has a rich history

…of making very poor technology guesses

and regularly being taken by surprise!



The Internet...

Has been a runaway success that has transformed not just the telecommunications sector, but entire social structures are being altered by the Internet!

And now we've used up most of the Internet's 32bit address pool

The Internet...

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telecommunicati[illegible]or, but
entire socia[illegible]ctures are
being al[illegible] the Internet!

And [illegible]ve used up most of the
[illegible]'s 32bit address pool

This is should not be news - we've known about this looming iPocalypse for the past twenty years!

IETF Meeting - August 1990

Internet Growth (Continued):
Continued Internet Growth

Frank Solensky
Racal InterLan
solensky@interlan.com

- A preliminary analysis of data presented earlier in the conference projects the "size" of the Internet on several metrics, assuming continued exponential growth.
  - NIC Assigned Network Numbers
  - NIC "Connected" Status Nets
  - BBN's snapshots
  - NSFnet Policy Routing DataBases
- As was mentioned during the discussion period, a logistic curve would likely be a more realistic model: This will be the subject of further analysis. Note, however, that the limit that this approaches may turn out to be beyond the capacity of the class A-B-C numbering scheme

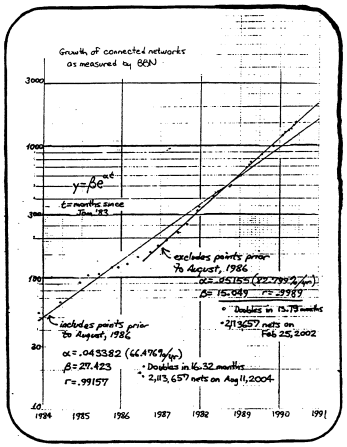
NIC

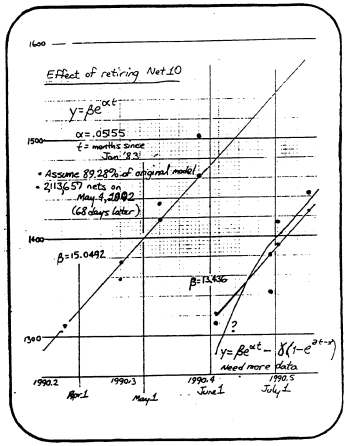
"Connected" IP Network Numbers

- Assigned Numbers RFC defines connected networks as connected to research and operational internet.
- Does not reflect whether the net is, in fact, entered in any routing table.

$y = \beta e^{\alpha t}$ where y = predicted number of nets, t = time (in months) since Jan. 1983

	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class A-B
β	12.069	24.412	887.879	3032.211
α	.012163	.040721	.011690	.013467
growth rate per yr.	15.613%	61.440%	14.497%	17.413%
y	125	16,382	2,097,150	49,147
$\hat{x}$	192.193	159.839	624.438	206.346
	Jan 6, 1999	Apr 26, 1996	May 14, 2038	Mar 27, 2000
r	.9293	.9870	.7942	.9548



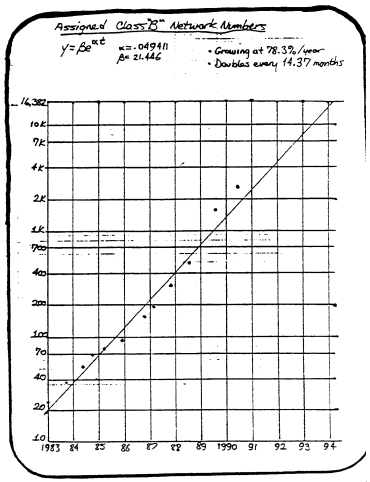


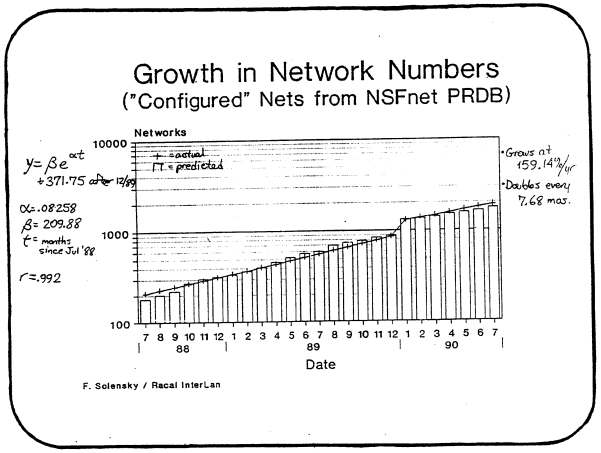
Assignment of IP Network Numbers

- Reflects organizations' desire for IP Address assignment; that is, to be listed in RFC-1166.
- Does not reflect "connectivity"

$y = \beta e^{\alpha t}$ where y = predicted number of nets, t = time (in months) since Jan '83

	Class A	Class B	Class C	Class A-B
β	11.883	21.446	1531.793	2899.462
α	.013175	.049411	.027187	.015587
growth rate per yr.	17.008%	78.389%	37.973%	20.394%
y	125	16,382	2,097,150	49,147
$\hat{x}$	178.605	134.35	265.64	181.58
	(Nov 19, 1997)	(Mar. 11, 1994)	(Feb. 18, 2005)	(Feb 17, 1998)
r	.9491	.9842	.9800	.9749





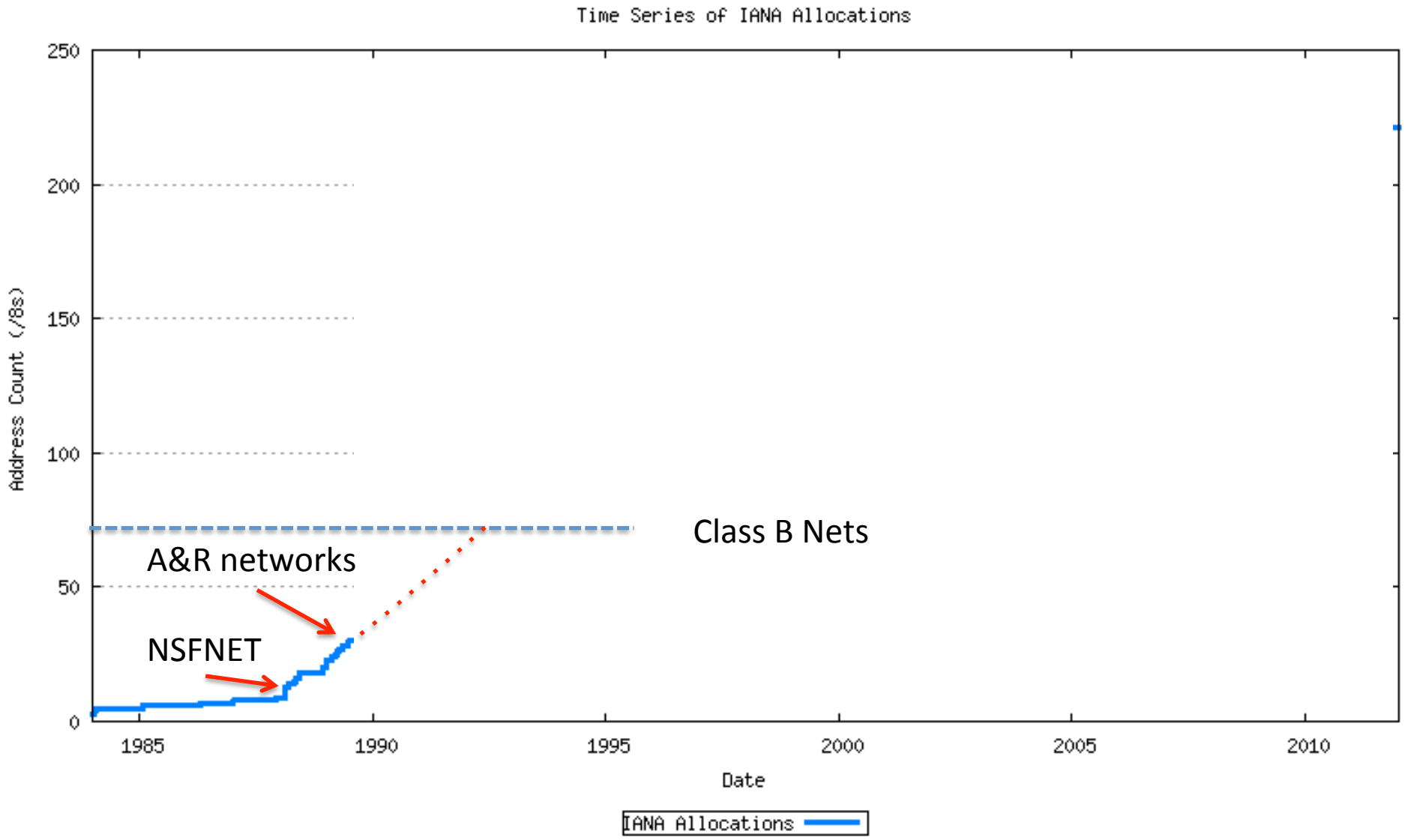
IETF Meeting - August 1990

Depletion Dates

• Assigned Class "B" network numbers	Mar. 11, 1994
• NIC "connected" Class B network numbers	Apr. 26, 1996
• NSFnet address space*	Oct. 19, 1997
• Assigned Class "A-B" network numbers	Feb 17, 1998
• NIC "connected" Class A-B network numbers	Mar. 27, 2000
• BBN snapshots*	May 4, 2002

* all types: may be earlier if network class address consumption is not equal.

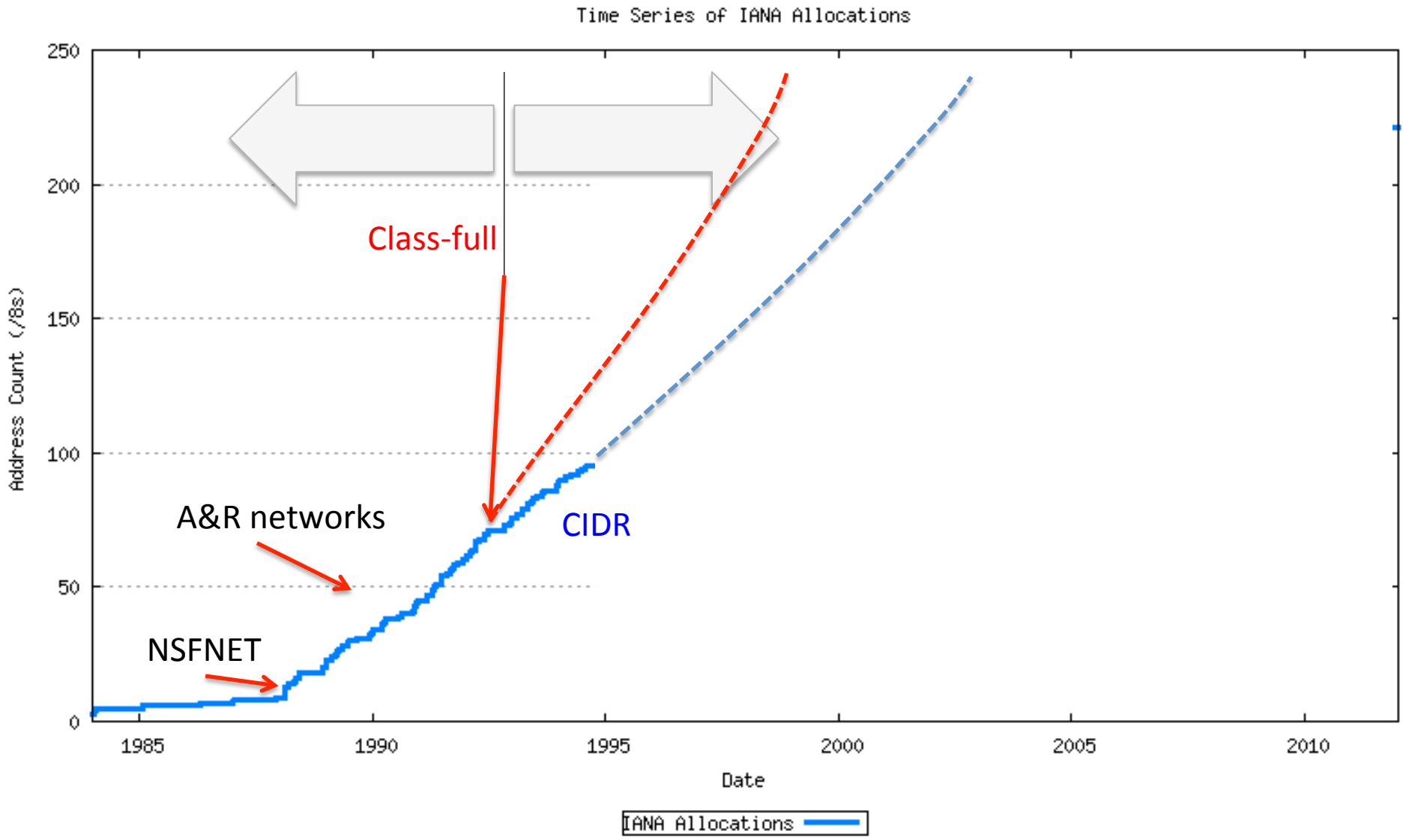
IPv4 Address Allocations



What did we do back in 1992?

We bought some time by removing the CLASS A, B, C address structure from IP addresses

The CIDR Fix


Time Series of IANA Allocations
Address Count (/8s)
250
200
150
100
50
0
1985
1990
1995
2000
2005
2010
Date
Class-full
A&R networks
CIDR
NSFNET
IANA Allocations

What else did we do back in 1992?

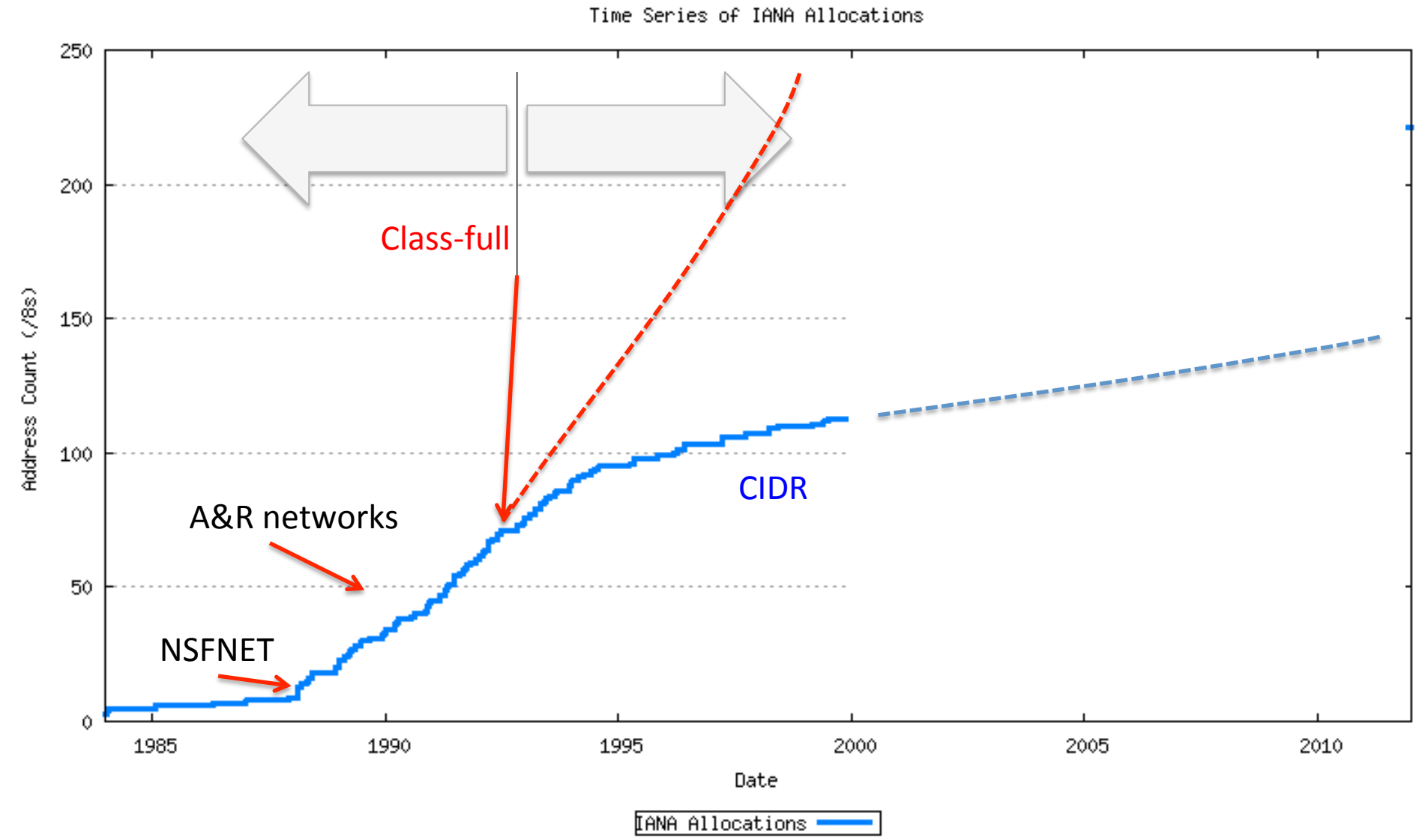
And we started working on a new Internet Protocol - to become IPv6 - to replace IPv4

We left the task of transition until after we had figured out what this new protocol would look like

ZZZZZZ

For a while this did not look to be an urgent problem...

CIDR worked!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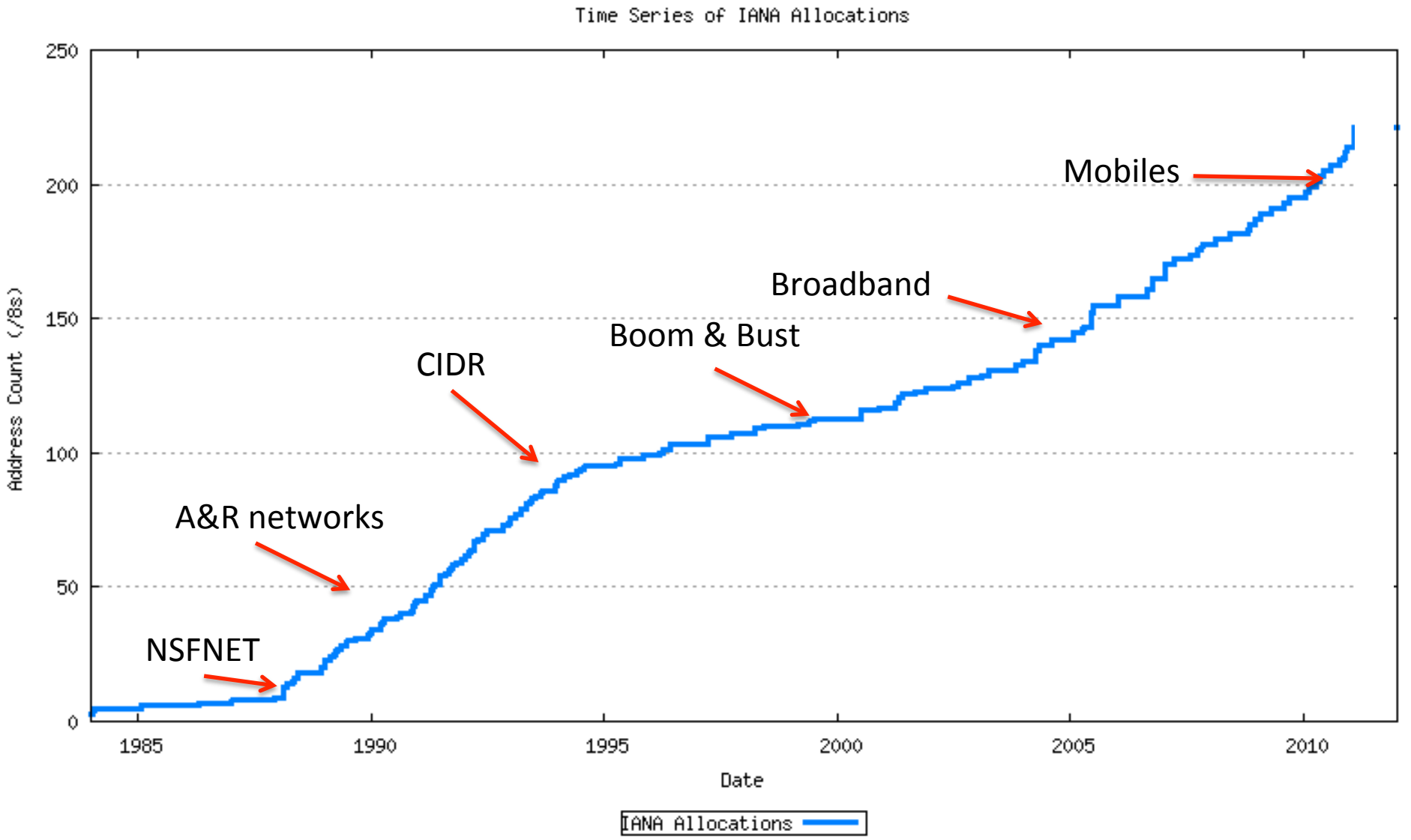
IANA Allocations

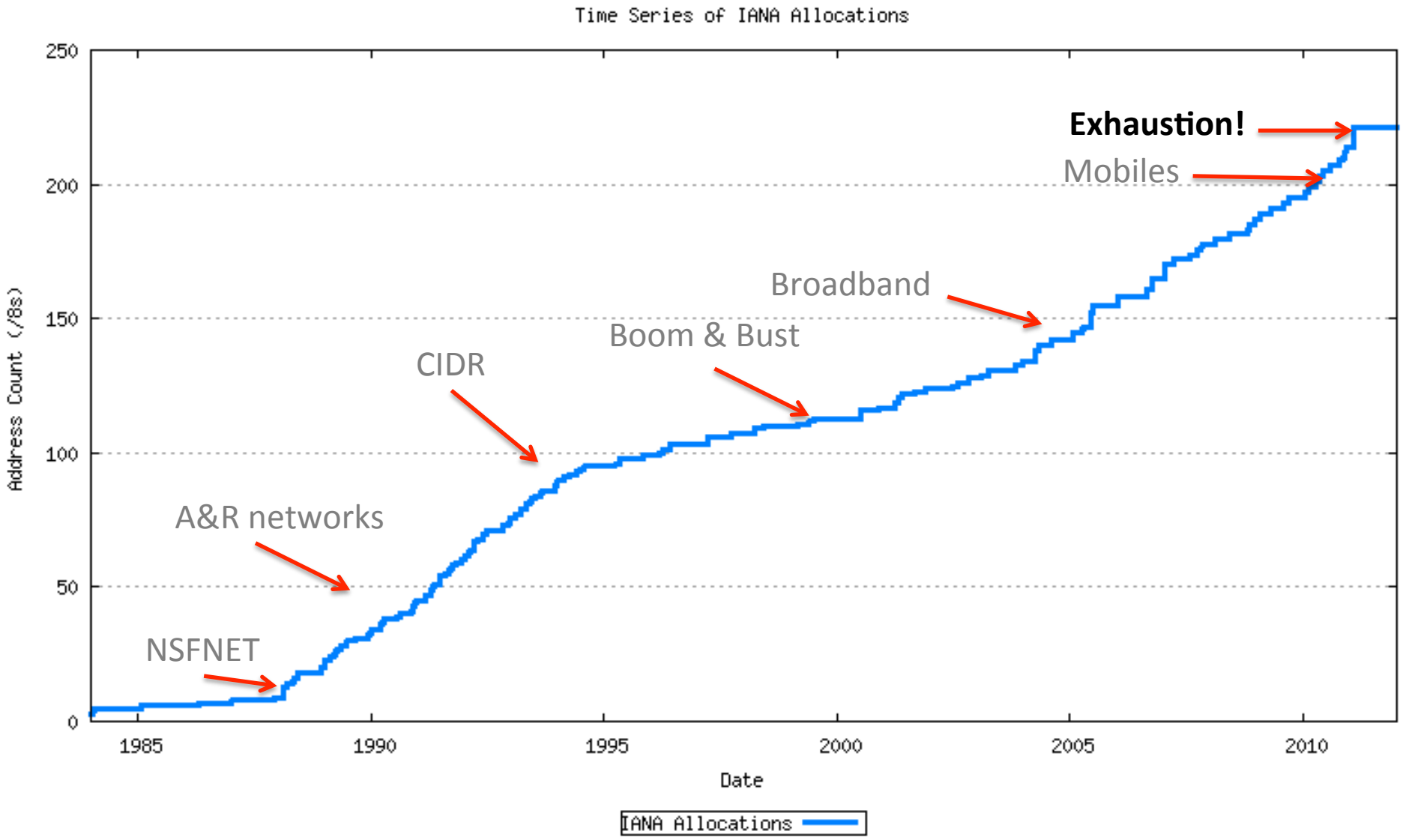
Meanwhile, we continued to build (IPv4) networks



The rude awakening

Until all of a sudden the IPv4 address piggy bank was looking extremely empty...

IPv4 Address Allocations



3 February 2011

Free Pool of IPv4 Address Space Depleted

IPv6 adoption at critical phase

Montevideo, 3 February 2011 – The Number Resource Organization (NRO) announced today that the free pool of available IPv4 addresses is now fully depleted. On Monday, January 31, the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) allocated two blocks of IPv4 address space to APNIC, the Regional Internet Registry (RIR) for the Asia Pacific region, which triggered a global policy to allocate the remaining IANA pool equally between the five RIRs. Today IANA allocated those blocks. This means that there are no longer any IPv4 addresses available for allocation from the IANA to the five RIRs.

IANA assigns IPv4 addresses to the RIRs in blocks that equate to 1/256th of the entire IPv4 address space. Each block is referred to as a "/8" or "slash-8". A global policy agreed on by all five RIR communities and ratified in 2009 by ICANN, the international body responsible for the IANA function, dictated that when the IANA IPv4 free pool reached five remaining /8 blocks, these blocks were to be simultaneously and equally distributed to the five RIRs.

"This is an historic day in the history of the Internet, and one we have been anticipating for quite some time," states Raúl Echeberría, Chairman of the Number Resource Organization (NRO), the official representative of the five RIRs. "The future of the Internet is in IPv6. All Internet stakeholders must now take ... action to deploy IPv6."

Ooops!

"This is truly a major turning point in the ... ," said Rod Beckstrom, ICANN's President and Chief Executive Officer. "Nobody was caught ... this ... Internet technical community has been planning for IPv4 depletion for quite some time. But it means the adoption of IPv6 is now of paramount importance, since it will allow the Internet to continue its amazing growth and foster the global innovation we've all come to expect."

IPv6 is the "next generation" of the Internet Protocol, providing a hugely expanded address space and allowing the Internet to grow into the future. "Billions of people world wide use the Internet for everything from sending tweets to paying bills. The transition to IPv6 from IPv4 represents an opportunity for even more innovative applications without the fear of running out of essential Internet IP addresses," said Vice President of IANA Elise Gerich.

Adoption of IPv6 is now vital for all Internet stakeholders. The RIRs have been working with network operators at the local, regional, and global level for more than a decade to offer training and advice on IPv6 adoption and ensure that everyone is prepared for the exhaustion of IPv4.

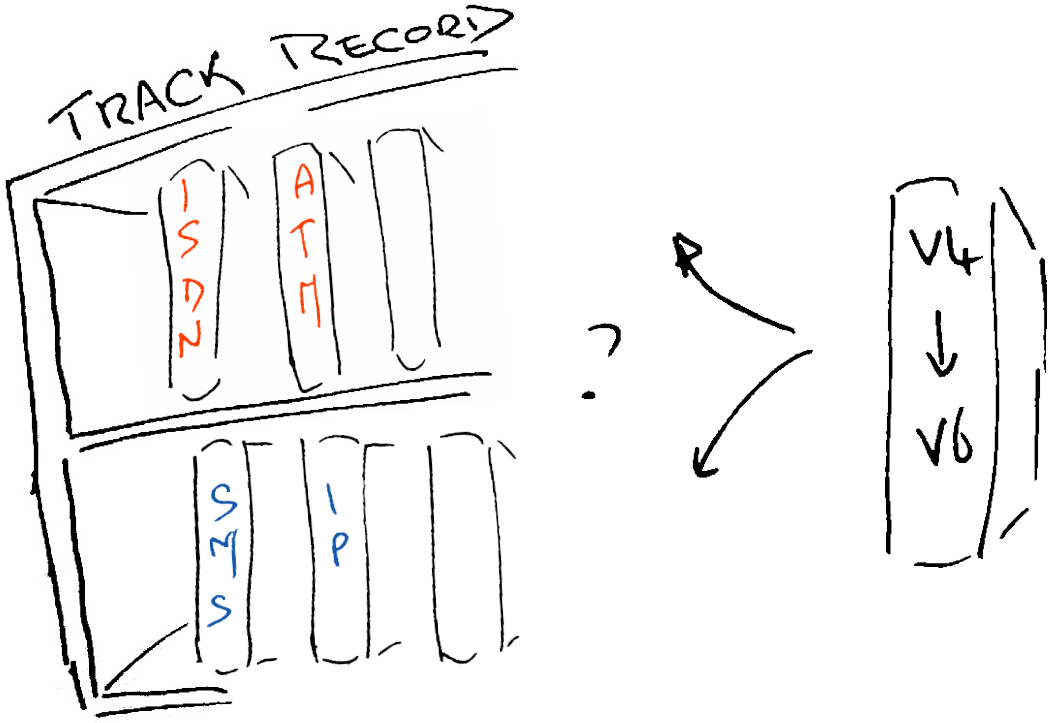
"Each RIR will have its final full /8 from IANA, plus any existing IP address holdings to distribute. Depending on address space requests received, this could last each RIR anywhere from a few weeks to many months. It's only a matter of time before the RIRs and Internet Service Providers (ISPs) must start denying requests for IPv4 address space. Deploying IPv6 is now a requirement, not an option," added Echeberría. IPv6 address space has been available since 1999. Visit http://www.nro.net/ipv6/ for more information on IPv6, or

The rude awakening

Until all of a sudden the IPv4 address piggy bank was looking extremely empty...

And transition to IPv6 is suddenly a very important topic!

So, how are we going with the IPv4 to IPv6 transition?



Do we really need to worry about this?

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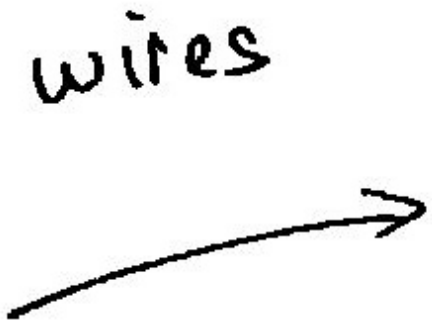
Surely IPv6 will just happen – its just a matter of waiting for the pressure of IpV4 address exhaustion to get to sufficient levels of intensity.

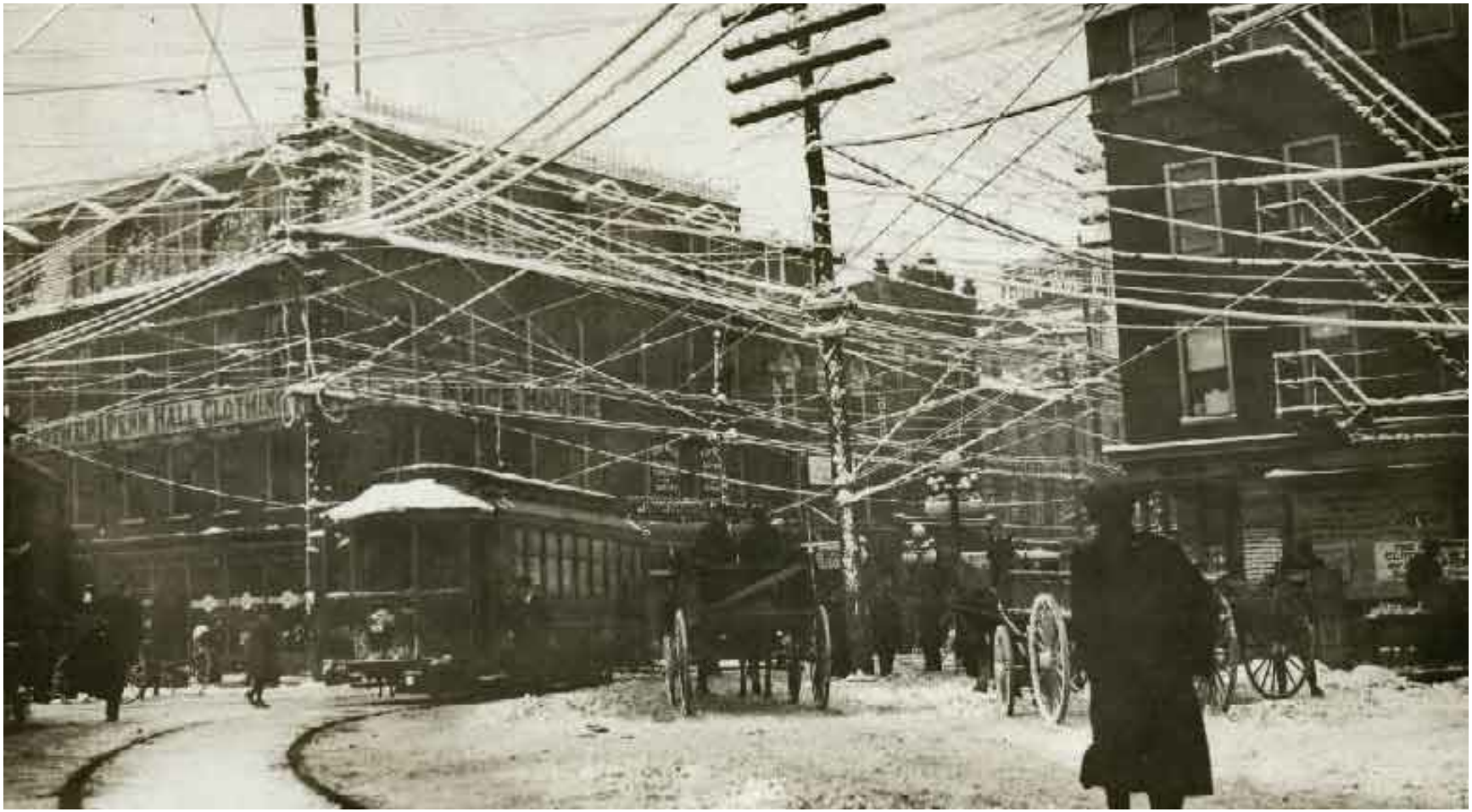
Do we really need to worry about this?

Surely IPv6 will just happen – its just a matter of waiting for the pressure of IpV4 address exhaustion to get to sufficient levels of intensity.

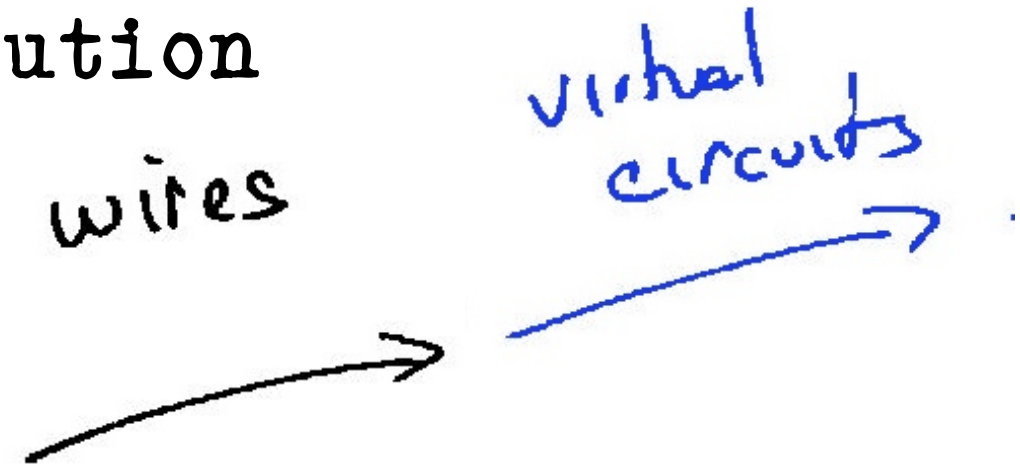
Or maybe not – let's look a bit closer at the situation ...

The
"inevitability"
of technological
evolution





The "inevitability" of technological evolution



Well what did you expect? They are VIRTUAL circuits, so a picture was always going to be a challenge!

The
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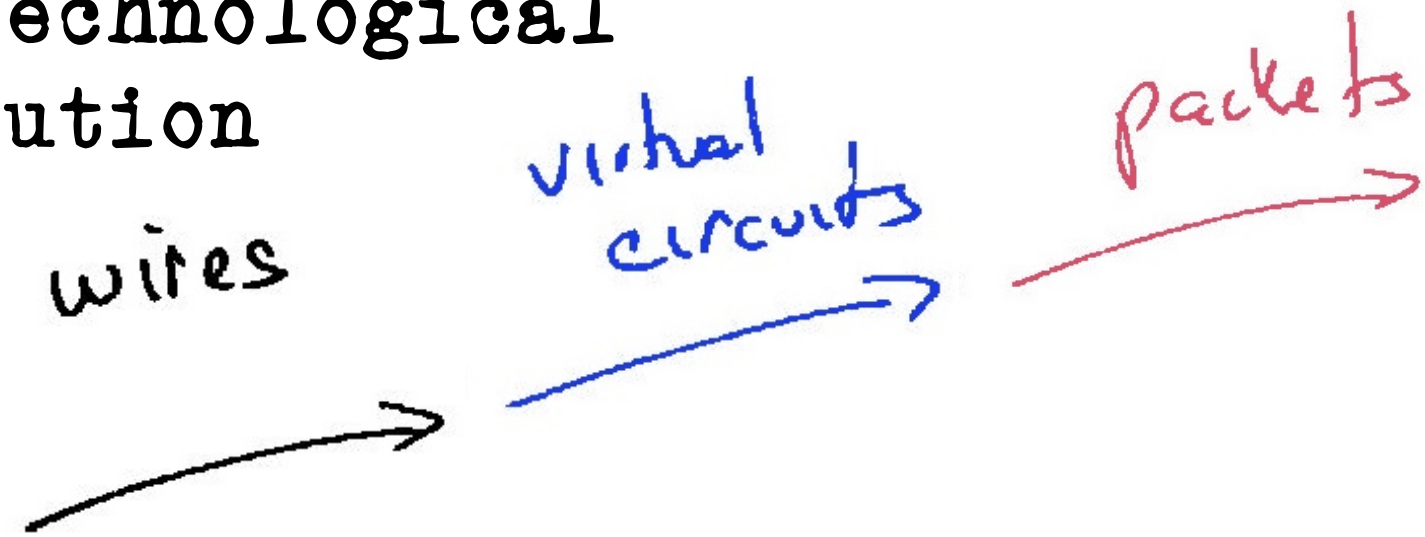

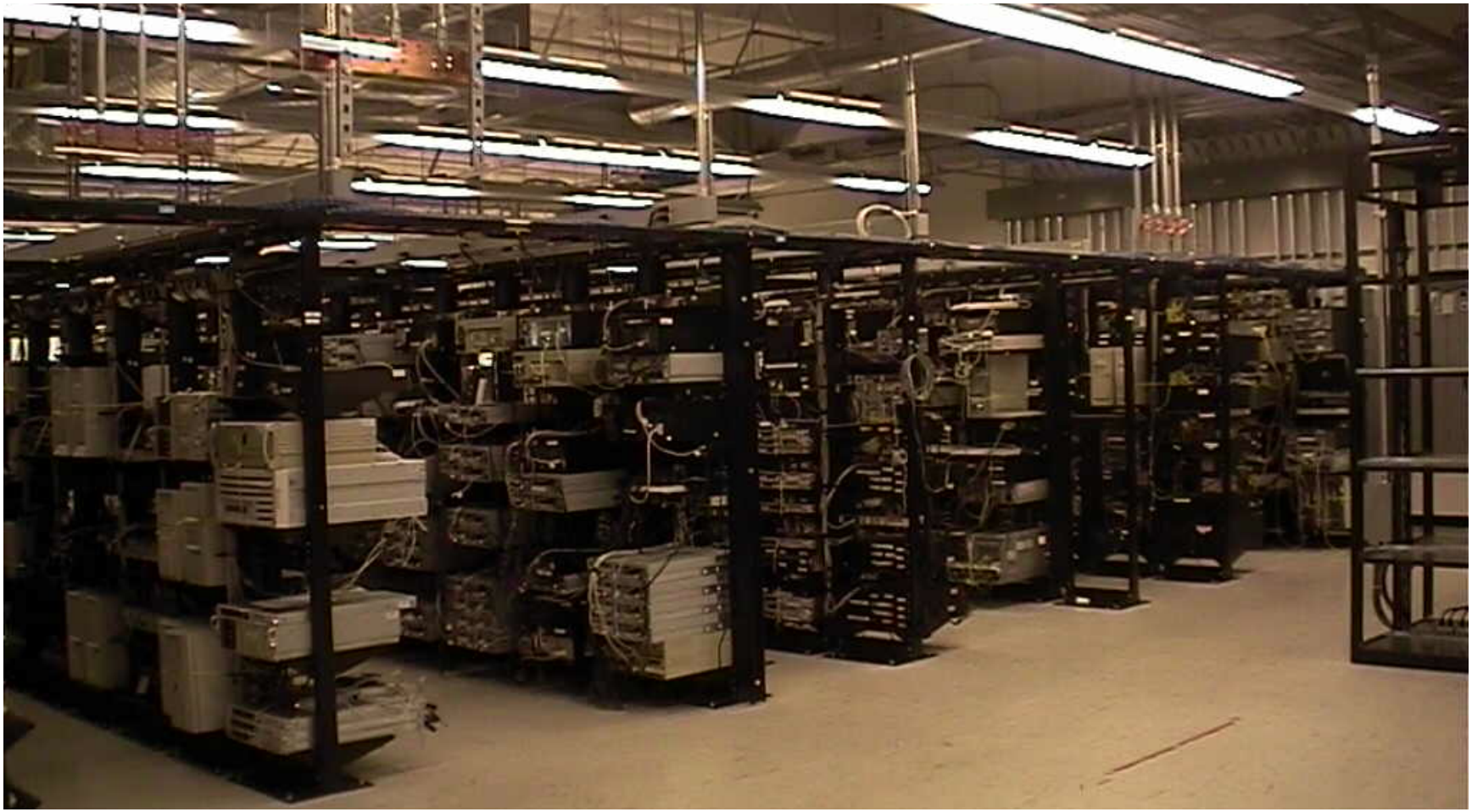

The "inevitability" of technological evolution

Each time we shifted the technology base of the networks, the cost efficiencies of the "new" technology in effect motivated the shift from the older technology to the new

The "inevitability" of technological evolution

Now lets look at something a little more topical to today!

The
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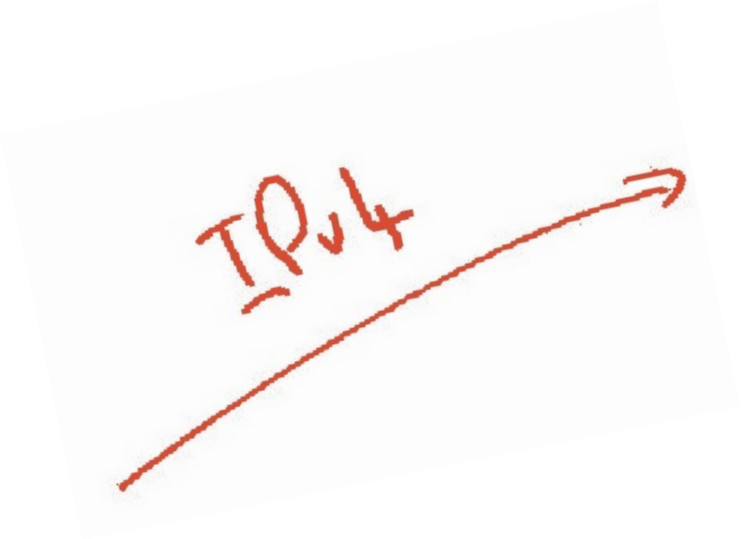
of technological
evolution?



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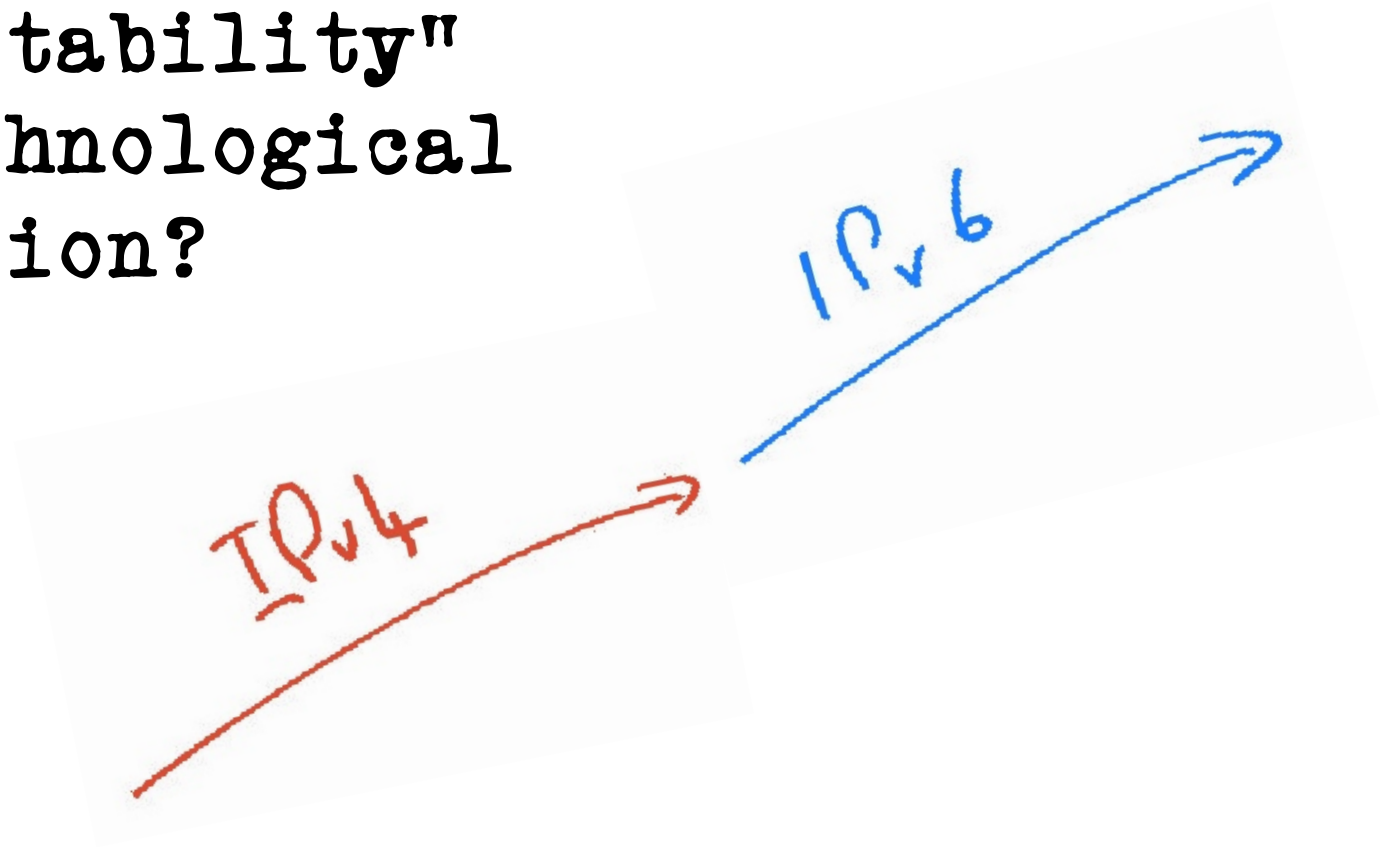
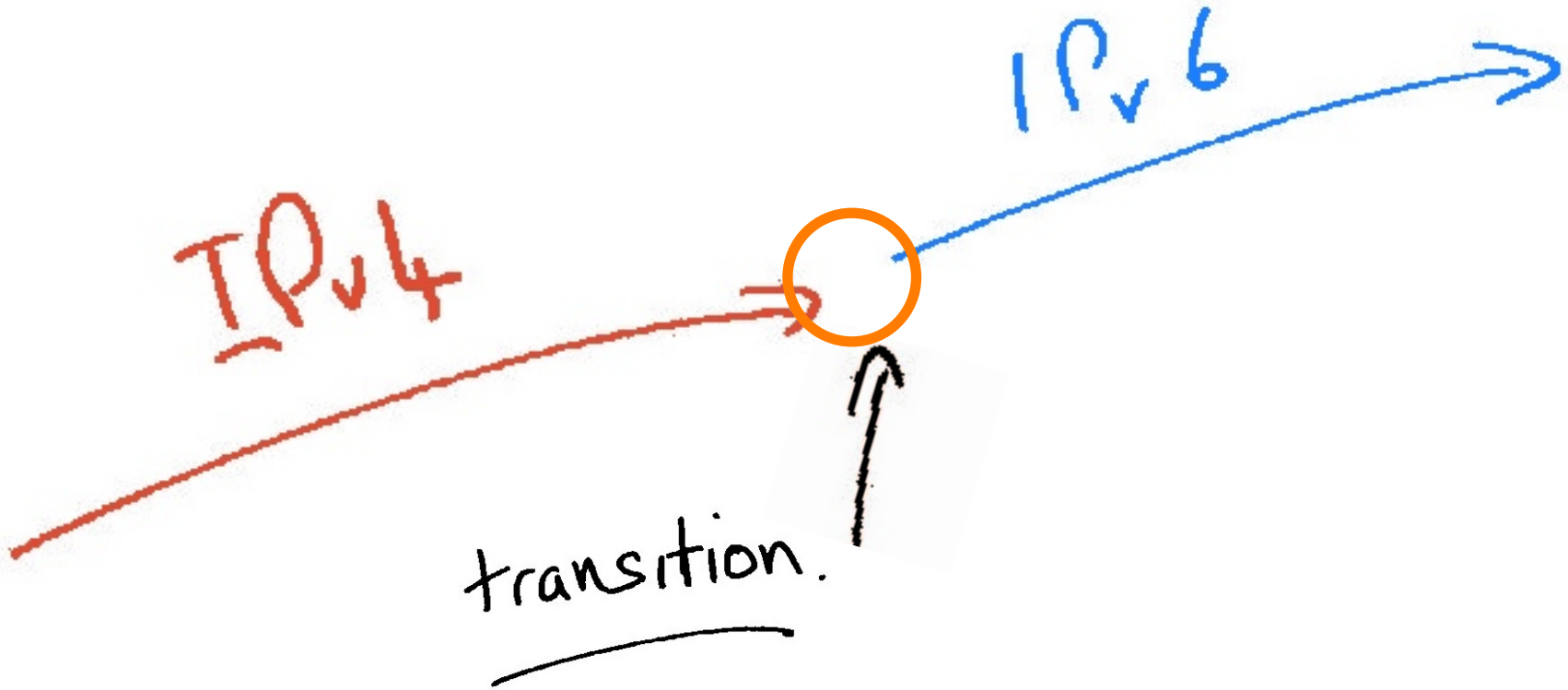
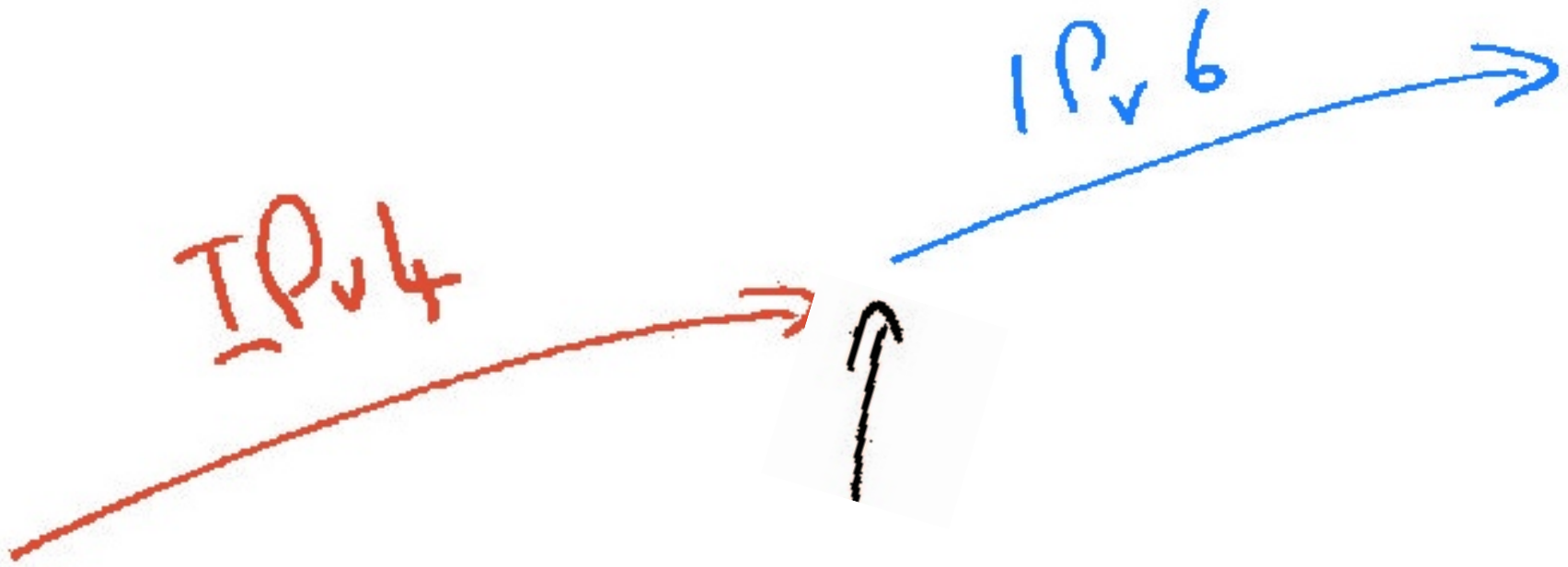


The challenge often lies in managing the transition from one technology to another



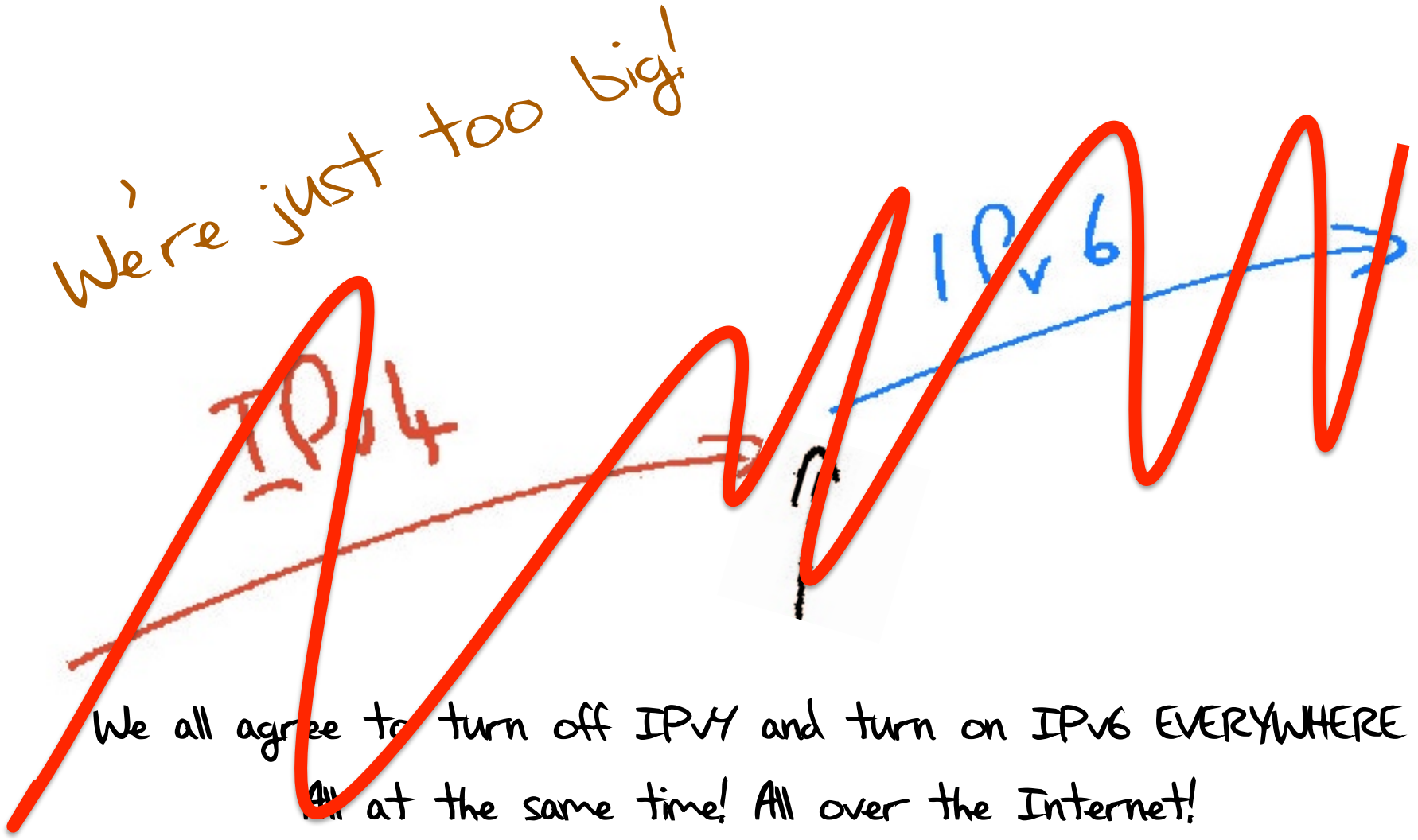
Option 1: Flag Day!



We all agree to turn off IPv4 and turn on IPv6 EVERYWHERE

All at the same time! All over the Internet!

Option 1: Flag Day!



We all agree to turn off IPv4 and turn on IPv6 EVERYWHERE
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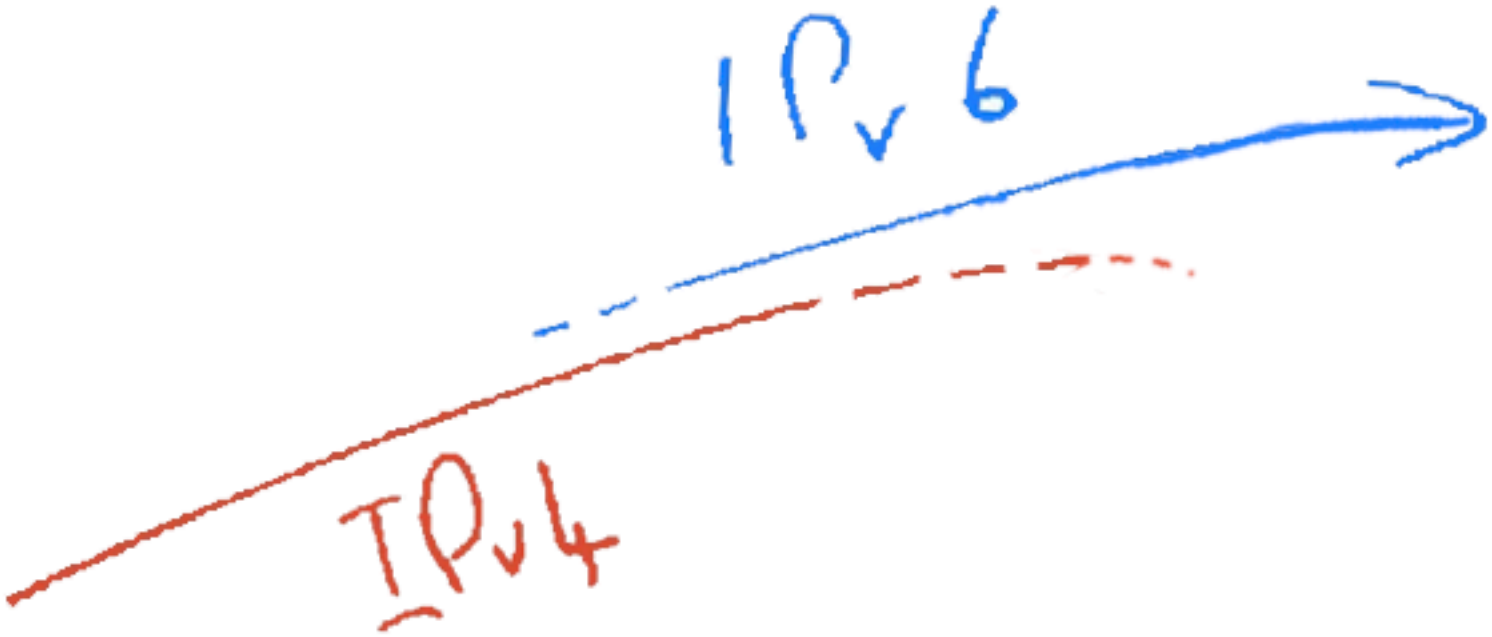
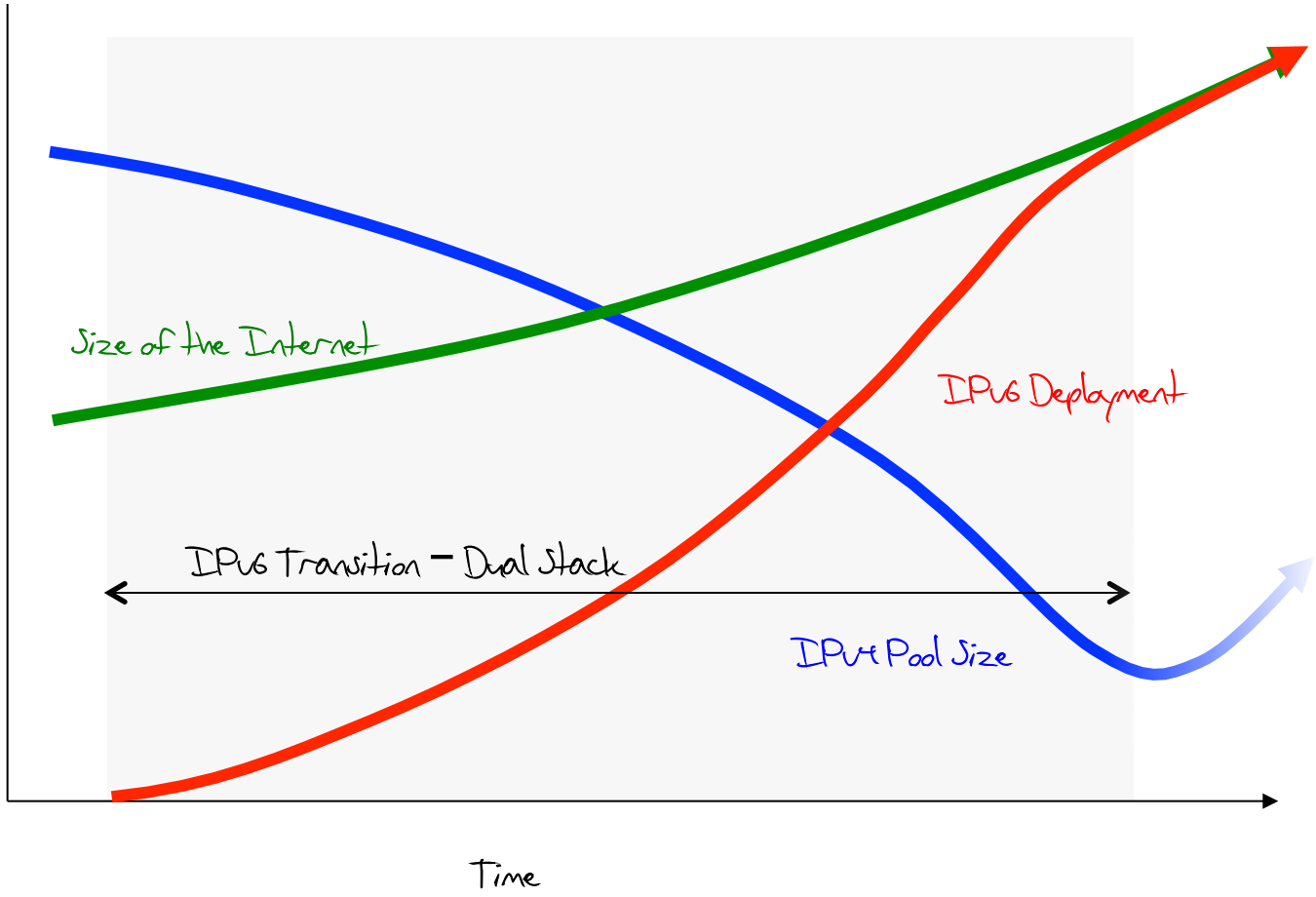
Option 2: Parallel Transition!



We start to slide in IPv6 in parallel with IpV4

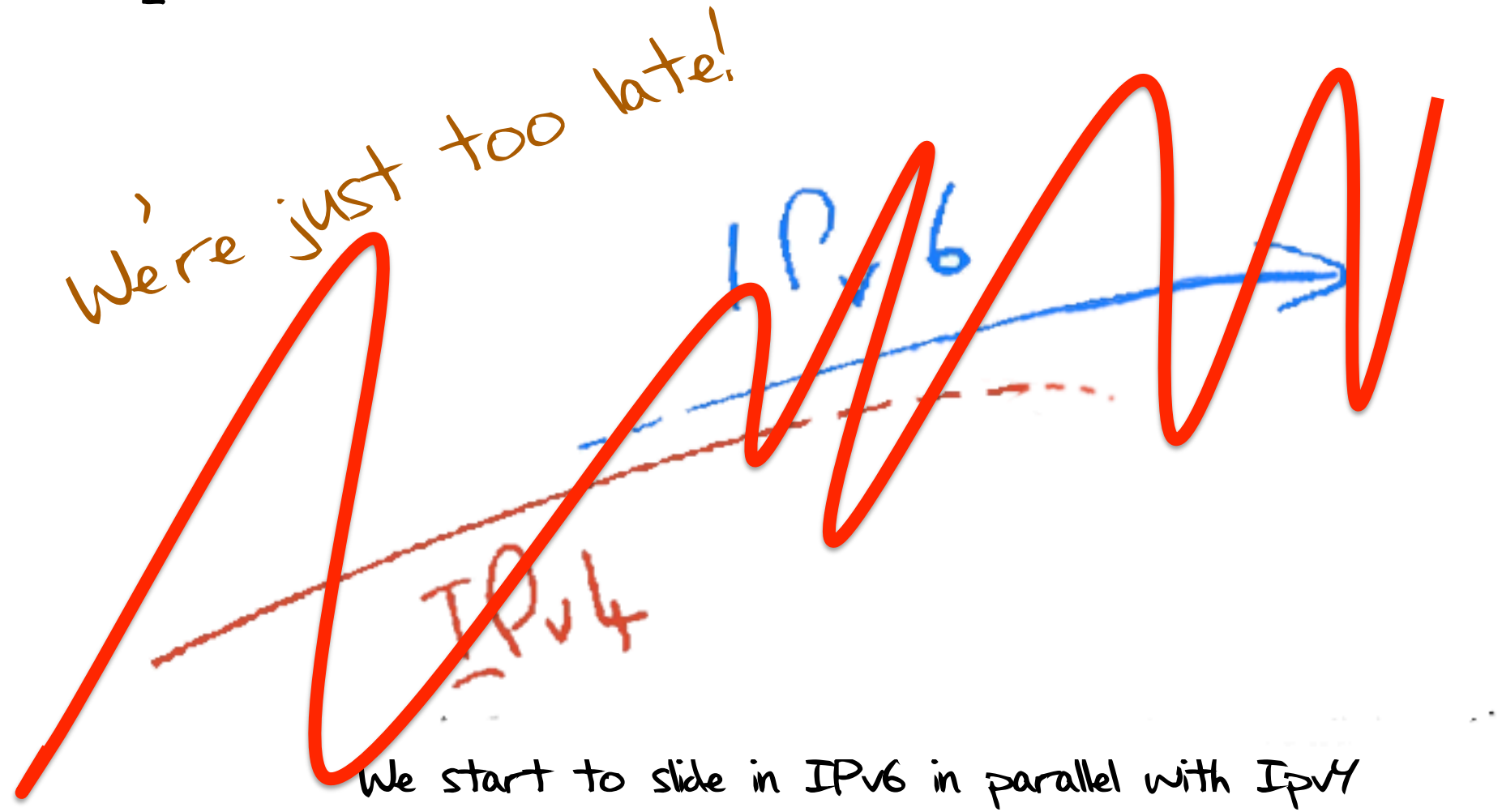
Then we gradually phase out IPv6

Option 2: Parallel Transition!



For this to work we have to start early and finish BEFORE IPv4 address pool exhaustion

Option 2: Parallel Transition!



We start to slide in IPv6 in parallel with IpV4

Then we gradually phase out IPv6

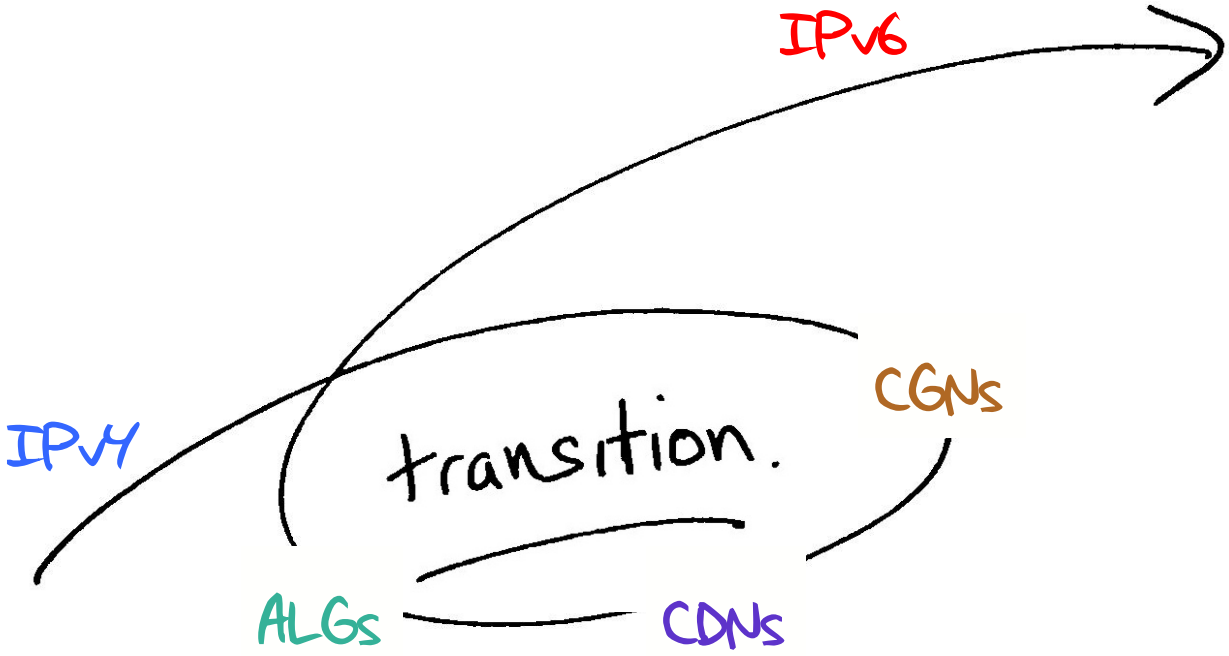
The small print: It's incredibly difficult for markets to plan without clear price signals, and we never managed to price future scarcity into the Internet model. Our chosen address distribution model was one that deliberately avoided any form of price-based market signaling. We sort of hoped that operators would price future risks. We were very wrong!

Hybrid IPv4

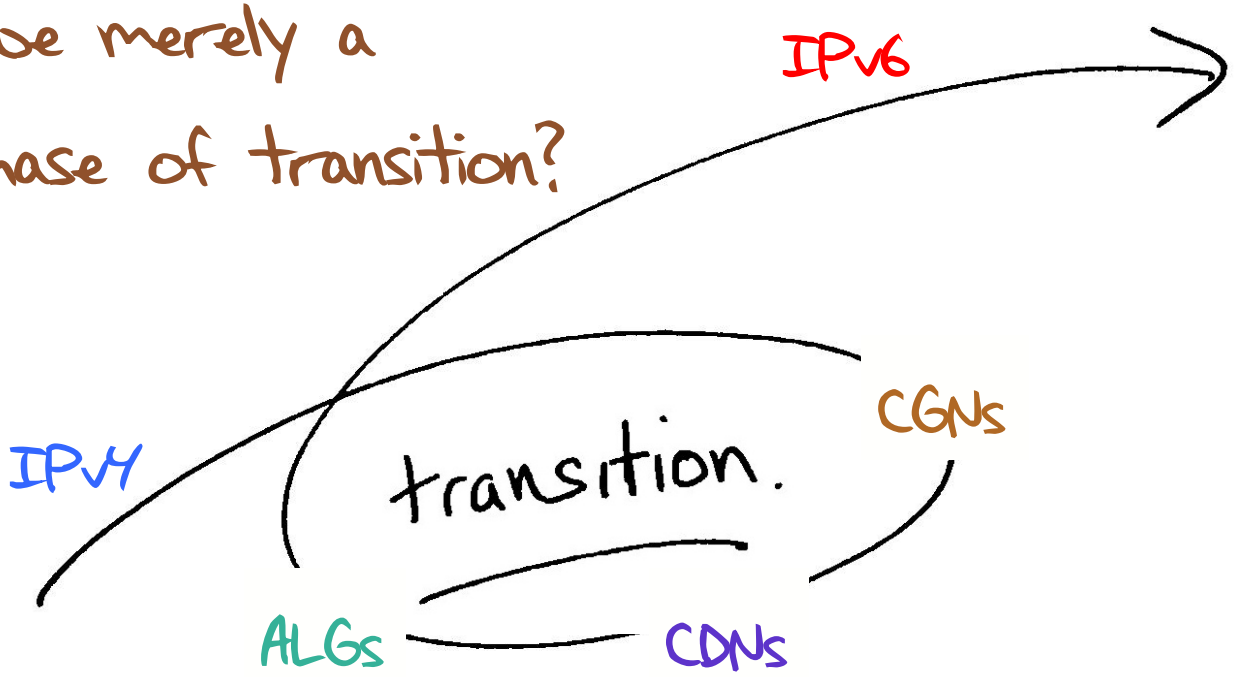
The increasing scarcity of IpV4 will force carriage providers to add address sharing mechanisms into the IPV4 network

Option 3: Hybrid Transition

To get from "here" to "there" requires an excursion through an environment of CGNs, CDNs, ALGs and similar middleware 'solutions' to IPv4 address exhaustion

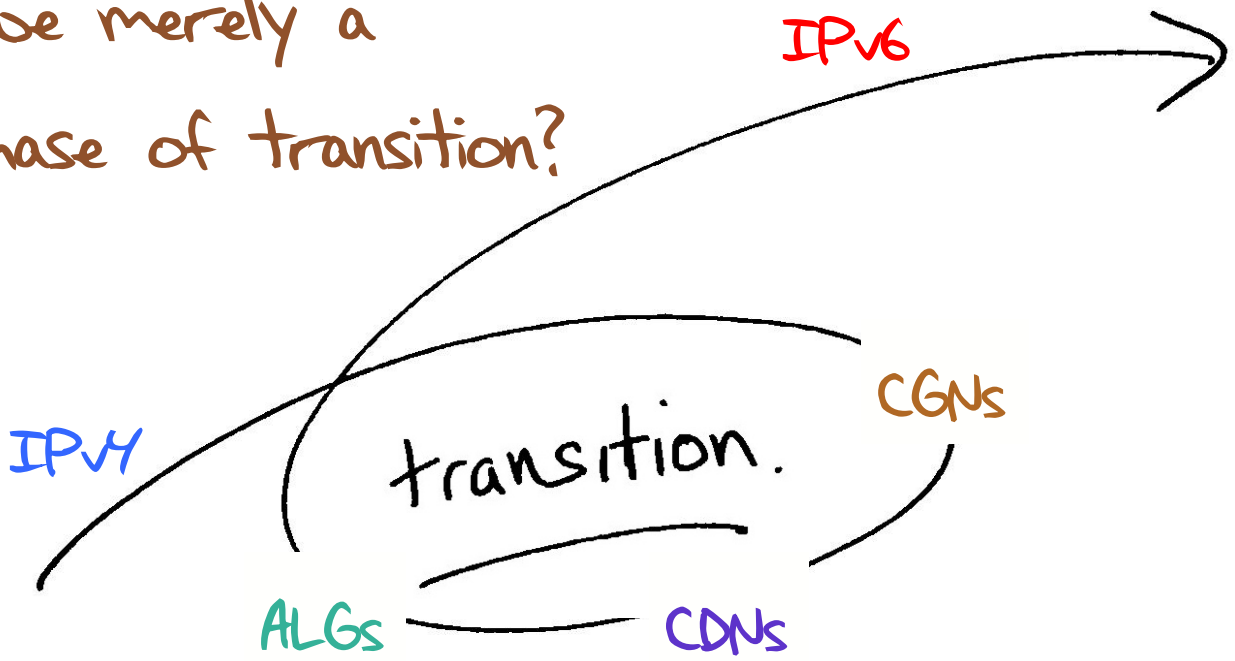


But will this be merely a temporary phase of transition?



Transition requires the network owner to undertake capital investment in network service infrastructure to support IPv4 address sharing/rationing.

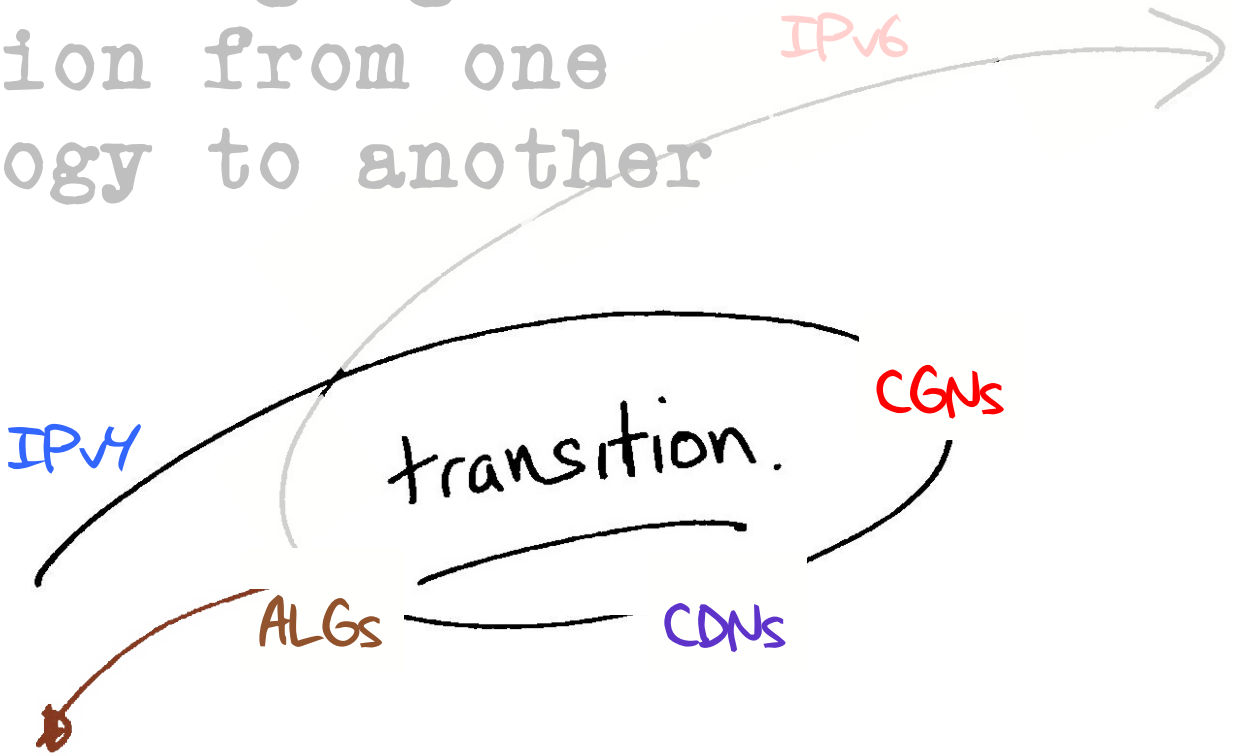
But will this be merely a temporary phase of transition?



Transition requires the network owner to undertake capital investment in network service infrastructure to support IPv4 address sharing/rationing.

What lengths will the network owner then go to to protect the value of this additional investment by locking itself into this "transitional" service model for an extended/indefinite period?

The challenge often lies in managing the transition from one technology to another



The risk in this transition phase is that the Internet carriage provider heads off in a completely different direction!

How can we "manage" this transition?

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To ensure that the industry maintains a collective focus on IPv6 as the objective of this exercise!

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To ensure that the industry maintains a collective focus on IPv6 as the objective of this exercise!

And to ensure that we do not get distracted by attempting to optimize what were intended to be temporary measures

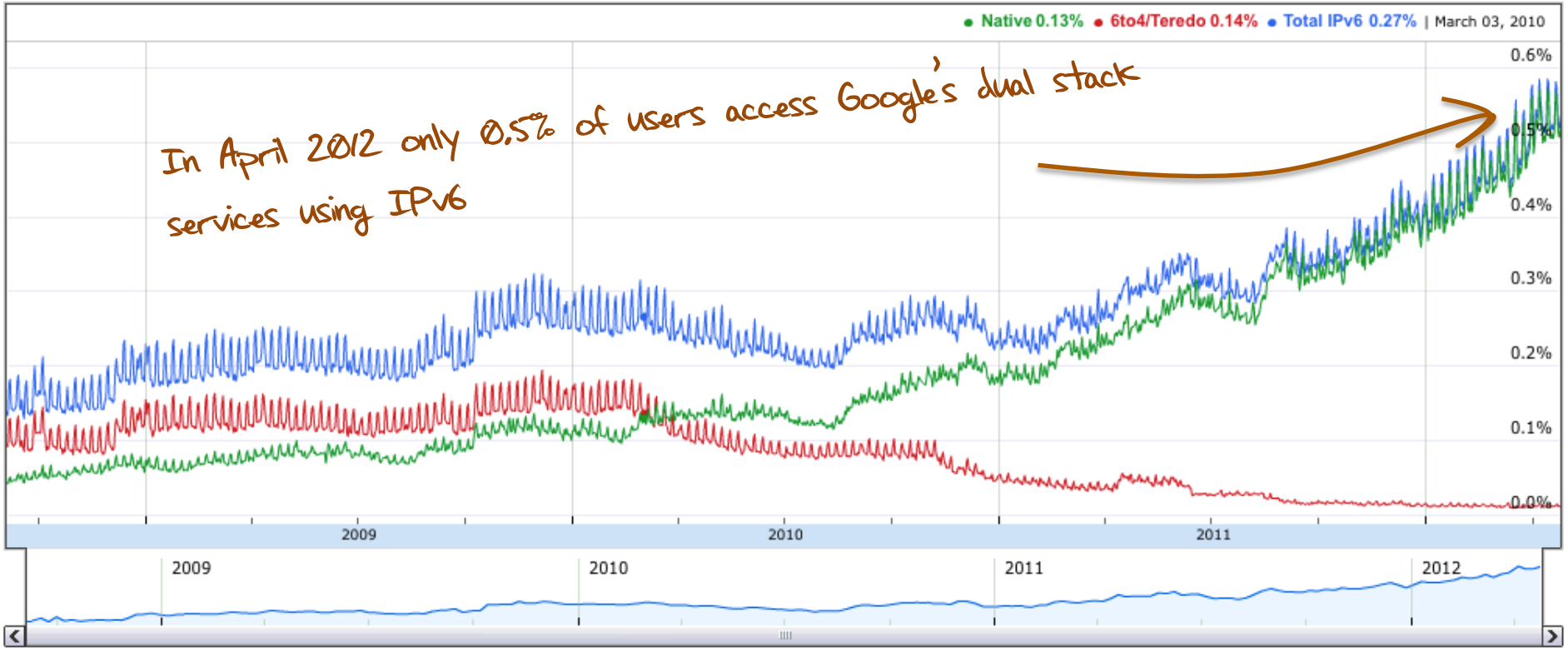
How can we "manage" this transition?

This was always going to be a very hard question to try and answer!

How can we "manage" this transition?

The data on IPv6 uptake so far suggests that we are still not managing this at all well.

IPv6 capability, as seen by Google



http://www.google.com/intl/en/ipv6/statistics/

Packet Counting...

Some 50% of the Internet's transit ISPs support IPv6 transit

Some 50% of the Internet's host devices have an active IPv6 stack

and the rest run Windows XP!

But only 0.5% of the Internet actually uses IPv6!

and the problem appears to lie in the last mile access infrastructure!

How can we "manage" this transition?

And the data on IPv6 uptake so far suggests that we are still not managing this at all well.

Progress at the customer edge of the network with IPv6 access is glacial.

The IPv6 Transition Plan - V2.0

What's gone wrong?

It seems that we've managed to achieve only 2 out of 3 necessary prerequisites for IPv6 deployment

And the third area, the last mile access infrastructure, is once more proving to be very challenging

What's gone wrong?

It seems that we've managed to achieve only 2 out of 3 necessary prerequisites for IPv6 deployment

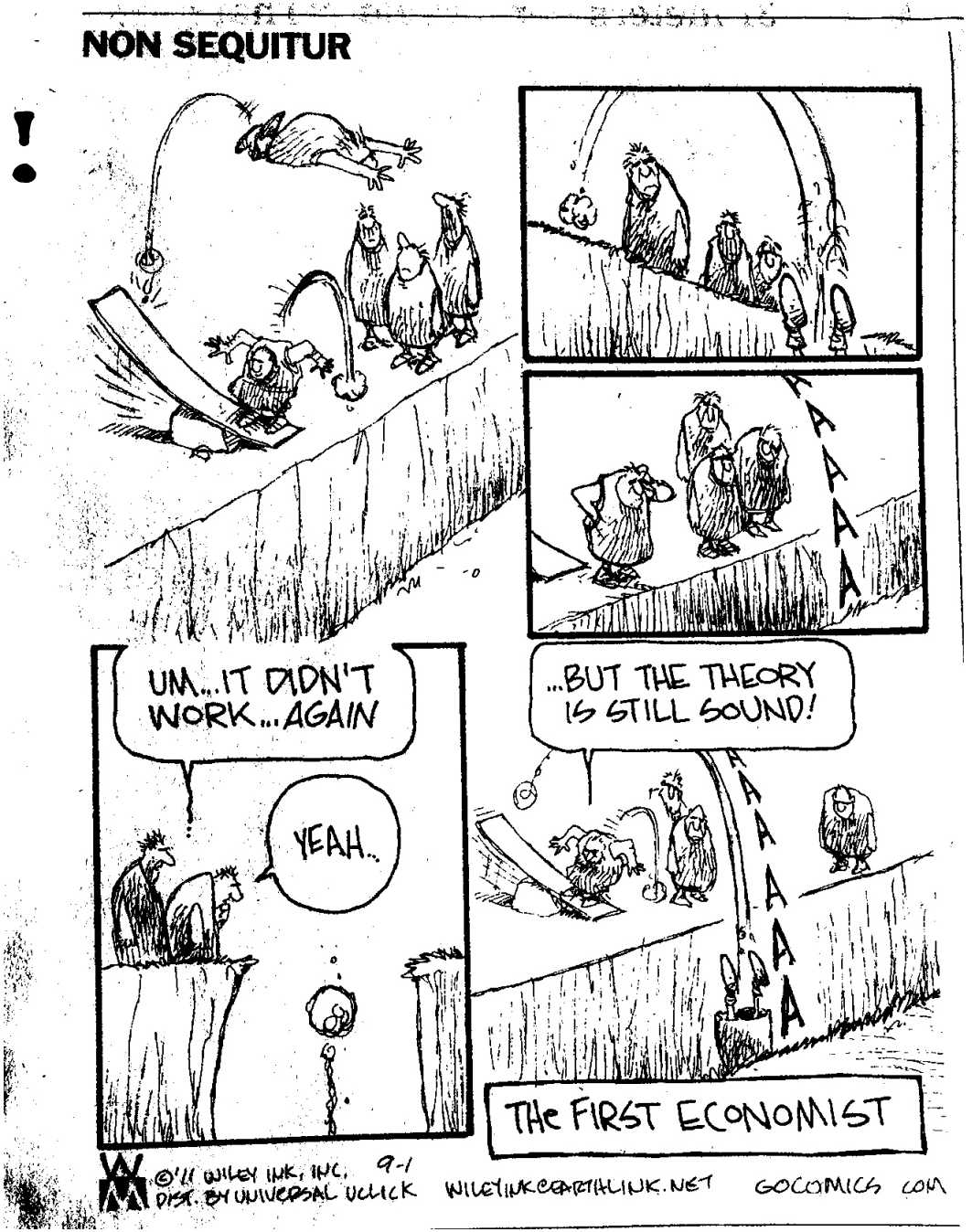
To support further growth the access industry has to purchase IPv4 addresses, deploy (and fund) IPv4 address extension mechanisms, in addition to funding an IPv6 deployment program

What's gone wrong?

It seems that we've managed to achieve only 2 out of 3 necessary prerequisites for IPv6 deployment

Why has the access service sector been disinterested in any meaningful levels of IPv6 deployment so far?

Economics!


NON SEQUITUR
AAAAA
UM...IT DIDN'T WORK...AGAIN
YEAH..
...BUT THE THEORY IS STILL SOUND!
AAAAA
THE FIRST ECONOMIST
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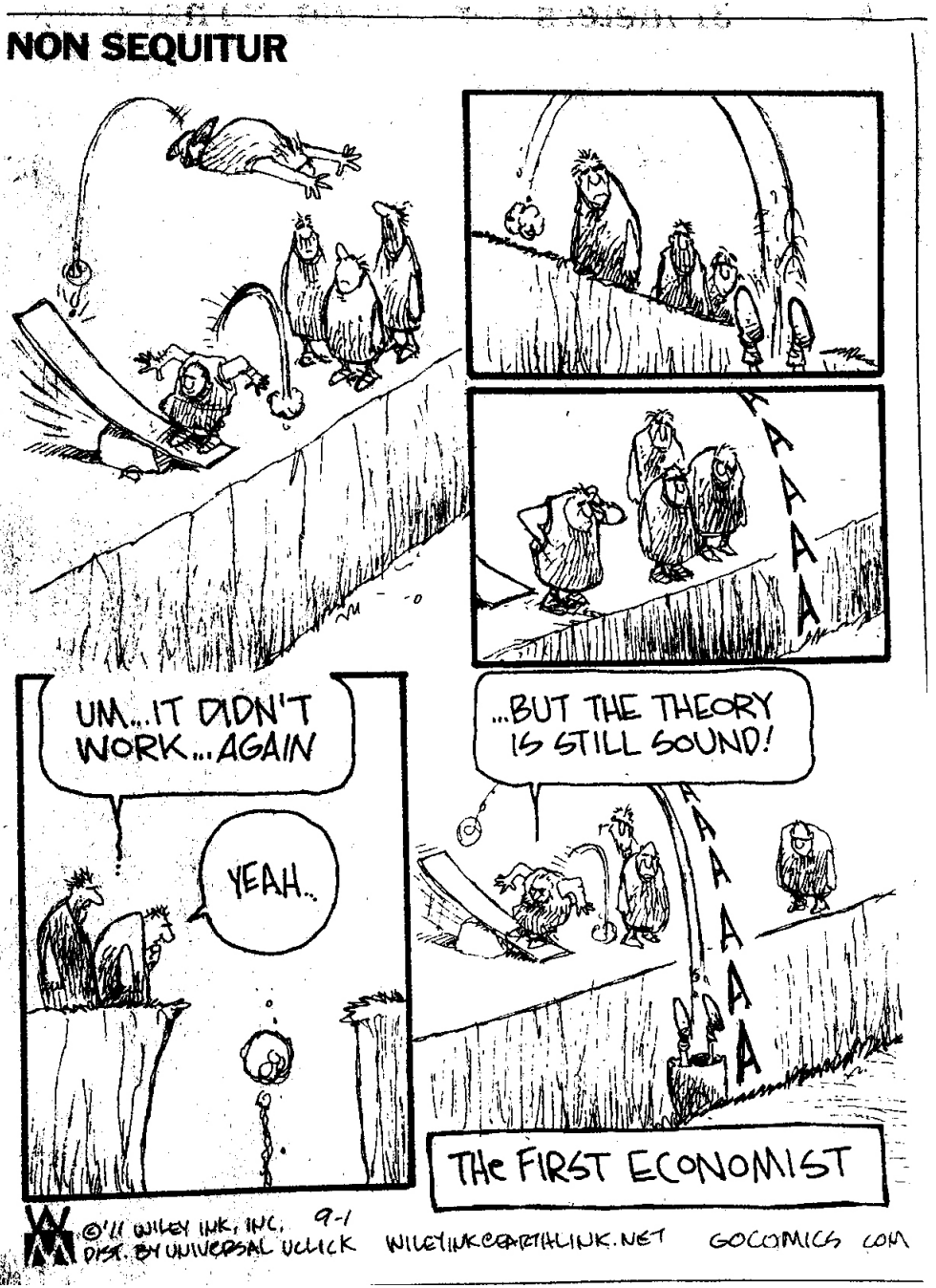
Economics!

The Internet's last mile access is mired in commodity utility economics. Relentless competition has resulted in a sector where margins are thin. A move to IPv6 represents expenditure without immediate revenue gain. This is classic case of economic dislocation in an unbundled industry, where expenditure in one sector: -carriage- yields benefits in another sector: -content-



How can we "manage" this transition?

This was always going to be a very hard question to try and answer!

And at the moment we seem to be making the task even harder, not easier, by adding even more challenges into the path we need to follow!

Challenges:

1. This is a deregulated and highly competitive environment

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It is NOT a case of a single "either/or" decision

Challenges:

1. This is a deregulated and highly competitive environment

There are many different players

Each with their own perspective

Challenges:

1. This is a deregulated and highly competitive environment

There are many different players

Each with their own perspective

And all potential approaches will be explored at the same time!

Challenges:

1. This is a deregulated and highly competitive environment

   There is no plan!

Challenges:

1. This is a deregulated and highly competitive environment

   There is no plan, just the interplay of various market pressures

Challenges:

1. This is a deregulated and highly competitive environment
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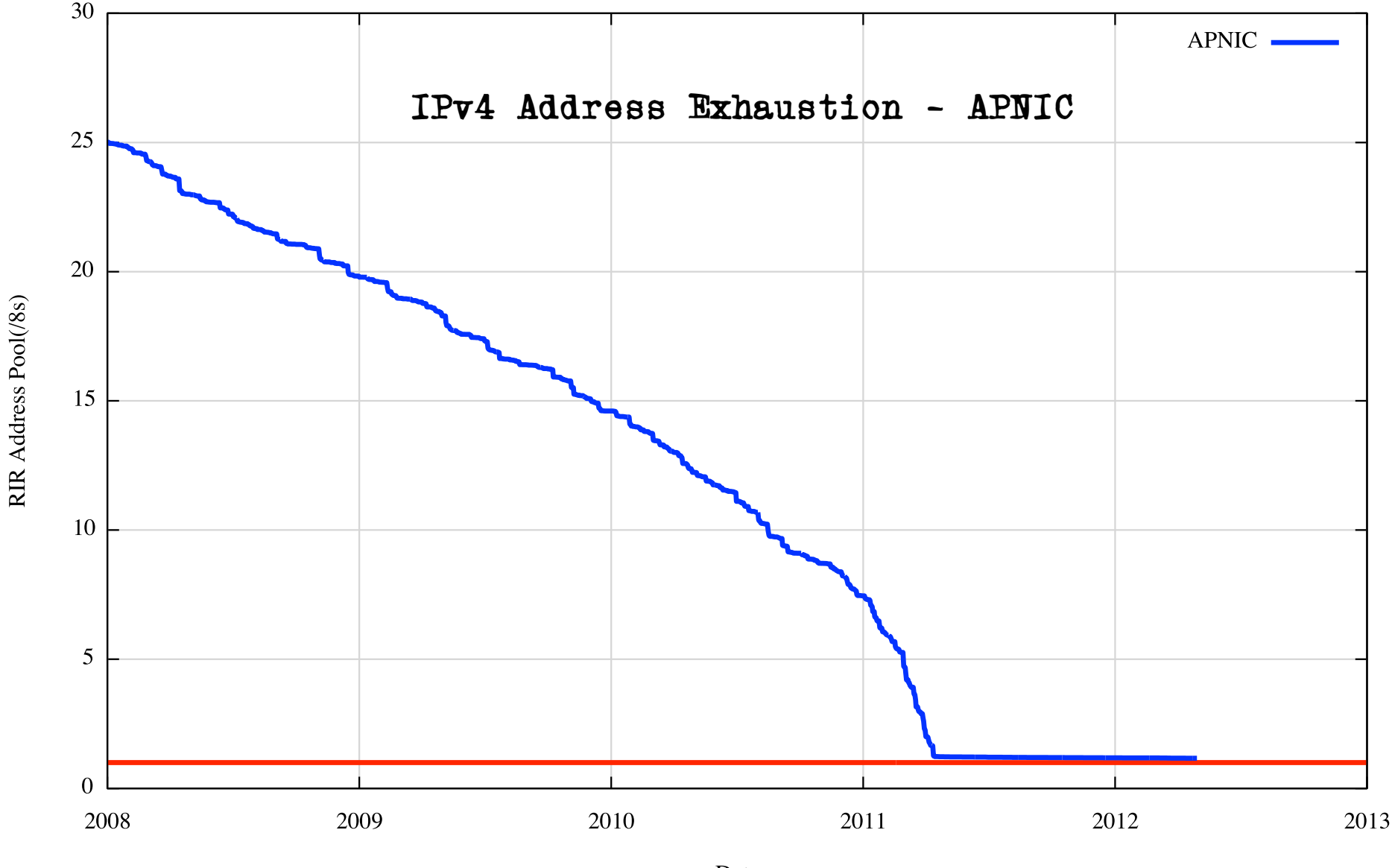
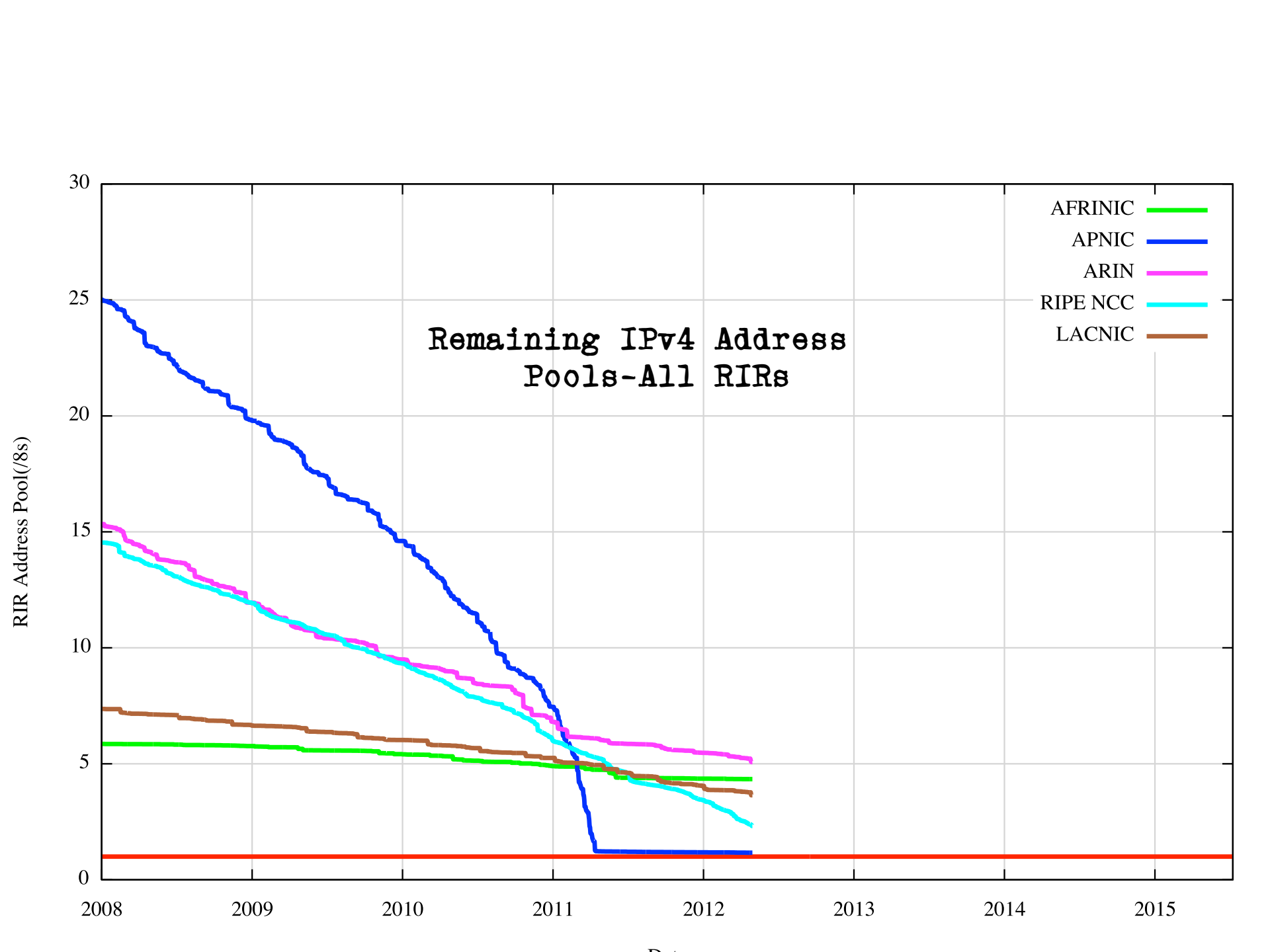
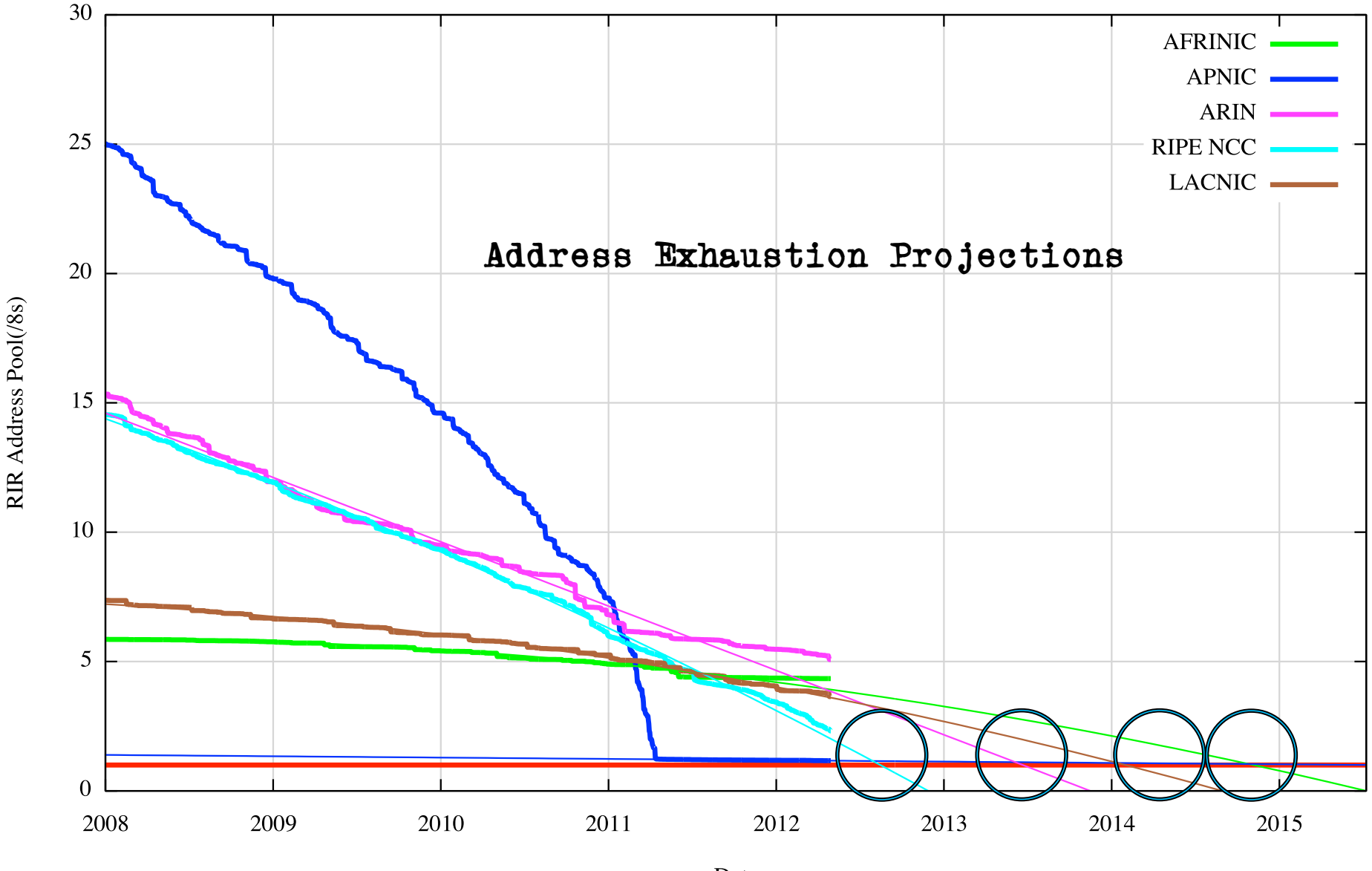
2. Varying IPv4 Address Exhaustion Timelines


IPv4 Address Exhaustion - APNIC
APNIC
RIR Address Pool(/8s)
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013


Remaining IPv4 Address Pools-All RIRs
AFRINIC
APNIC
ARIN
RIPE NCC
LACNIC
RIR Address Pool(/8s)
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015


Address Exhaustion Projections
AFRINIC
APNIC
ARIN
RIPE NCC
LACNIC
RIR Address Pool(/8s)
30
25
20
15
10
5
0
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015

Exhaustion Predictions

RIR	Predicted Exhaustion Date *	Remaining Address Pool (1 May 2012)
APNIC	19 April 2011 (actual)	1.16 /8s (0.3 /8s rsvd)
RIPE NCC	13 August 2012	2.32 /8s
ARIN	20 June 2013	5.08 /8s
LACNIC	20 January 2014	3.65 /8s
AFRINIC	4 November 2014	4.34 /8s

** Here "exhaustion" is defined as the point when the RIR's remaining pool falls to 1 /8*

So what?

Reality Acceptance

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Or not

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Is IPv4 address exhaustion a "here and now" problem or a "some time in the future" problem?

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Is IPv4 address exhaustion a "here and now" problem or a "some time in the future" problem?

Well, that depends on where you happen to be! If it hasn't happened to you yet, then denial is still an option!

Reality Acceptance

Or not

Is IPv4 address exhaustion a "here and now" problem or a "some time in the future" problem?

It's not happening until its happening to me!

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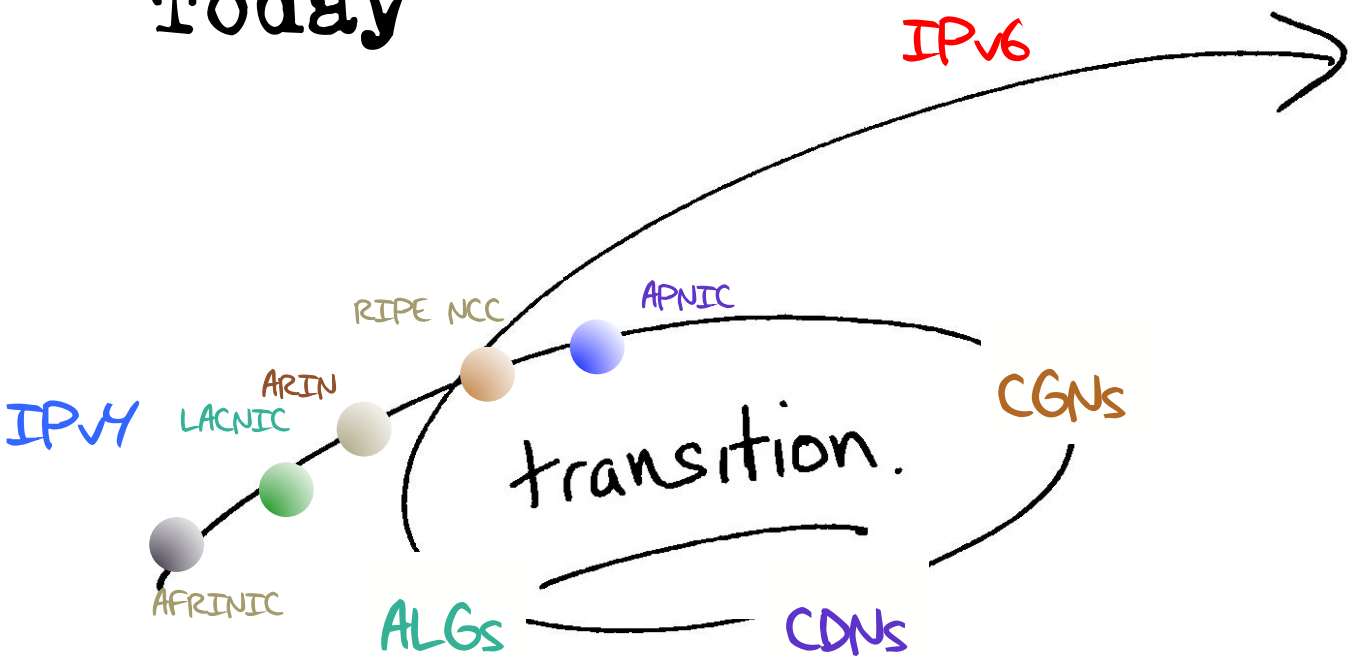
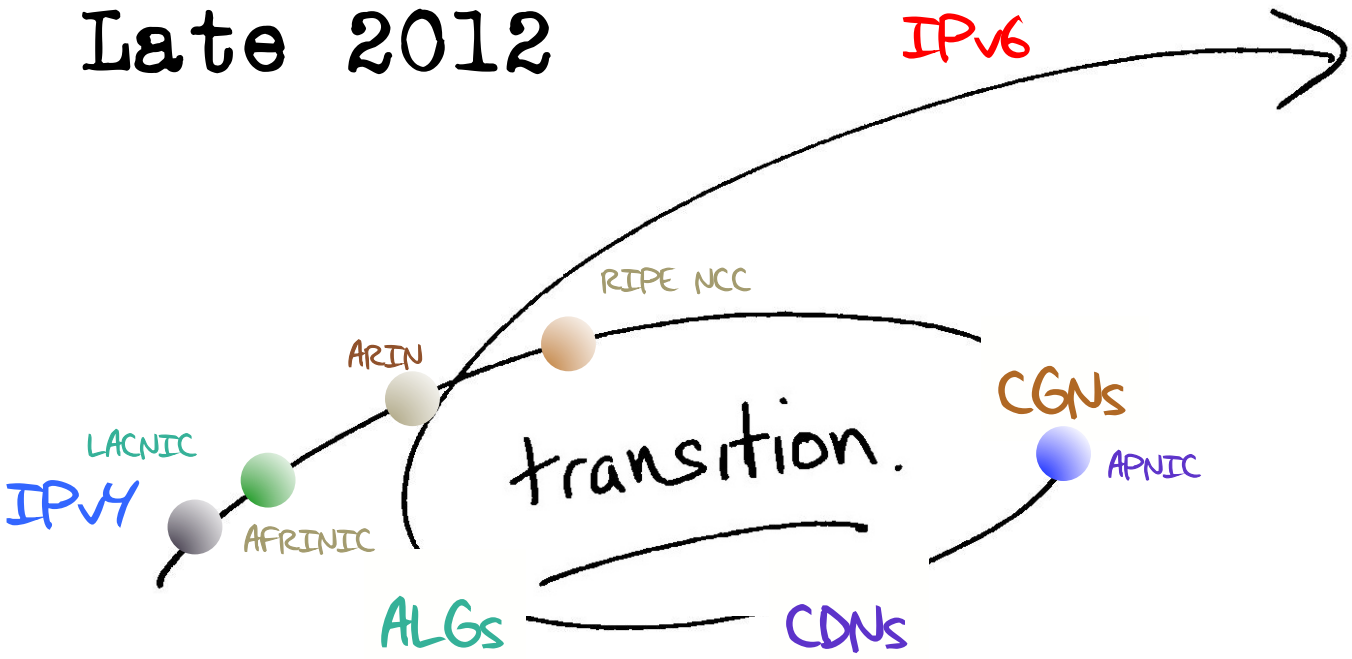
3. Regional Diversity

Today


IPv6
RIPE NCC
APNIC
ARIN
IPv4
LACNIC
transition.
CGNs
AFRINIC
ALGs
CDNs

Late 2012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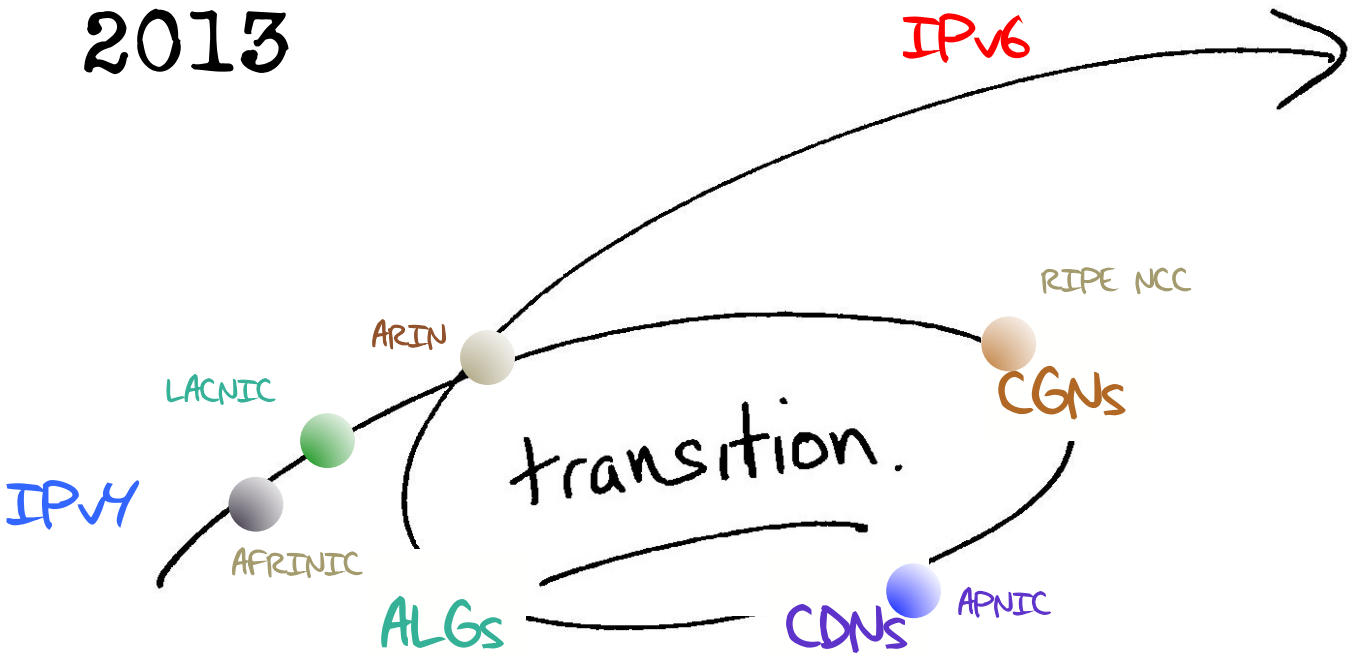
2013
IPv6
RIPE NCC
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What's the level of risk that the differing environments of transition lead to significantly different outcomes in each region?

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Will we continue to maintain coherency of a single Internet through this transition?

What's the level of risk that the differing environments of transition lead to significantly different outcomes in each region?

The Myth of the Long Term Plan

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5 years, maybe 10 years, maybe longer"

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Are we still firmly committed to the plans we had 5 years ago?

How about our 10 year old plans?

The Myth of the Long Term Plan

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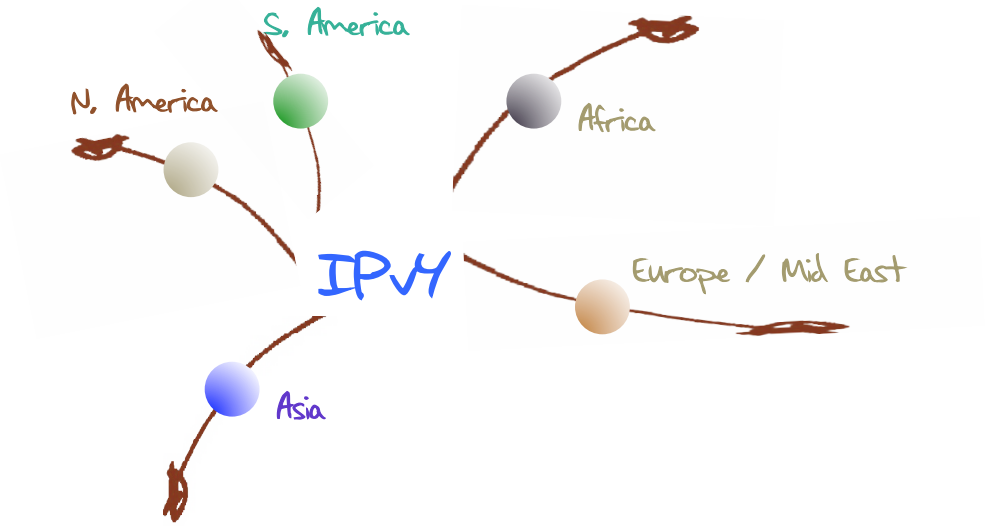
The longer the period of transition, the higher the risk of completely losing the plot and heading into other directions!

20xx?



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   One network is not an assured outcome!

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3. Regional Diversity
   One network is not an assured outcome: Market pressures during an extended transition may push the Internet along different paths in each region

If IPv6 is what we are after as an open and accessible platform for further network growth and innovation then the public interest in a continuing open and accessible network needs to be expressed within the dynamics of market pressures.

Today's question is:

How can we do this?

How can we help the Internet through this transition?

How can we help the Internet through this transition?

Or at least, how can we avoid making it any worse than it is now?

Yes, that was intentionally left blank!

I really don't know what will work.

And as far as I can see, nor does anyone else!

But even though I don't have an answer here, I have some thoughts to offer about this issue of pulling the Internet though this transition

Three thoughts...

Firstly

If we want one working Internet at the end of all this, then keep an eye on the larger picture

Think about what is our common interest here

and try to find ways for local interests to converge

with our common interest in a single cohesive network

that remains open, neutral, and accessible

Secondly

Addresses should be used in working networks, not hoarded

- Scarcity generates pain and uncertainty
- Hoarding exacerbates scarcity in both its intensity and duration
- Extended scarcity prolongs the pain and increases the unpredictability of the entire transition process
- Closed or opaque address markets create asymmetric information that encourages speculation and hoarding, further exacerbating the problem

Finally...

Bring it on! A rapid onset of exhaustion and a rapid transition represents the best chance of achieving an IPv6 network as an outcome

The more time we spend investing time, money and effort in deploying IPv4 address extension mechanisms, the greater the pain to our customers, and the higher the risk that we will lose track of the intended temporary nature of transition and the greater the chances that we will forget about IPv6 as the objective!

The risk here is no less than the future of open networking and open content – if we get this wrong we will recreate the old stifling vertically bundled carriage monopolies of the telephone era!

And at that point we've lost everything!

Thank You!