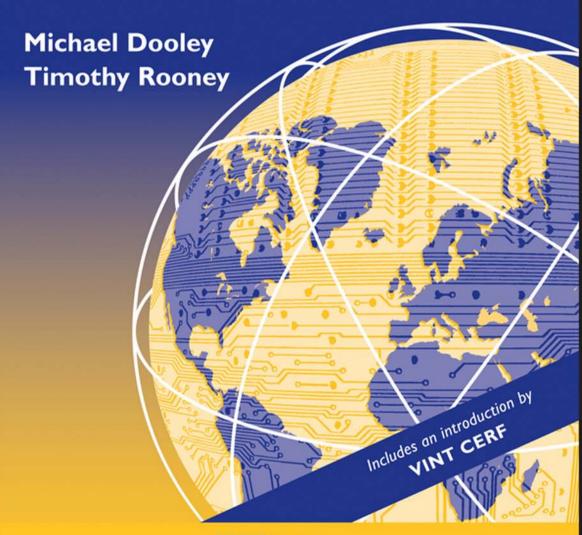
IPv6 DEPLOYMENT AND MANAGEMENT







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By
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Michael would like to dedicate this book to his parents

Timothy would like to dedicate this book in memory of his mother, Kathryn "Kitty" Rooney

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INTRODUCTION

Nearly 14 years have passed since RFC2460 was published, specifying the IPv6 packet format. Authored by Steve Deering and Bob Hinden, this document represented nearly 8 years of debate beginning in the early 1990s over how the Internet's 32-bit IPv4 address space could be expanded. There were four proposals for what was called "IPng" for IP next generation. I won't catalog them here except to say they varied dramatically in their functionality. There was even a fifth proposal to adopt the OSI connectionless networking protocol format (CLNP) that provoked howls of outrage from many passionate engineers in the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) where this problem was near the top of the agenda.

After all the debate, the cochairs of the IPng Working Group, Deering and Hinden, recorded the results in December 1998 and submitted them as RFC 2460 to the Internet Engineering Steering Group (IESG) for release to the RFC editor. Many of us hoped there would be an immediate effort to implement this protocol. There was great concern that the rate of consumption of the Internet address space was accelerating during the period now known as the "dot-boom." New Internet companies were popping up like mushrooms after a spring rain. But at the same time that the IPng debates were taking place, another effort to restrain IPv4 address consumption, through reinterpretation of the bits of the address structure, was in full swing. The so-called classless interdomain routing system made much more efficient use of address space by allowing any bit boundary in the address structure to mark the dividing line between "network" and "host." In addition, the concept of autonomous system (AS) was introduced through which to associate indicators (masks) illustrating where this boundary lay. The Border Gateway Protocol was revised to take into account the masks marking network and host extents in the address format. Together with rules to guide very conservative IPv4 address allocations by the Regional Internet Registries, the rate of consumption of IPv4 address space was substantially curtailed. So much so that the pressure to implement IPv6 generally dissipated.

Network address translation (NAT) functionality was also introduced to allow multiple devices using private IP address numbering to share a single public address space. Port numbers were used in the NAT boxes to map to/from public addresses and the private addresses associated with individual devices in a local network. This practice attracted cable and telecommunications providers who were offering Internet service because they could now maximize the number of devices that could share one "public" IP address. This improved the absolute number of customers they could sign up to be subscribers to their Internet service.

These various practices actually stretched the use of IPv4 addresses until February 2011 when the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA), operating under the auspices of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers,