




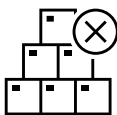
6	Traffic Class	Flow Label
14 Minutes	58	64
Florian::Holzbauer, Markus::Maier, Johanna::Ullrich		
 universität wien	 SBA Research	 universität wien
ff05::IMC24		
128	0	Checksum
Identifier	Sequence Number	

- | Destination Reachable:
- | What ICMPv6 Error Messages Reveal
- | About Their Sources

+--+--+--+



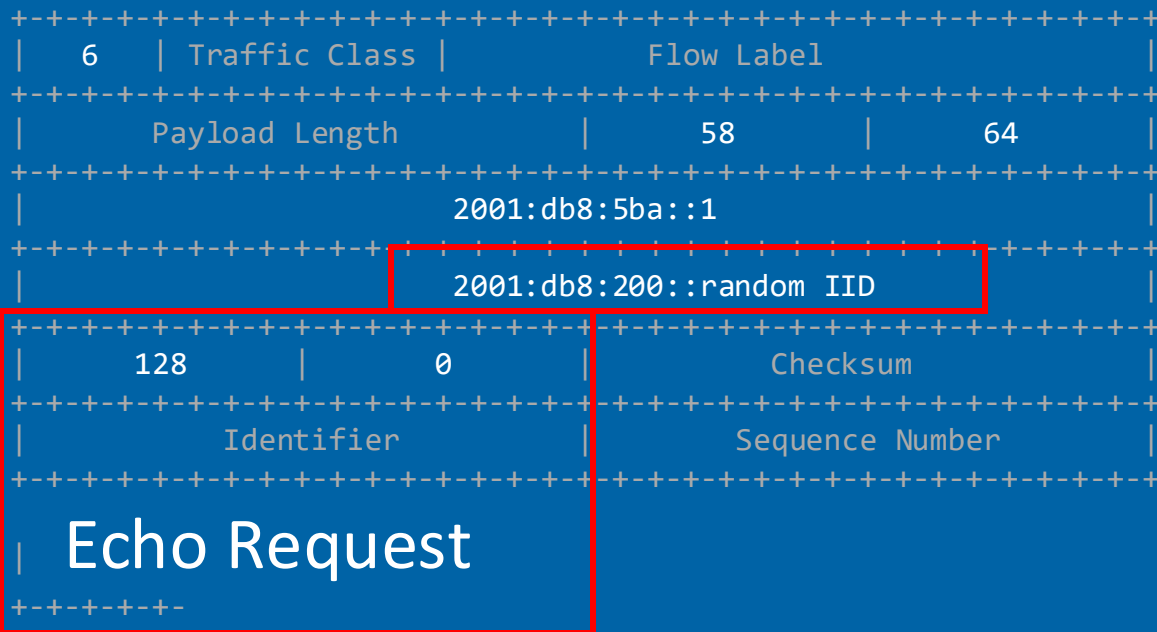
Sending a request to **every IPv4** address takes less than an hour

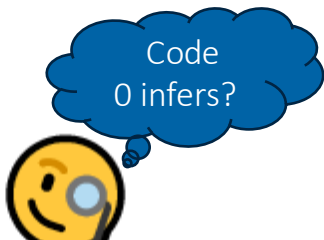


Scanning every address not feasible in IPv6



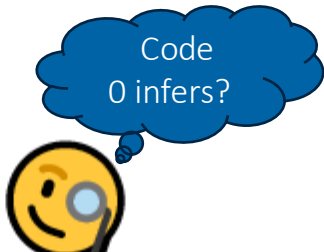
ICMPv6 error messages are still returned, even when targeting a **random address** inside a network





Type	Error Message	Codes	Level
1	Destination Unreachable	7	SHOULD
2	Packet Too Big	1	MUST
3	Time Exceeded	2	MUST
4	Parameter Problem	3	SHOULD

6	Traffic Class	Flow Label
Payload Length		58
2001:db8:200:1000::ab		56
2001:db8:5ba::1		
1	0	Checksum
Identifier	Sequence Number	
Destination Unreachable		

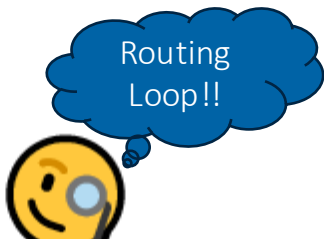


Code	Description
0	No route to destination
1	Communication with destination administratively prohibited
2	Beyond scope of source address
3	Address unreachable
4	Port unreachable
5	Source address failed ingress/egress policy
6	Reject route to destination

The diagram illustrates the structure of an IPv6 packet header. The fields are as follows:

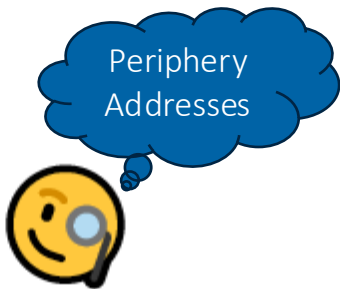
Field	Value
Version	6
Traffic Class	
Flow Label	
Payload Length	58
Next Header	56
Destination Address	2001:db8:200:1000::ab

The Destination Address field is highlighted with a red box, indicating the destination of the packet. The text "Destination Unreachable" is displayed within this box, suggesting that the packet has reached its destination but cannot be delivered.



Typ	Error Message	Codes	Level
1	Destination Unreachable	7	SHOULD
2	Packet Too Big	1	MUST
3	Time Exceeded	2	MUST
4	Parameter Problem	3	SHOULD

```
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
|  6  | Traffic Class |                               Flow Label                               |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
|                               Payload Length                               | 58 | 56 |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
|                               2001:db8:200:1000::ab                               |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
|                               2001:db8:5ba::1                               |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
|  3  | 0 |                               Checksum                               |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
|                               Identifier                               | Sequence Number |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| Time Exceeded |
+-----+-----+
```



Error Messages in Measurements

- Edgy (Rye, 2020)
 - 64.8M Last-Hop Routers
- XMap (Li, 2021)
 - 52M Routers + User Equipment (15 ISP ranges)
- Periphery can include your:
 - Home Router
 - Smartphone

6		Traffic Class		Flow Label	
Payload Length		58		56	
2001:db8:200:1000::ab		2001:db8:5ba::1			
1,3		Code		Checksum	
Identifier		Sequence Number			

ICMPv6 Error Message

Our Goal:

Analyze ICMPv6 error messages **beyond** their **source** addresses



Our Contribution:

1. **Verification** of error message **type & code usage** and **classification** of error messages for **11 Billion** IPv6 prefixes
2. ICMPv6 error message **rate-limiting** measurements of **1.4M** routers **show vendor defaults & kernel versions**

What Do ICMPv6 Error Messages Reveal About Their Sources?

1. Networks

2. Routers

Methods Overview

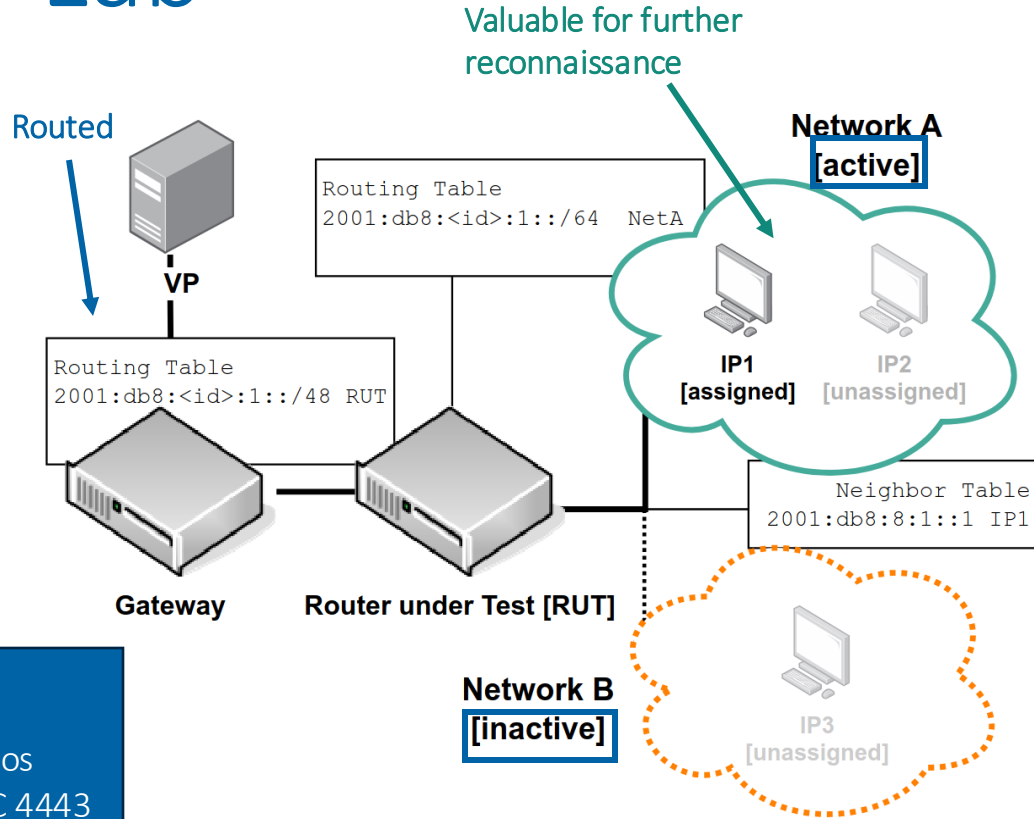
1. Controlled Environment

2. Verification in the IPv6 Internet

3. IPv6-wide Measurements

- Collect error messages under six different routing **scenarios**
- Find error messages that are returned only for **active/inactive** networks

Router Lab



11 Vendors,
15 Appliances,
6 routing scenarios
derived from RFC 4443

Typ	Router / Router OS
1	Cisco XRV, IOS-XE, IOS
2	Juniper Junos
3	Huawei NetEngine
4	HPE VSR
5	Arista
6	VyOs
7	Mikrotik (2 Versions)
8	OpenWRT (2 Versions)
9	Aruba

Typ	Firewall
1	PfSense
2	Fortigate

Result I: Router Lab

Mikrotik

Scenario	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Description	Active Network	Inactive Network	Active Netw. ACL	Inactive Netw. ACL	Null Route	Routing Loop	Classification
No Route (S2)	○ 0	● 14	● 1	● 2	● 2	○ 0	Ambiguous
Admin. Prohib. (S3,S4)	○ 0	○ 0	● 4	● 5	● 3	○ 0	Ambiguous
Addr. Unreach. (S1)	● 14	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	● 1	○ 0	Ambiguous
Port Unreach. ()	○ 0	○ 0	● 3	● 2	○ 0	○ 0	Ambiguous
Failed Policy (S3,S4)	○ 0	● 1	● 1	● 2	○ 0	○ 0	Ambiguous
Reject Route (S5)	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	● 2	○ 0	Inactive
Time Exceeded (S6)	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	● 15	Inactive
∅	● 1	○ 0	● 4	● 3	● 9	○ 0	

Result I: Router Lab

Scenario	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Description	Active Network	Inactive Network	Active Netw. ACL	Inactive Netw. ACL	Null Route	Routing Loop	Classification
No Route (S2)	○ 0	● 14	● 1	● 2	● 2	○ 0	Ambiguous
Admin. Prohib. (S3,S4)	○ 0	○ 0	● 4	● 5	● 3	○ 0	Ambiguous
Addr. Unreach. (S1)	● 14	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	● 1	○ 0	Ambiguous
Port Unreach. ()	○ 0	○ 0	● 3	● 2	○ 0	○ 0	Ambiguous
Failed Policy (S3,S4)	○ 0	● 1	● 1	● 2	○ 0	○ 0	Ambiguous
Reject Route (S5)	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	● 2	○ 0	Inactive
Time Exceeded (S6)	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	● 15	Inactive
∅	● 1	○ 0	● 4	● 3	● 9	○ 0	

Juniper

Solution: RTTs! AU in S1 shows delays of 2, 3 and 18 seconds, in S5 it is returned immediately

Result I: Router Lab

Scenario	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Description	Active Network	Inactive Network	Active Netw. ACL	Inactive Netw. ACL	Null Route	Routing Loop	Classification
No Route (S2)	○ 0	● 14	● 1	● 2	● 2	○ 0	Ambiguous
Admin. Prohib. (S3,S4)	○ 0	○ 0	● 4	● 5	● 3	○ 0	Ambiguous
Addr. Unreach. _{RTT≥1sec}	● 14	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	Active
Addr. Unreach. _{RTT<1sec}	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	● 1	○ 0	Inactive
Port Unreach. ()	○ 0	○ 0	● 3	● 2	○ 0	○ 0	Ambiguous
Failed Policy (S3,S4)	○ 0	● 1	● 1	● 2	○ 0	○ 0	Ambiguous
Reject Route (S5)	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	● 2	○ 0	Inactive
Time Exceeded (S6)	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	● 15	Inactive
∅	● 1	○ 0	● 4	● 3	● 9	○ 0	

Result I: Classification

Scenario	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Description	Active Network	Inactive Network	Active Netw. ACL	Inactive Netw. ACL	Null Route	Routing Loop	Classification
No Route (S2)	○ 0	● 14	● 1	● 2	● 2	○ 0	Ambiguous
Admin. Prohib. (S3,S4)	○ 0	○ 0	● 4	● 5	● 3	○ 0	Ambiguous
Addr. Unreach. _{RTT≥1sec}	● 14	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	Active
Addr. Unreach. _{RTT<1sec}	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	● 1	○ 0	Inactive
Port Unreach. ()	○ 0	○ 0	● 3	● 2	○ 0	○ 0	Ambiguous
Failed Policy (S3,S4)	○ 0	● 1	● 1	● 2	○ 0	○ 0	Ambiguous
Reject Route (S5)	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	● 2	○ 0	Inactive
Time Exceeded (S6)	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	○ 0	● 15	Inactive
∅	● 1	○ 0	● 4	● 3	● 9	○ 0	

Methods Overview

1. Controlled Environment

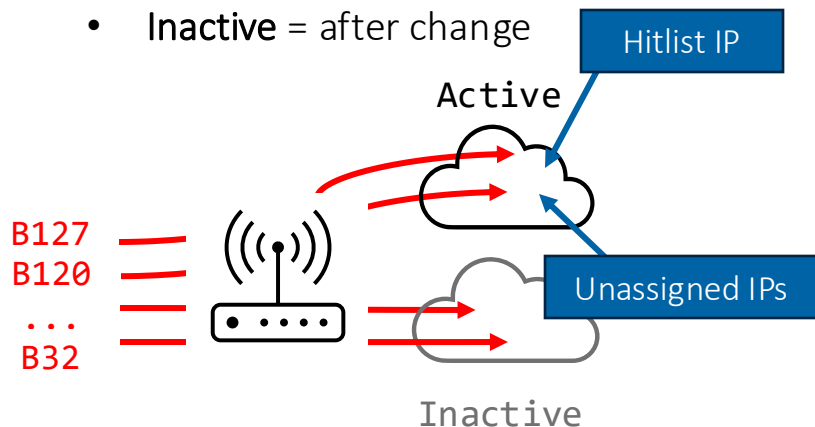
2. Verification in the IPv6 Internet

3. IPv6-wide Measurements

- Goal: Collect error messages for IPv6 **networks** known to be **active and inactive**
- Problem: There is **no** such dataset
 - o Scanning random subnets?
 - Target network might not be suballocated
- **BValue Steps** = Border Values to the rescue

BValue Steps

- Input: **Responsive** IPv6 addresses in **active** network (Hitlist Service; Gasser, 2018)
- Randomize** more and more of the target address (steps of 8 bits) up to the **routed** network border
- Detect **changes** in response behavior
 - Active** = before change
 - Inactive** = after change



Original hitlist address:

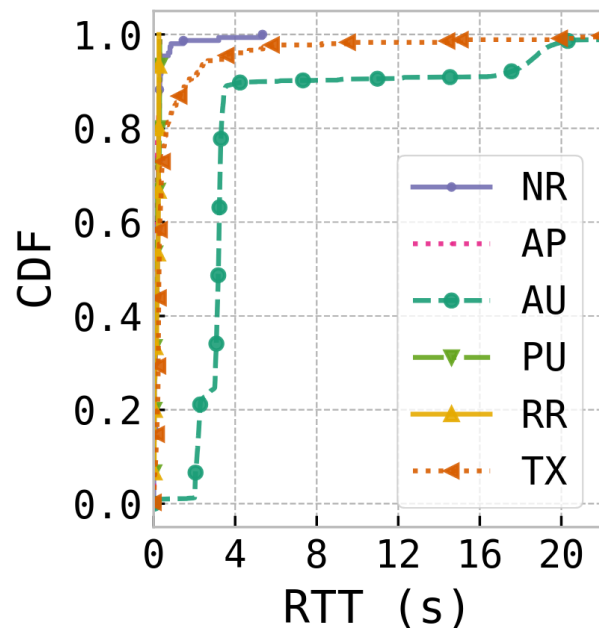
2001:db8:1234:abcd:1234:abcd:1234:0101

Generated addresses:

	<original bits>	<random bits>
B127	2001:db8:1234:abcd:1234:abcd:1234:010	0
B120	2001:db8:1234:abcd:1234:abcd:1234:01	e8
B112	2001:db8:1234:abcd:1234:abcd:1234:	6aa1
B104	2001:db8:1234:abcd:1234:abcd:12	21:f38d
...		
B48	2001:db8:abcd:	5276:d080:ccd6:7fc3:311c
B40	2001:db8:ab	3e:3eb7:4c66:7f16:ade5:2b3d
B32	2001:db8:	7438:221f:b244:476c:66bb:8da5

- Applied to one hitlist address/subnet per routed BGP prefix
- 47,923 pass ICMPv6 responsiveness check
- We are able separate active from inactive in 44% (17% are not suballocated, 38% unresponsive)

Result II: BValue Steps



Of error messages
for active networks

		labeled active			BValues	labeled inactive		
		Netw.	σ	%		Netw.	σ	%
active	ICMPv6	17,361	109	95.1%	True Positives	471	11	4.6%
	TCP	14,522	112	93.7%		620	12	7.4%
	UDP	12,490	82	56.2%		3,687	35	32.0%
ambig.	ICMPv6	352	10	1.9%		1,645	12	15.9%
	TCP	566	10	3.7%		1,552	14	18.6%
	UDP	9,377	91	42.2%		1,455	7	12.6%
inactive	ICMPv6	537	13	2.9%		8,230	34	79.5%
	TCP	405	8	2.6%		6,191	26	74.0%
	UDP	337	12	1.5%		6,396	49	55.4%

NOTE: σ Standard deviation over five days.

18,250/21,070 Responsive 10,346/21,070 Responsive

True
Negatives

- Five days, Three protocols

95% labeled active networks returned $AU_{RTT \geq 1sec}$

80% labeled inactive networks returned $AU_{RTT < 1sec}$, Reject Route, Time Exceeded; 16% Ambiguous (Higher share of No Route)

Methods Overview

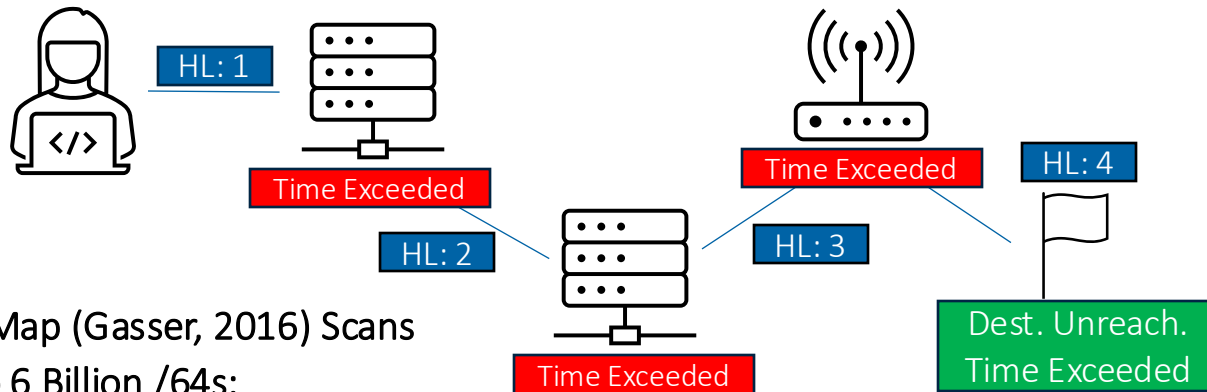
1. Controlled
Environment

2. Verification in the
IPv6 Internet

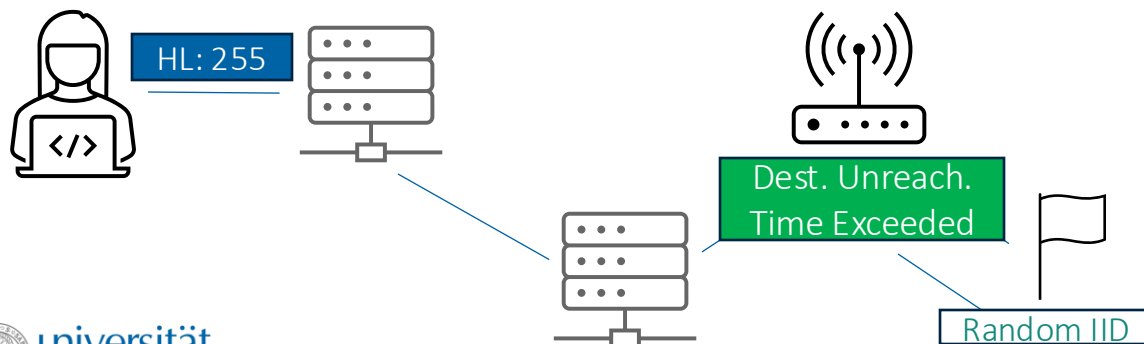
3. IPv6-wide
Measurements

IPv6-wide measurements

YARRP (Beverly, 2016): Traceroutes to 5 Billion /48s:

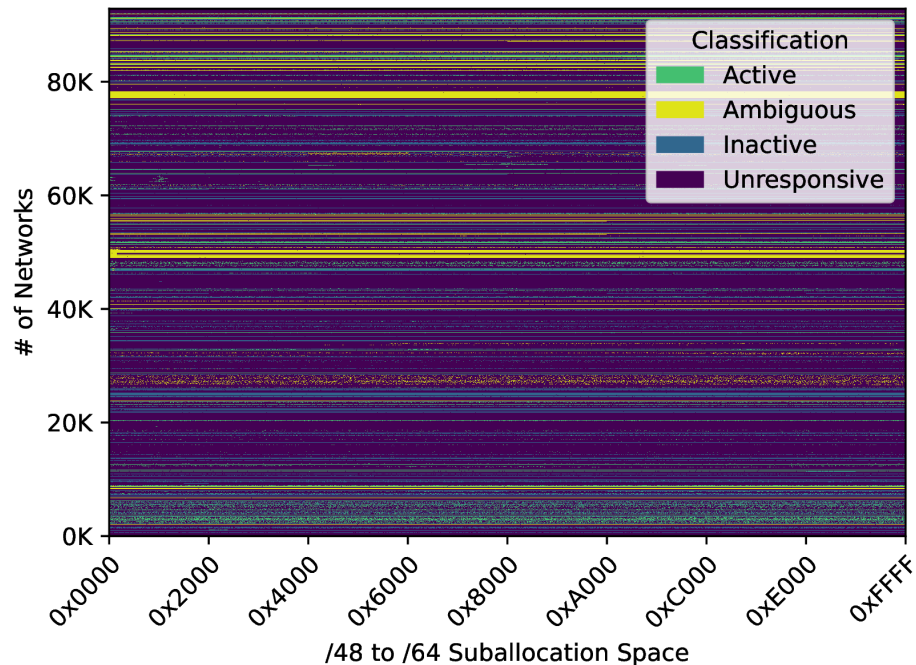


ZMap (Gasser, 2016) Scans to 6 Billion /64s:



Router Addr, Hop
Count & Destination IP
= Input for
Contribution 2

Result III: /64s Measurement



38% of measured networks remain silent

Measured /64s	6,085,410,816 (100%)
Responsive	1,368,371,825 (22.5%)
Unresponsive	4,717,038,991 (77.5%)

Responsive	/64s
Active	355,616,627 = 26%
Ambiguous	209,970,342 = 15%
Inactive	802,784,856 = 59%

At least 1 active /64 in
61% of responsive
networks

Only 15% of
responsive /64s
remain ambiguous

What Do ICMPv6 Error Messages Reveal About Their Sources?

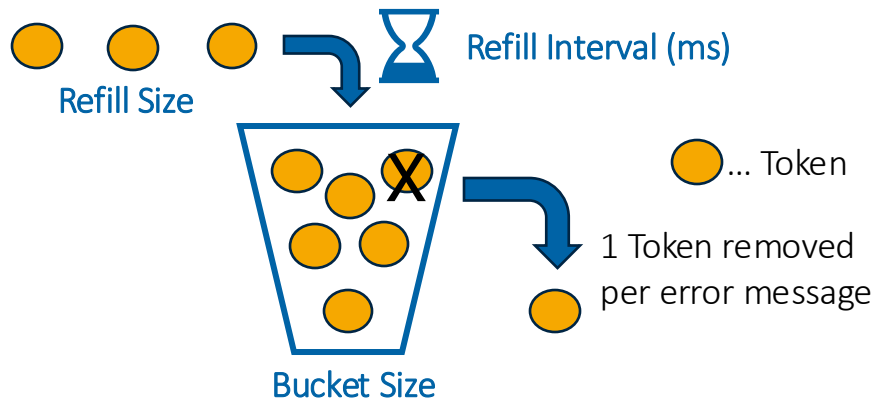
1. Networks

2. Routers

Methods Overview

1. Controlled Environment

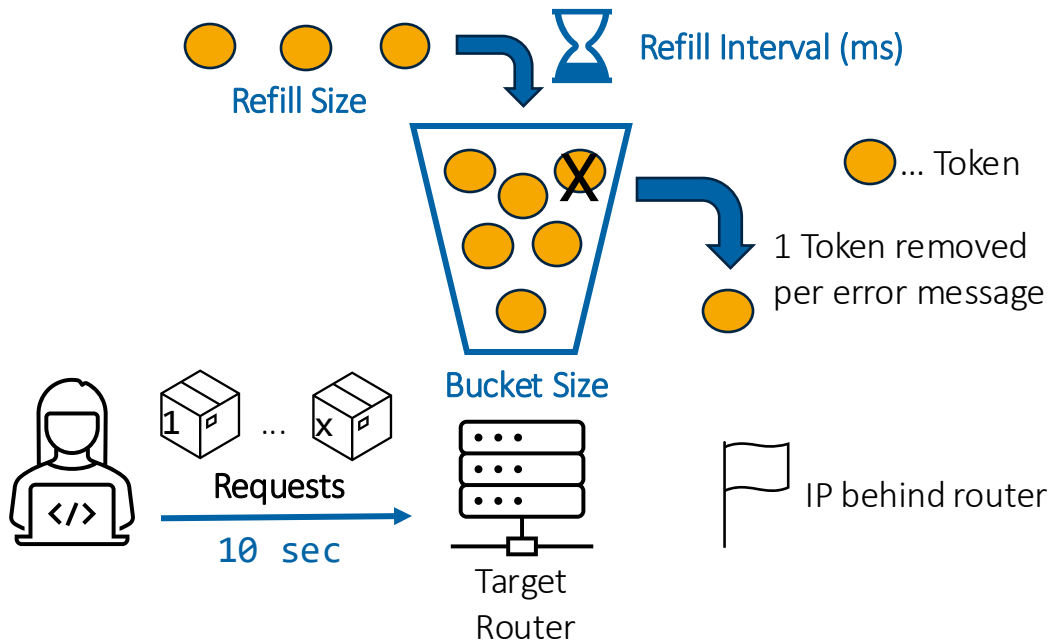
- Origination of ICMPv6 error messages **must be** rate limited
- Measure & detect **rate limits** that are **unique to vendors**



Methods Overview

- Origination of ICMPv6 error messages **must be** rate limited
- Measure & detect **rate limits** that are **unique to vendors**

1. Controlled Environment



Methods Overview

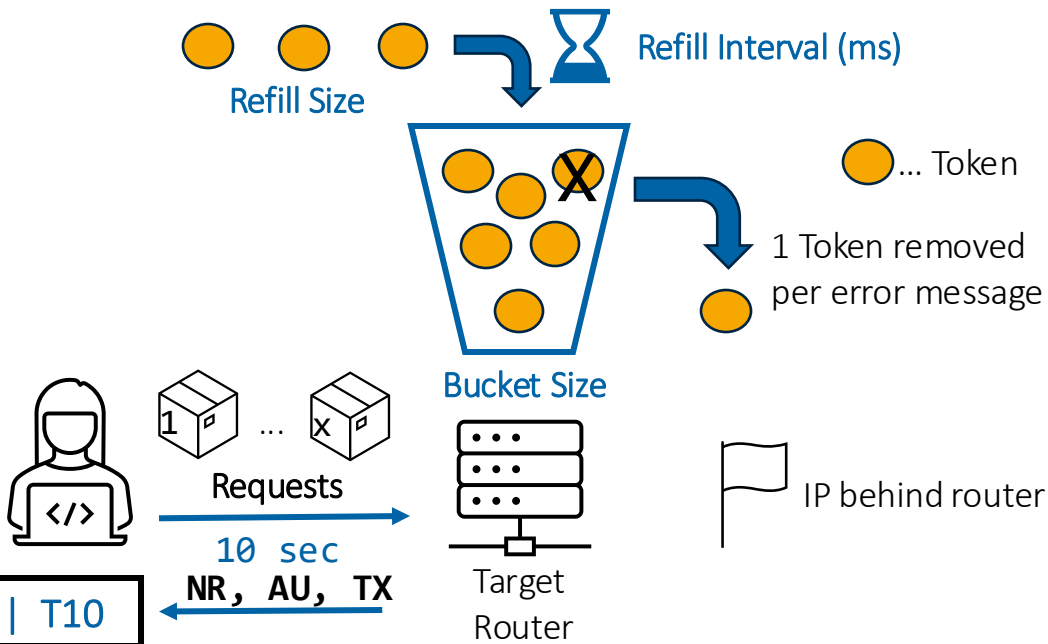
- Origination of ICMPv6 error messages **must be** rate limited
- Measure & detect **rate limits** that are **unique to vendors**

1. Controlled Environment

NR(10) ... Total error messages over timespan of 10 seconds

T1, T2, T10 Number of error messages during 1st, 2nd, .. 10th second

T1 | T2 | T3 | ... | T10



Result I: Router Lab

Vendor Defaults

Kernel Defaults

	Router OS	iTTL	Delay	Bucket Size			Refill Interval (σ)			Refill Size			# Error Messages			Per Src
		All	AU	TX	NR	AU	TX	NR	AU	TX	NR	AU	TX	NR	AU	
Diff AU/NR/TX	CiscoXRV9000	64	18	10	10	10	1,000	1,000	1,000	1	1	1	19	19	0★	
	CiscoIOS 15.9	64	3	10	10	10	~100	~100	3,800★	1	1	10	~105	~105	22★	
	CiscoCSR1000 17.03	64	3	10	10	10	~100	~100	3,000★	1	1	10	~105	~105	22★	
	Juniper 17.1	64	2	52	12	12	~1,000	10,000	10,000	52	12	12	~520◊	12	12	
	HPE VSR1000	64	3	∞	∞	★	∞	∞	★	∞	∞	★	∞	∞	★	
	Huawei NE40	64	3	100-200	8	/	1,000	1,000	/	100	8	/	1,000-1,100	88	/	
No diff for AU/NR/TX	Arista 4.28	64	3		∞			∞			∞			∞		✓
	VyOS 1.3	64	3		6			250*			1			45*		
	Mikrotik 6.48	64,255	3		6			1000			1			15		
	Mikrotik 7.7	64	3		6			250*			1			45*		
	OpenWRT 19.07	64	3		6			250			1			45*		
	OpenWRT 21.02	64	3		6			250*			1			45*		
	ArubaOS 10.09	64	3		6			250*			1			45*		
	Fortigate 7.2.0	255	3		6			10			1			1000		
	PfSense 2.6.0	64	3		100			1000			100			1000		

~ ... Refill interval is less stable / ... The response type is not returned by the RUT. ★ ... Affected by the Neighbor Discovery Process. * ... /48 destination prefix; for other prefix sizes see Table 7 ∞ ... RUT is either not rate-limited or > *scanrate* (tested up to 10K pps). ◊ ... Juniper's Neighbor Discovery for hop limit 0 packets causes a 2-second delay also for TX.

Kernels: Linux, Wind River Linux and FreeBSD.

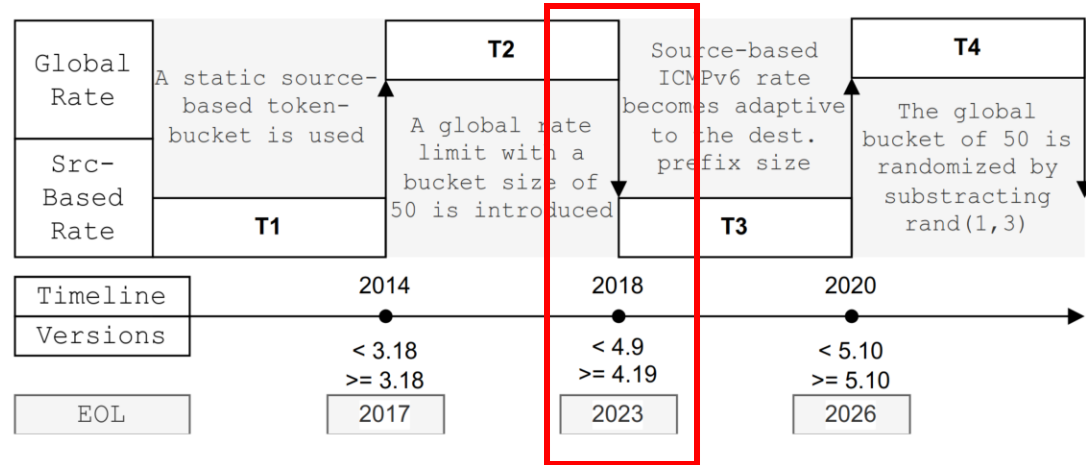
Result I: Changes in the Kernel

	Kernel Version	Release	IPv4	IPv6
Linux	2.6.26-1-2	2008	15	15
	3.16.0-4-6	2014	15	15
	4.9.0-3-13	2016	15	15
	4.19.0-5-21	2018	15	45
	5.10.0-8-22	2020	15	45
	6.1.0-9	2022	15	45
Freebsd	11.0	2016	2000	1000
Netbsd	8.2	2020	1000	1000

- Number of error messages over 10 seconds
- Static and dynamic testing of the Linux kernel shows a change for IPv6 in kernel version 4.

Three rate-limiting changes over time:

1. Introduction of global rate
2. Peer-based becomes adaptive to dest. prefix
3. Global bucket is randomized



Methods Overview


2. Verification in the IPv6 Internet

- Our Goal:

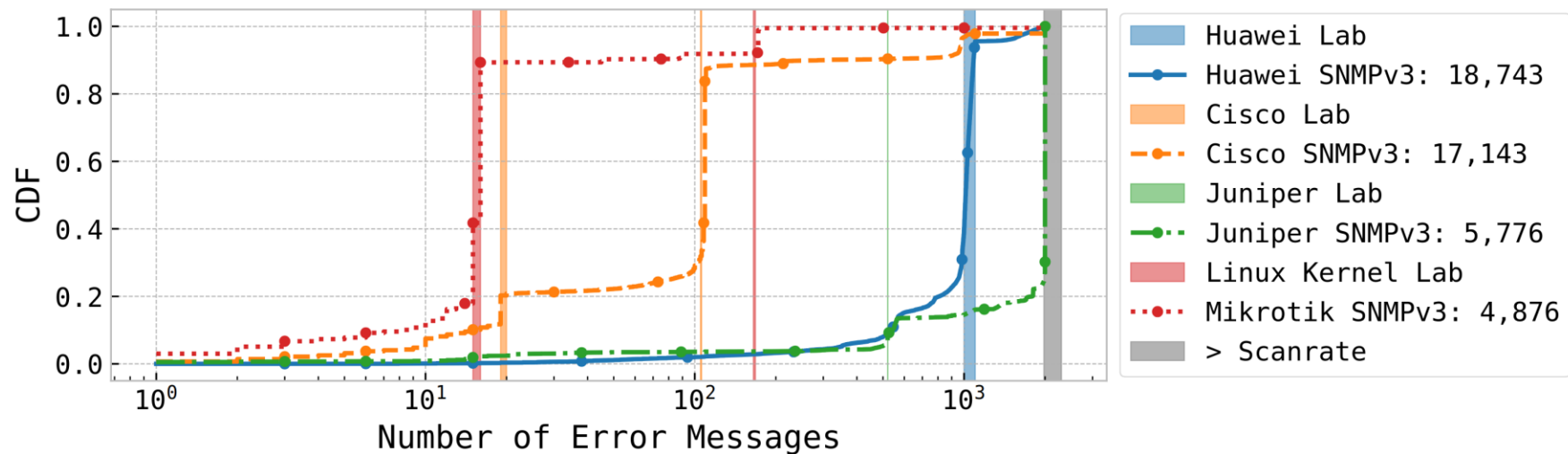
- 1) Validate collected defaults in the Internet

- 2) Extend defaults with new rate-limits for which the vendor is known (see Paper)

- Data Source:

- Extract SNMPv3 vendor labels for **476K IPv6** routers (Albakour, 2021)
- **50,952** match our tracerouting data, for which we can collect rate limit parameters
 - requires:  destination behind router, hop limit

Result II: SNMPv3 Label Comparison



- Huawei labeled match lab default
- Cisco labeled match XRV and IOS lab defaults
- Majority of Juniper labeled is limited above measurement scanrate of 200pps
- Mikrotik matches Linux kernel defaults

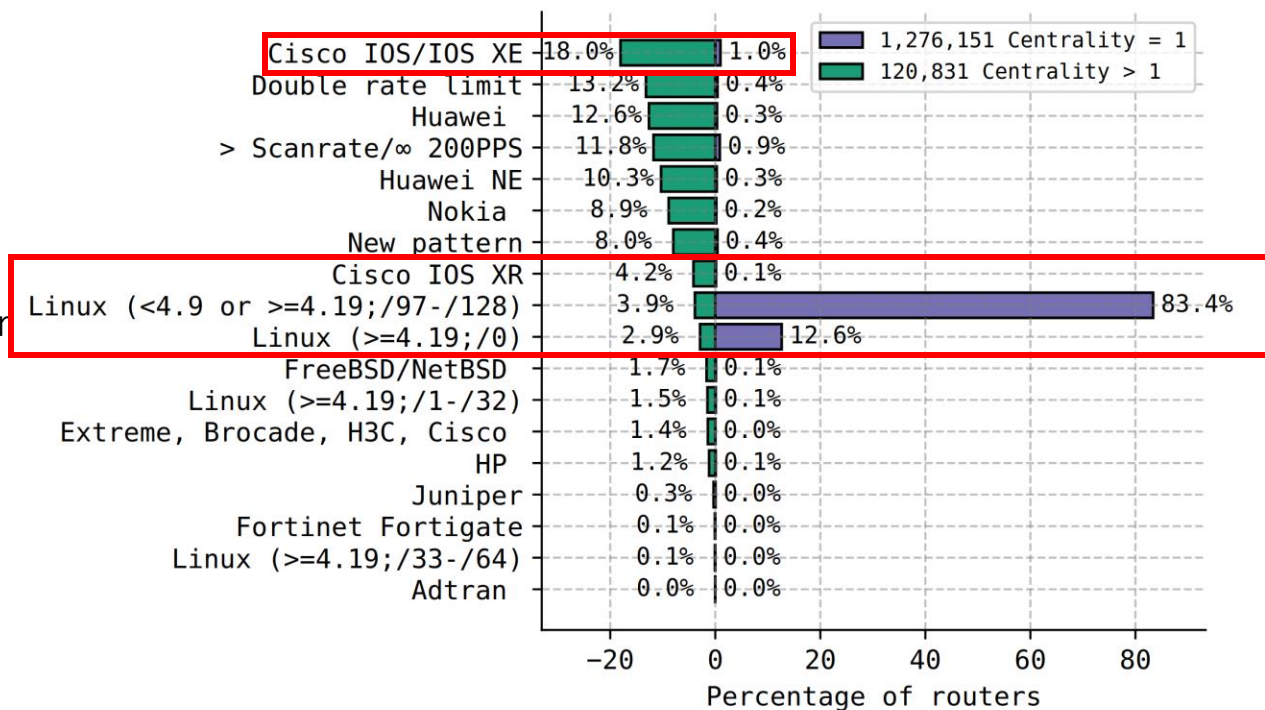
Methods Overview

3. IPv6-wide Measurements

- We collected rate-limits for **1.4M** of the IPv6 routers
 - Split Routers based on **Centrality Score**:
 - Number of paths to a /48 destination a router is seen on
 - **Distance-based matching** to known rate limiting parameters
 - Bin the number of responses for each second (**T1,T2,..T10**) and compute distance
 - Match **rate limiting parameters** (Bucket Size, Refill Interval, Refill Size) for rates within adaptive threshold (10 to 100 based on NR(10))
 - Measurement Parameters: **200 PPS, 10 seconds, Time Exceeded**

Result III: Rate Limit Matching

- Routers on multiple paths (green), more **distinguishable** rate limits
 - o E.g. Cisco (18% IOS, 4.2% XRv)
- Periphery (purple)
 - o 83.4% Linux <4.9 or newer version with small dest. prefix sizes (less likely)
 - o 12.6% ≥ 4.19 with default route



Conclusion: What Do ICMPv6 Error Messages Reveal About Their Sources?

1. Networks

+ Active

- $AU_{RTT \geq 1 \text{ sec}}$

+ Inactive

- RR, TX & $AU_{RTT < 1 \text{ sec}}$

2. Routers

+ Centrality > 1:

- Vendors

+ Centrality = 1:

- Kernel Version

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Artifacts available:



[sbaresearch/icmpv6-destination-reachable](https://github.com/sbaresearch/icmpv6-destination-reachable)



[sbaresearch/router-lab](https://github.com/sbaresearch/router-lab)

```
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
|  6  | Traffic Class |                               Flow Label                               |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
|                               Payload Length                               | 58 | 56 |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
|                               2001:db8:200:1000::ab                               |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
|                               2001:db8:5ba::1                               |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
| 129,1,3 | Code | Checksum |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
|                               Identifier                               | Sequence Number |
+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+-----+
```

| Questions?

```
| ... Please set Typ and Code accordingly :)
+---+---+---+
```