Module 12: IPv6 Addressing
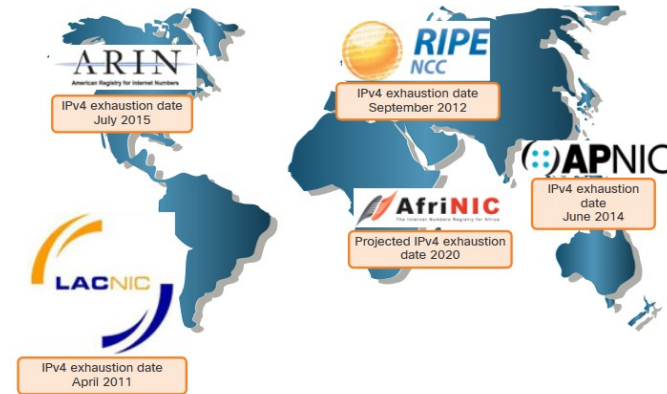
Introduction to Networks v7.0 (ITN)

Need for IPv6

- IPv4 is running out of addresses. IPv6 is the successor to IPv4. IPv6 has a much larger 128-bit address space.

- The development of IPv6 also included fixes for IPv4 limitations and other enhancements.

- With an increasing internet population, a limited IPv4 address space, issues with NAT and the IoT, the time has come to begin the transition to IPv6.

ARIN
American Registry for Internet Numbers

IPv4 exhaustion date
July 2015

RIPE
NCC

IPv4 exhaustion date
September 2012

APNIC

IPv4 exhaustion date
June 2014

AfriNIC
The Internet Numbers Registry for Africa

Projected IPv4 exhaustion date 2020

LACNIC

IPv4 exhaustion date
April 2011

IPv4 and IPv6 Coexistence

IPv4 and IPv6 will coexist in the near future and the transition will take several years.

The IETF has created various protocols and tools to help network admins migrate their networks to IPv6. These migration techniques can be divided into 3 categories:

- **Dual stack** The devices run both IPv4 and IPv6 protocol stacks simultaneously.
- **Tunneling** A method of transporting an IPv6 packet over an IPv4 network. The IPv6 packet is encapsulated inside an IPv4 packet.
- **Translation** Network Address Translation 64 (NAT64) allows IPv6-enabled devices to communicate with IPv4-enabled devices using a translation technique similar to IPv4 NAT.

Note: Tunneling and translation are for transitioning to native IPv6 and should only be used where needed. The goal should be native IPv6 communications from source to destination.

IPv6 Addressing Formats

- IPv6 addresses are 128 bits in length and written in hexadecimal.
- IPv6 addresses are not case-sensitive.
- The preferred format for writing an IPv6 address is x:x:x:x:x:x:x:x,
  - with each "x" consisting of four hexadecimal values.
- In IPv6, a hextet is the unofficial term used to refer to a segment of 16 bits.

- Examples of IPv6 addresses in the preferred format:
  ```
  2001:0db8:0000:1111:0000:0000:0000:0200
  2001:0db8:0000:00a3:abcd:0000:0000:1234
  ```

Rule 1 – Omit Leading Zero

The first rule to help reduce the notation of IPv6 addresses is to omit any leading 0s.

Examples:

- 01ab can be represented as 1ab
- 09f0 can be represented as 9f0
- 0a00 can be represented as a00
- 00ab can be represented as ab

Note: This rule only applies to leading 0s, NOT to trailing 0s, otherwise the address would be ambiguous.

Type	Format
Preferred	2001 : **0**db8 : **000**0 : 1111 : **000**0 : **000**0 : **000**0 : **0**200
No leading zeros	2001 : db8 : 0 : 1111 : 0 : 0 : 0 : 200

Rule 2 – Double Colon

A double colon (::) can replace any single, contiguous string of one or more 16-bit hextets consisting of all zeros.

Example:

- 2001:db8:cafe:1:0:0:0:1 (leading 0s omitted) could be represented as 2001:db8:cafe:1::1

Note: The double colon (::) can only be used once within an address, otherwise there would be more than one possible resulting address.

Type	Format
Preferred	2001 : **0**db8 : **000**0 : 1111 : **0000** : **0000** : **0000** : **0**200
Compressed	2001:db8:0:1111::200

Unicast, Multicast, Anycast

There are three broad categories of IPv6 addresses:

- **Unicast** – Unicast uniquely identifies an interface on an IPv6-enabled device.
- **Multicast** – Multicast is used to send a single IPv6 packet to multiple destinations.
- **Anycast** – This is any IPv6 unicast address that can be assigned to multiple devices. A packet sent to an anycast address is routed to the nearest device having that address.
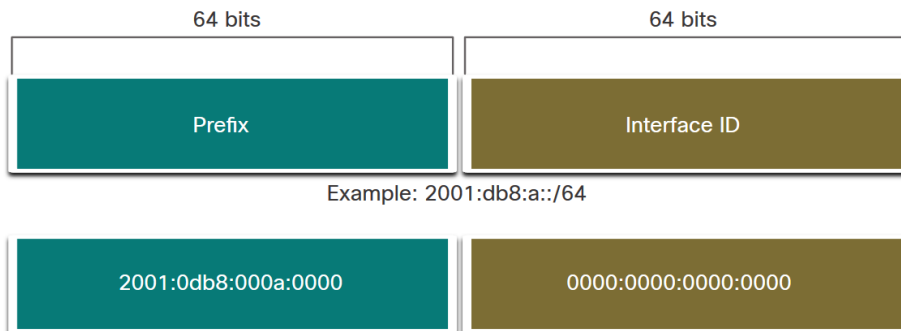
Note: Unlike IPv4, IPv6 does not have a broadcast address. However, there is an **IPv6 all-nodes multicast address** that essentially gives the same result.

IPv6 Prefix Length

Prefix length is represented in slash notation and is used to indicate the network portion of an IPv6 address.

The IPv6 prefix length can range from 0 to 128. The recommended IPv6 prefix length for LANs and most other types of networks is /64.

64 bits	64 bits
Prefix	Interface ID

Example: 2001:db8:a::/64

2001:0db8:000a:0000	0000:0000:0000:0000

Note: It is strongly recommended to use a 64-bit Interface ID for most networks. This is because **stateless address autoconfiguration (SLAAC)** uses 64 bits for the Interface ID. It also makes subnetting easier to create and manage.

Types of IPv6 Unicast Addresses

Unlike IPv4 devices that have only a single address, IPv6 addresses typically have two unicast addresses:
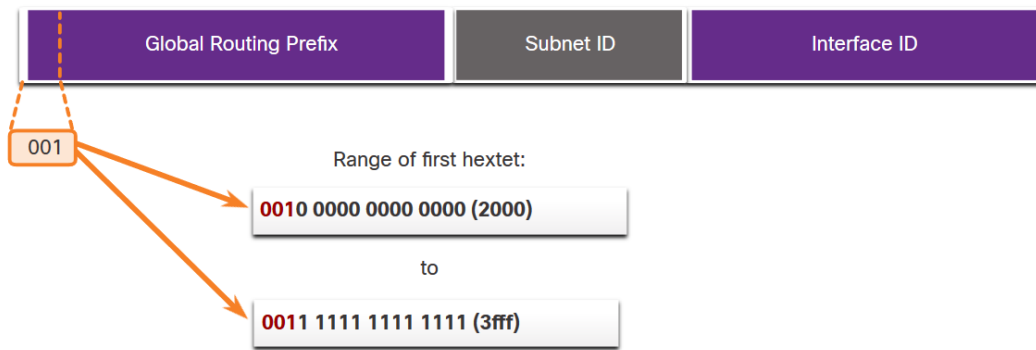
- **Global Unicast Address (GUA)**
  - This is similar to a public IPv4 address.
  - These are globally unique, internet-routable addresses.
- **Link-local Address (LLA)**
  - Required for every IPv6-enabled device and used to communicate with other devices on the same local link.
  - LLAs are not routable and are confined to a single link.

IPv6 GUA

IPv6 GUAs are globally unique and routable on the IPv6 internet.

- Currently, only GUAs with the first three bits of 001 or 2000::/3 are being assigned.

- Currently available GUAs begins with a decimal 2 or a 3 (This is only 1/8th of the total available IPv6 address space).

Global Routing Prefix	Subnet ID	Interface ID

001

Range of first hextet:

0010 0000 0000 0000 (2000)

to

0011 1111 1111 1111 (3fff)

IPv6 GUA Structure

Global Routing Prefix:

- The global routing prefix is the prefix (or network) portion of the address that is assigned by the provider, such as an ISP, to a customer or site.

- The global routing prefix will vary depending on ISP policies.

Subnet ID:

- The Subnet ID field is the area between the Global Routing Prefix and the Interface ID.

- The Subnet ID is used by an organization to identify subnets within its site.

Interface ID:

- The IPv6 interface ID is equivalent to the host portion of an IPv4 address.

- It is strongly recommended that in most cases /64 subnets should be used, which creates a 64-bit interface ID.

Note: IPv6 allows the all-0s and all-1s host addresses can be assigned to a device. The all-0s address is reserved as a **Subnet-Router anycast address**, and should be assigned only to routers.

IPv6 LLA

An IPv6 link-local address (LLA) enables a device to communicate with other IPv6-enabled devices on the same link and only on that link (subnet).

- Packets with a source or destination LLA cannot be routed.

- Every IPv6-enabled network interface must have an LLA.

- If an LLA is not configured manually on an interface, the device will automatically create one.

- IPv6 LLAs are in the **fe80::/10** range.

Routing Protocol
Messages
①

LLA   LLA   LLA
Address   Address   Address

②
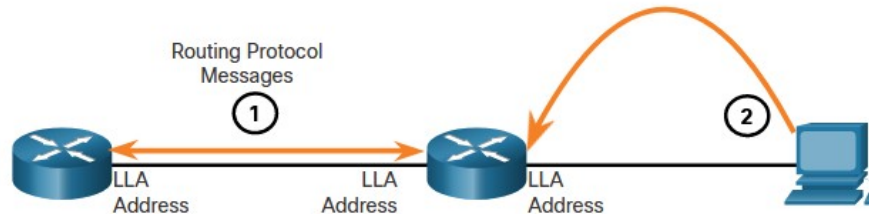
1. Routers use the LLA of neighbor routers to send routing updates.
2. Hosts use the LLA of a local router as the default–gateway.

Static GUA Configuration on a Router

Most IPv6 configuration and verification commands in the Cisco IOS are similar to their IPv4 counterparts. In many cases, the only difference is the use of **ipv6** in place of **ip** within the commands.

- The command to configure an IPv6 GUA on an interface is: **ipv6 address** *ipv6-address/prefix-length.*

- The example shows commands to configure a GUA on the G0/0/0 interface on R1:

```
R1(config)# interface gigabitethernet 0/0/0
R1(config-if)# ipv6 address 2001:db8:acad:1::1/64
R1(config-if)# no shutdown
R1(config-if)# exit
```

Static GUA Configuration on a Windows Host

- Manually configuring the IPv6 address on a host is similar to configuring an IPv4 address.

- The GUA or LLA of the router interface can be used as the default gateway. Best practice is to use the LLA.

Note: When DHCPv6 or SLAAC is used, the LLA of the router will automatically be specified as the default gateway address.

Internet Protocol Version 6 (TCP/IPv6) Properties ✕

| General |

You can get IPv6 settings assigned automatically if your network supports this capability. Otherwise, you need to ask your network administrator for the appropriate IPv6 settings.

○ Obtain an IPv6 address automatically
◉ Use the following IPv6 address:

IPv6 address: `2001:db8:acad:1::10`

Subnet prefix length: `64`

Default gateway: `2001:db8:acad:1::1`

○ Obtain DNS server address automatically
◉ Use the following DNS server addresses:

Preferred DNS server:

Alternate DNS server:

☐ Validate settings upon exit

Advanced...

OK   Cancel

Static Link-Local Address

Configuring the LLA manually lets you create an address that is recognizable and easier to remember.

- LLAs can be configured manually using the **ipv6 address** *ipv6-link-local-address* **link-local** command.

- The example shows commands to configure a LLA on the G0/0/0 interface on R1

```
R1(config)# interface gigabitethernet 0/0/0
R1(config-if)# ipv6 address fe80::1:1 link-local
R1(config-if)# no shutdown
R1(config-if)# exit
```

Note: The same LLA can be configured on each link as long as it is unique on that link. Common practice is to create a different LLA on each interface of the router to make it easy to identify the router and the specific interface.
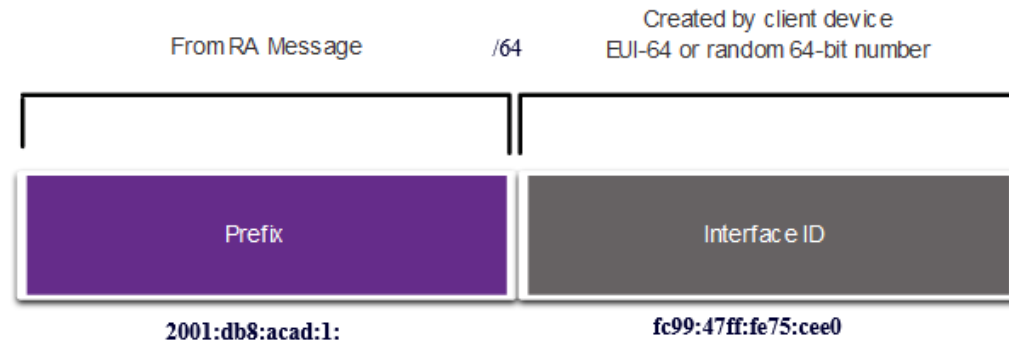
RS and RA Messages

Devices obtain GUA addresses dynamically through ICMPv6 messages.

- **Router Solicitation (RS)** messages are sent by host devices to discover IPv6 routers

- **Router Advertisement (RA)** messages are sent by routers to inform hosts on how to obtain an IPv6 GUA and provide useful network information such as:

  - **Network prefix** and **prefix length**

  - Default gateway address

  - DNS addresses and domain name

- The RA can provide three methods for configuring an IPv6 GUA :

  - **S**tate**L**ess **A**ddress **A**uto**C**onfiguration (SLAAC)

  - SLAAC with stateless DHCPv6 server

  - Stateful DHCPv6 (no SLAAC)

Method 1: SLAAC

- SLAAC allows a device to configure a GUA without the services of DHCPv6.

- Devices obtain the necessary information to configure a GUA from the ICMPv6 RA messages of the local router.

- The prefix is provided by the RA and the device uses either the **EUI-64** or **random generation method** to create an interface ID.

From RA Message	/64	Created by client device EUI-64 or random 64-bit number
Prefix		Interface ID
2001:db8:acad:1:		fc99:47ff:fe75:cee0

Method 2: SLAAC and Stateless DHCP

An RA can instruct a device to use both SLAAC and stateless DHCPv6.

The RA message suggests devices use the following:

- SLAAC to create its own IPv6 GUA

- The router LLA, which is the RA source IPv6 address, as the default gateway address

- A stateless DHCPv6 server to obtain other information such as a DNS server address and a domain name
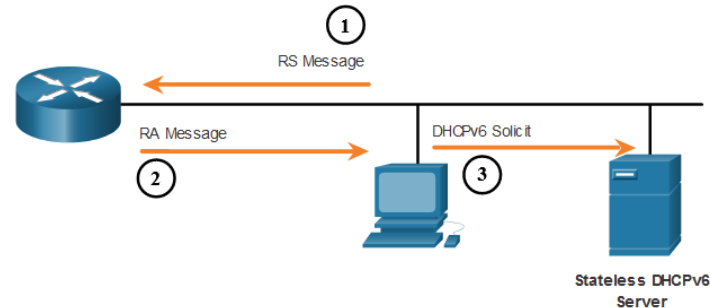
Method 3: Stateful DHCPv6

An RA can instruct a device to use stateful DHCPv6 only.

Stateful DHCPv6 is similar to DHCP for IPv4. A device can automatically receive a GUA, prefix length, and the addresses of DNS servers from a stateful DHCPv6 server.
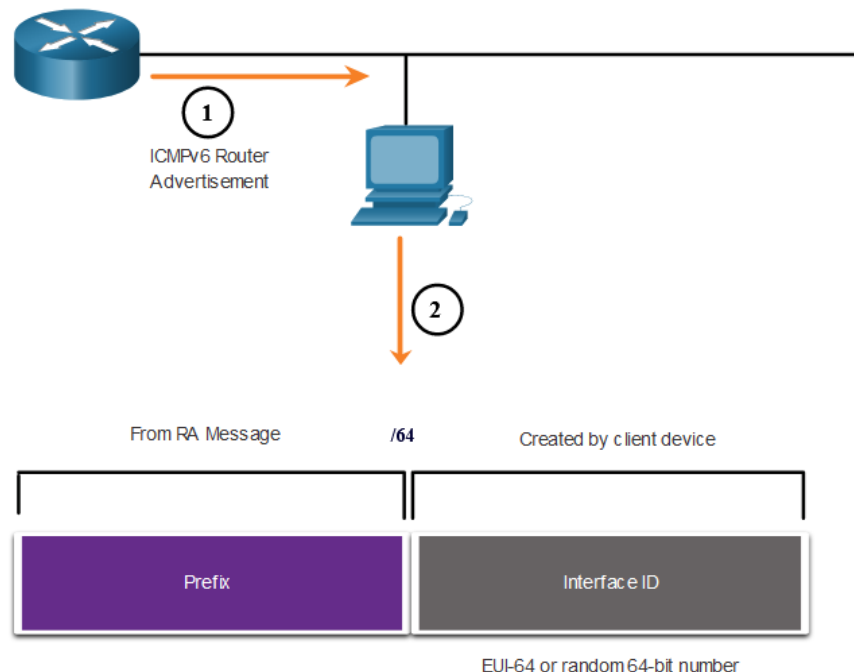
The RA message suggests devices use the following:

- The router LLA, which is the RA source IPv6 address, for the default gateway address.

- A stateful DHCPv6 server to obtain a GUA, DNS server address, domain name and other necessary information.
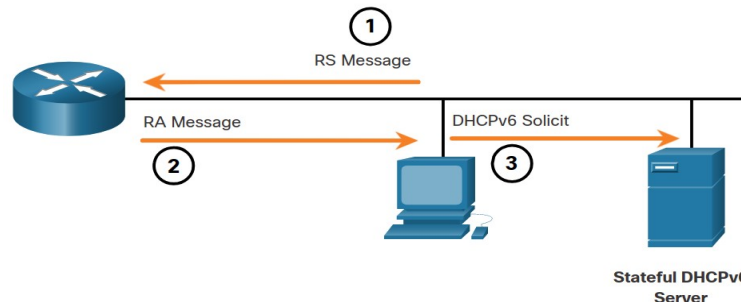
EUI-64 Process vs. Randomly Generated

- When the RA message is either SLAAC or SLAAC with stateless DHCPv6, the client must generate its own interface ID.

- The interface ID can be created using the (**Extended Unique Identifier)** EUI-64 process or a randomly generated 64-bit number.

ICMPv6 Router Advertisement

From RA Message | /64 | Created by client device

| Prefix | Interface ID |

EUI-64 or random 64-bit number

Randomly Generated Interface IDs

Depending upon the operating system, a device may use a randomly generated interface ID instead of using the MAC address and the EUI-64 process.

Beginning with Windows Vista, Windows uses a randomly generated interface ID instead of one created with EUI-64.
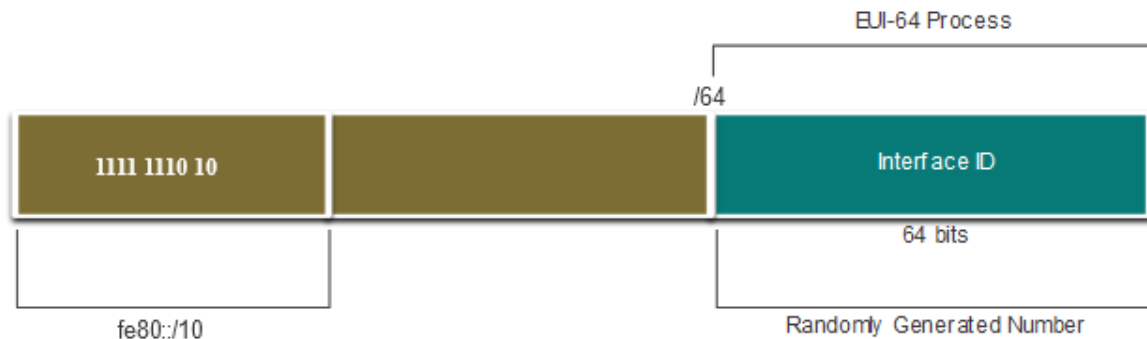
```
C:\> ipconfig
Windows IP Configuration
Ethernet adapter Local Area Connection:
Connection-specific DNS Suffix . :
IPv6 Address. . . . . . . . . . . : 2001:db8:acad:1:50a5:8a35:a5bb:66e1
Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::50a5:8a35:a5bb:66e1
Default Gateway . . . . . . . . . : fe80::1
C:\>
```

Note: To ensure the uniqueness of any IPv6 unicast address, the client may use a process known as Duplicate Address Detection (DAD). This is similar to an ARP request for its own address. If there is no reply, then the address is unique.

Dynamic LLAs

- All IPv6 interfaces must have an IPv6 LLA.

- Like IPv6 GUAs, LLAs can be configured dynamically.

- The figure shows the LLA is dynamically created using the fe80::/10 prefix and the interface ID using the EUI-64 process, or a randomly generated 64-bit number.

Dynamic LLAs on Windows

Operating systems, such as Windows, will typically use the same method for both a SLAAC-created GUA and a dynamically assigned LLA.

EUI-64 Generated Interface ID:

```
C:\> ipconfig
Windows IP Configuration
Ethernet adapter Local Area Connection:
Connection-specific DNS Suffix . :
IPv6 Address. . . . . . . . . . . : 2001:db8:acad:1:fc99:47ff:fe75:cee0
Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::fc99:47ff:fe75:cee0
Default Gateway . . . . . . . . . : fe80::1
C:\>
```

Random 64-bit Generated Interface ID:

```
C:\> ipconfig
Windows IP Configuration
Ethernet adapter Local Area Connection:
   Connection-specific DNS Suffix  . :
   IPv6 Address. . . . . . . . . . . : 2001:db8:acad:1:50a5:8a35:a5bb:66e1
   Link-local IPv6 Address . . . . . : fe80::50a5:8a35:a5bb:66e1
   Default Gateway . . . . . . . . . : fe80::1
C:\>
```

Dynamic LLAs on Cisco Routers

Cisco routers automatically create an IPv6 LLA whenever a GUA is assigned to the interface. By default, Cisco IOS routers use EUI-64 to generate the interface ID for all LLAs on IPv6 interfaces.

Here is an example of a LLA dynamically configured on the G0/0/0 interface of R1:

```
R1# show interface gigabitEthernet 0/0/0
GigabitEthernet0/0/0 is up, line protocol is up
Hardware is ISR4221-2x1GE, address is 7079.b392.3640 (bia 7079.b392.3640)
(Output omitted)
R1# show ipv6 interface brief
GigabitEthernet0/0/0 [up/up]
FE80::7279:B3FF:FE92:3640
2001:DB8:ACAD:1::1
```

Assigned IPv6 Multicast Addresses

IPv6 multicast addresses have the prefix **ff00::/8**. There are two types of IPv6 multicast addresses:

- Well-Known multicast addresses

- Solicited node multicast addresses

Note: Multicast addresses can only be destination addresses and not source addresses.

Well-Known IPv6 Multicast Addresses

Well-known IPv6 multicast addresses are assigned and are reserved for predefined groups of devices.

There are two common IPv6 Assigned multicast groups:

- **ff02::1 All-nodes multicast group** - This is a multicast group that all IPv6-enabled devices join. A packet sent to this group is received and processed by all IPv6 interfaces on the link or network.

- **ff02::2 All-routers multicast group** - This is a multicast group that all IPv6 routers join. A router becomes a member of this group when it is enabled as an IPv6 router with the **ipv6 unicast-routing** global configuration command.

Subnet Using the Subnet ID

IPv6 was designed with subnetting in mind.

- A separate subnet ID field in the IPv6 GUA is used to create subnets.

- The subnet ID field is the area between the Global Routing Prefix and the interface ID.

48 bits	16 bits	64 bits
Global Routing Prefix	Subnet ID	Interface ID
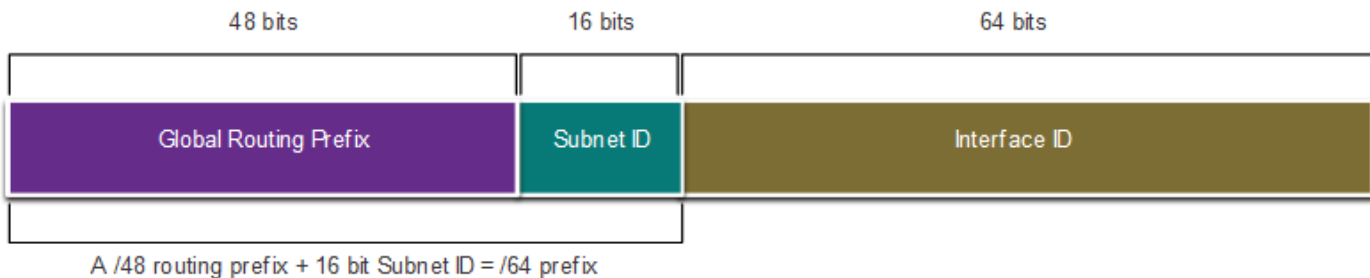
A /48 routing prefix + 16 bit Subnet ID = /64 prefix

IPv6 Subnetting Example

Given the 2001:db8:acad::/48 global routing prefix with a 16 bit subnet ID.

- Allows 65,536 /64 subnets

- The global routing prefix is the same for all subnets.

- Only the subnet ID hextet is incremented in hexadecimal for each subnet.
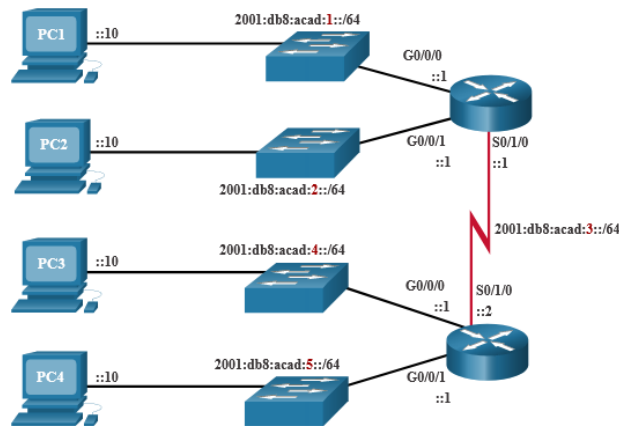
Increment subnet ID to create 65,536 subnets

2001:db8:acad:0000::/64
2001:db8:acad:0001::/64
2001:db8:acad:0002::/64
2001:db8:acad:0003::/64
2001:db8:acad:0004::/64
2001:db8:acad:0005::/64
2001:db8:acad:0006::/64
2001:db8:acad:0007::/64
2001:db8:acad:0008::/64
2001:db8:acad:0009::/64
2001:db8:acad:000a::/64
2001:db8:acad:000b::/64
2001:db8:acad:000c::/64

IPv6 Subnet Allocation

The example topology requires five subnets, one for each LAN as well as for the serial link between R1 and R2.

The five IPv6 subnets were allocated, with the subnet ID field 0001 through 0005. Each /64 subnet will provide more addresses than will ever be needed.

Router Configured with IPv6 Subnets

The example shows that each of the router interfaces on R1 has been configured to be on a different IPv6 subnet.

```
R1(config)# interface gigabitethernet 0/0/0
R1(config-if)# ipv6 address 2001:db8:acad:1::1/64
R1(config-if)# no shutdown
R1(config-if)# exit
R1(config)# interface gigabitethernet 0/0/1
R1(config-if)# ipv6 address 2001:db8:acad:2::1/64
R1(config-if)# no shutdown
R1(config-if)# exit
R1(config)# interface serial 0/1/0
R1(config-if)# ipv6 address 2001:db8:acad:3::1/64
R1(config-if)# no shutdown
```