MEDIA RELEASE

WORLD IPv6 DAY – "Best School Day Ever!"

"The successful Australian test of IPv6 – the next generation of Internet Protocol – has cleared the way for full implementation", said Narelle Clark, Vice President of the Internet Society of Australia (ISOC-AU) and coordinator of Australia's activities.

On 8 June 2011, hundreds of Australian websites, organisations and individual Internet users took the opportunity to join the worldwide collaboration to begin operational implementation of IPv6 on the Internet.

"The future growth of the Internet depends on access to the vastly larger pool of Internet addresses provided by IPv6 and Australian dependence on this capacity will increase with our need to communicate with the large populations and economies of Asia", said Tony Hill, President of ISOC-AU.

ISOC-AU organised a special testing exercise where two school classes – one high school, one primary school - were given the challenge to 'break the Internet' on World IPv6 Day.

Participating students were given access to the the IPv6 Internet courtesy of Studentnet ™ and IPv6Now, even though the schools' current infrastructure only supports IPv4, together with a structured experience of the Internet of the future, based on IPv6.

"Students responded spontaneously and enthusiastically", said Kevin Karp, Chair of the ISOC-AU Skills and Expertise Special Interest Group, "and they were asked to report their experience on a globally accessible database reporting user experiences".

Participating schools were Waverley College and Wollondilly Anglican College.

Both groups of students started with a major search engine and found that they were routed to a chinese language version of the popular site.

"This is an example of the type of unintended user experience that we were hoping to uncover", said Kevin Karp. "It will begin the process of refining the functioning of the Internet based on the IPv6 protocol, a process that has been underway for more than 20 years with the previous protocol, IPv4."

"Network administrators have been communicating busily for the last 48 hours in preparing and managing IPv6 based networks for 8 June", said Narelle Clark. "Our conclusion from reports so far, is that IPv6 is ready for mainstream implementation, but more detailed analysis of IPv6 Day performance will continue to uncover any underlying issues, especially for the user experience with older equipment.

"IPv6 just worked on the day", said Tony Hill, who has been coordinating Australia's discussion of IPv6 since 2005, with the help of the worldwide IPv6 Forum.

"This has been the best school day ever!", one of the school students was overheard to say.

For more information about World IPv6 Day, a complete list of participants, information about how to get involved, links to useful information for users, and a real-time dashboard, visit:

http://www.ipv6.org.au   or the global site   http://www.worldipv6day.org

About the need for IPv6
IPv4 has approximately four billion IP addresses (the sequence of numbers assigned to each Internet-connected device). The explosion in the number of people, devices and web services on the Internet means that IPv4 is running out of space. IPv6, the next generation Internet protocol, which provides over four billion times more space, will connect the billions of people not connected today and will help ensure the Internet can continue its current growth rate.

About the Internet Society
The Internet Society is the world's trusted independent source of leadership for Internet policy, technology standards and future development. Based on its principled vision and substantial technological foundation, the Internet Society works with its members and Chapters around the world to promote the continued evolution and growth of the open Internet through dialog among companies, governments, and other organizations around the world. See www.internetsociety.org

The Australian Chapter of the Internet Society is ISOC-AU, a non-profit society founded in 1996, to promote Internet development in Australia for the whole community and is a peak body organisation, representing the interests of Internet users in Australia. See www.isoc-au.org.au

Photos of the school testing exercise are available from:
www.scienceinpublic.com.au

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The Internet Is For Everyone
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