6DISS 'Grand Tour' comes to an end

The 6DISS project to disseminate training and knowledge about Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) comes to a close this week, with a final review on Tuesday 2 October.

In the past two-and-a-half years, this European project has targeted IPv6 training workshops at eight developing regions, as well as providing specialist training for instructors and engineers at locations across Europe. In addition, training materials in the form of tutorials and e-learning modules have been made available, with follow-up support being offered where necessary. The project has also used its experience to produce a briefing paper for strategists, outlining the risks and benefits of IPv6 deployment.

Providing for the future

IPv6 is the successor to IPv4, the addressing system that has formed the cornerstone of Internet communications. It is anticipated that the supply of IPv4 addresses will be exhausted by around 2010, but IPv6 aims to overcome this limitation by making available an abundant supply of addresses in the future.

Helping research and education communities in regions outside Europe to make the transition from IPv4 to IPv6 has been the goal of 6DISS. To this end, the project targeted eight developing regions: Asia-Pacific, the Caribbean, Central Asia, the Mediterranean, South & Central America, South-East Europe, Southern Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa.

High level media coverage has accompanied some of the 6DISS training courses, for example in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, where the Central Asian Training Workshop in late April 2007 prompted involvement up to the national government level.

During 2007, training workshops were also held in Guatemala (Central America), Guadeloupe (Caribbean), Morocco (North Africa), Bulgaria (South-East Europe), as well as a Euro-China liaison workshop in conjunction with APAN 24. These followed earlier sessions in Taiwan (Asia-Pacific), South Africa (Southern Africa), Serbia (South-East Europe), Malta (Mediterranean), Ecuador (South and Central America), and Senegal (Sub-Saharan Africa).

The knowledge and experience gained through these collaborations should not only help further development of the Internet in those regions, but the contacts made should prove invaluable for future cooperation.

Further information

Details of the project, events proceedings and training materials are all available via the 6DISS homepage.

Download the briefing paper on IPv6 Deployment and Associated Risks (for Strategists).