

Press Release 2004/1/15

## **E-CH association intends to recommend IPv6 for eGovernment in Switzerland**

**Bern, 15 January, 2004 – E-CH (<http://www.ech.ch>), the association recommending standards for eGovernment in Switzerland is working on a document that will support IPv6.**

The document, expected to be released during the 1st quarter of 2004, by the E-CH group of experts for technology that plans to release the SAGA.ch (Standard Architectures for Government Applications), covers standards for different layers of the Internet.

For the IP layer, E-CH discusses to include IPv6 (the Internet Protocol version 6) as key in its recommendation. Josef A. Schmid who is leading the experts for technology group says that "E-CH should foresee IPv6 as possible key-enabler for future e-relevant services".

The recommendation is aimed at decision makers in organisation and information technology of Swiss authorities. It is also addressed to developers and product managers of eGovernment systems inviting them to participate in the discussion on the E-CH standards. This work is being actively supported by the Swiss IPv6 Task Force.

### **E-CH**

The E-CH association takes over existing standards and develops standards of its own as needed. E-CH standards have the status of recommendations. They are available on the <http://www.ech.ch> website free of charge. The association ensures that the standards are made known nationwide to facilitate their implementation.

The E-CH members include the Swiss confederation, many cantons and communes, numerous private-sector companies and other organizations and individuals. Annual membership costs between 100 Swiss francs (individual member) and 5,000 Swiss francs (maximum for collective members).

### **The Swiss IPv6 Task Force**

The Swiss IPv6 Task Force (<http://www.ch.ipv6tf.org>) has been started in late 2002 by an initiative of the European IPv6 Task Force (<http://www.eu.ipv6tf.org>). It is accommodates all players in IPv6 in Switzerland and serves as discussion platform for this topic. The Swiss IPv6 Task Force organized a first IPv6 Summit Switzerland in April 2003 and will organize a second one on the 3rd of June 2004. Besides these awareness raising events, the Swiss IPv6 Task Force also runs projects on ISP and operator inter-operability in Switzerland. It is currently chaired by Andreas Schmid from Swisscom Innovations (<http://www.swisscom.com/ino>).

### **About IPv6**

IPv6 is an upgrade to the data networking protocols that power the Internet. The Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) developed the basic specifications during the 1990s after a competitive design phase used to select the best overall solution. The

primary motivation for the design and deployment of IPv6 is to expand the available 'address space' of the Internet, thereby enabling billions of new devices (PDAs, cellular phones, appliances, etc.), new users (countries like China, India, etc.), and new, 'always-on' technologies (xDSL, cable, Ethernet-to-the-home, fibre-to-the-home, PLC, etc.). While the existing protocol, IPv4, has a 32-bit address space that provides for a theoretical  $2^{32}$  (approximately 4 billion) unique globally addressable hosts, IPv6 has a 128-bit address space that can uniquely address  $2^{128}$  (about 340 undecillion[1]) hosts. In practice, the number of global IPv4 addresses that can be used is far less, due to inefficiencies in their allocation and use. IPv4 simply cannot support an Internet scaling to many billions of globally connected hosts. Network Address Translation (NAT) has extended IPv4's life in conjunction with private IPv4 addresses. However, NAT complicates application deployment and, more importantly, cannot support new Internet growth areas including those 'always-on' and 'peer-to-peer' services that require connections be established to devices in home networks.

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Further information on this press release will be available at (<http://www.ech.ch>), or directly contacting Walter Stuedeli, CEO eCH, [walter.stuedeli@ech.ch](mailto:walter.stuedeli@ech.ch) (+41 79 330 23 46) or Josef A. Schmid, [josef.schmid@isb.admin.ch](mailto:josef.schmid@isb.admin.ch).

[1] Actually 340,282,366,920,938,463,463,374,607,431,768,211,456 addresses.