

IPv6 address is represented as 8 groups of 4 Hex-Decimal digits, each group represents 16-bits (2-Bytes / 2-Octets) called hexet. Each group is separated by a colon (:).

For example: In one IPv6 add. there are 128-bits.

2001:0db8 : 85a3 : 0000 : 0000 : 82ae : 0370 : 7334

Full representation of 8 four digits groups may be simplified. This is done using several techniques.

4 Zero Compressions:

- leading zeros in each 16-bit group are suppressed,
- But each group must retain at least one digit in case of all zeros.
- longest sequence of consecutive all-zeros fields (groups) is replaced with double colon (::).
- If the address contains multiple runs of all-zeros fields then leftmost is compressed only.

Full: 2001: 0db8: 85a3: 0000: 0000: 0001: 003a: 0000
Compressed: 2001::db8::85a3::0::0::1::3a::0
2001::db8::85a3::1::3a::0

2001: db8: 0:0:1:0:0:1

2001 : d58 : 1 : 0 : 0 : 1

* Transition of existing IPv4 addresses to IPv6 addresses:

- IPv6 will have to be phased in gradually, because now majority of IP addresses over the Internet are IPv4. So nowadays IPv6 and IPv4 co-exist and ultimately IPv6 will take over. It is a long term transition. So, for time being IPv6 provides a way to accommodate IPv4 addresses within its address space.
- One technique used to accommodate IPv4 in IPv6 is called "IPv4-mapped IPv6 address". This becomes a hybrid address that contains 80 "0" bits, followed by 16 "1" bits, followed by the original 32-bit IPv4 address.
"FFFF"

For example:

IPv4 address: 125.200.10.150

Maps to IPv6 add:
Hexet \rightarrow 0000:0000:0000:0000:0000:FFFF:7DC8:0A96
::FFFF:7DC8:A96

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::FFFF:7DC8:A96

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OR

dot-decimal \rightarrow ::FFFF:128.200.10.150