IPv6 in Saudi Arabia

Deployment project and results

Sander Steffann, RIPE 70, 2015-05-15

History of the project

- Driven by CITC: the Telecom regulator

- Include foreign IPv6 experts
  - Gert Döring
  - Sander Steffann

- Meetings:
  - Start with 3 or 4 per year in first years
  - Later go to twice a year in May and October

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Rough timeline

- July 2008   Kick-off meeting
- 2008   Propose ISP strategy
- 2009   Meetings with vendors
- 2010   First IPv6 DNS root server (L)

  National tunnel broker for testing
- 2011   Status updates
- 2012   IPv6 for .sa
- 2013   Training and status updates
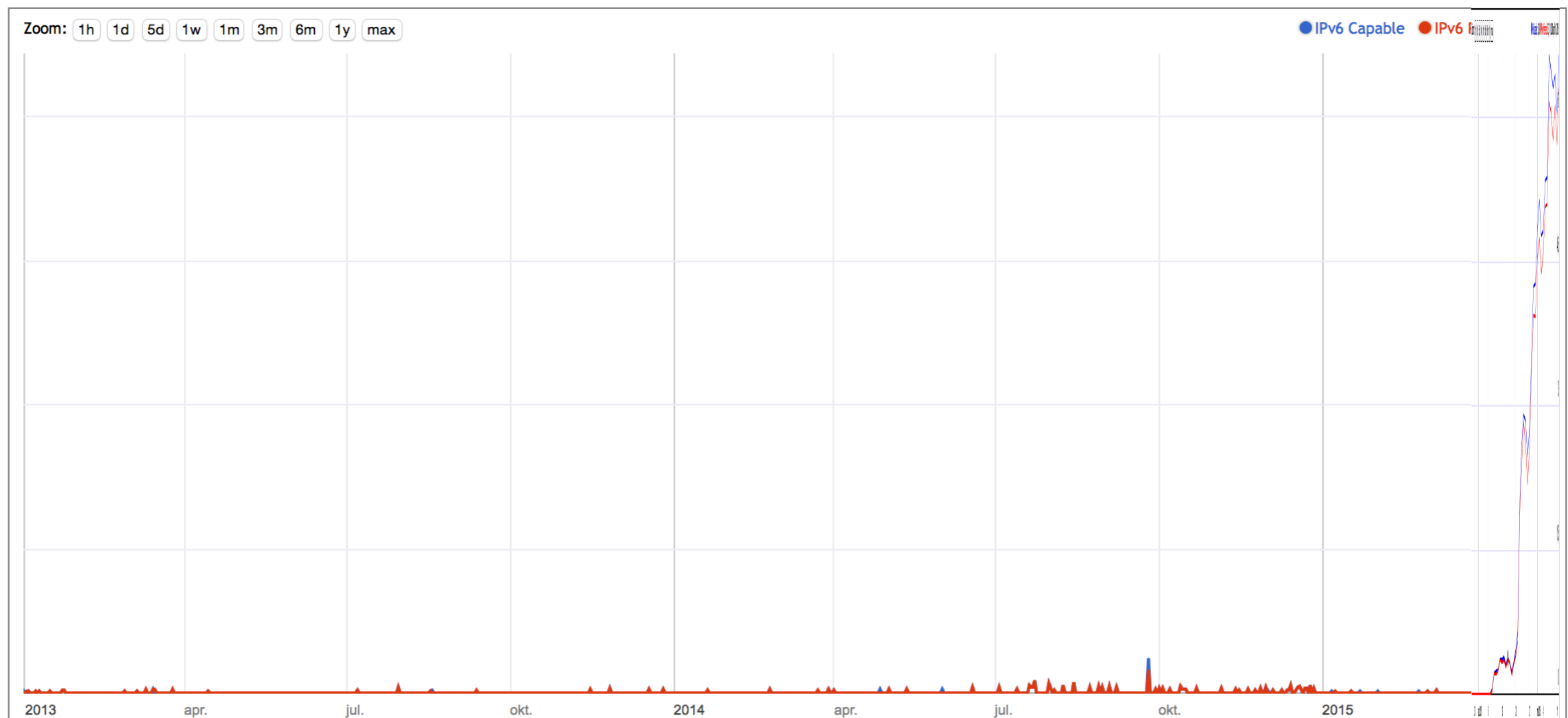- 2014   Pilots for enterprise and NREN

MENOG and RIPE NCC

- Many IPv6 Road Shows given

  - 8 in total

  - Between 2011 and 2014

  - Initial focus on ISP

  - Later focus on enterprise

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2015: deployment!

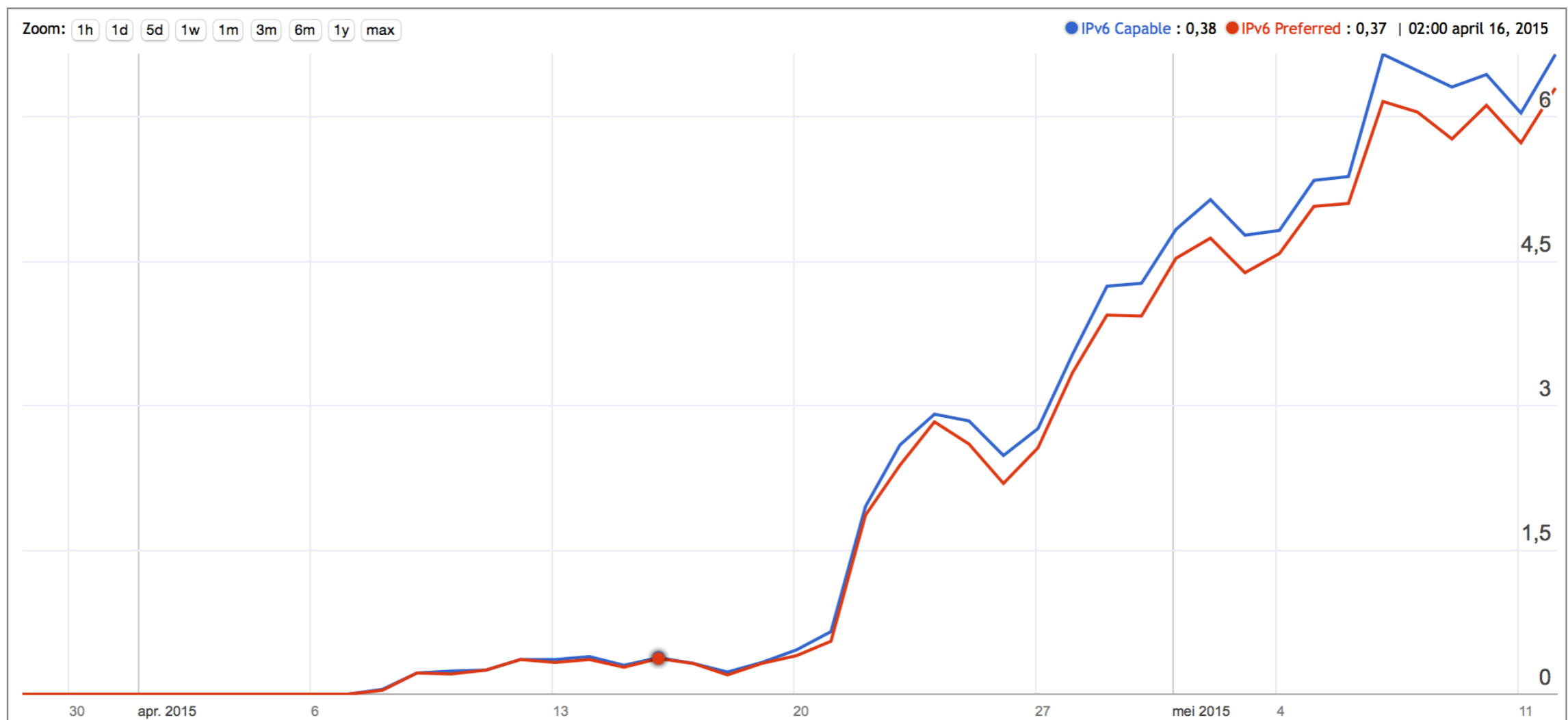- And in 2015 the Saudi Telecom Company (STC) starts deploying IPv6 on broadband

(many thanks to APNIC, George Michaelson and Geoff Huston for the measurement data)

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Timing…

- First active users on 7 April 2015

- Because National IPv6 Forum on 7 May 2015

  - The final part of the project

  - Widely announced

  - Perfect place to show deployment and gain reputation

How fast IPv6 can grow

- Until April 2015 Saudi Arabia was invisible

- But a lot happened behind the scenes

- Good preparation » Very fast deployment

- Other operators will follow soon

- Saudi Arabia is now in the top 20 world-wide

- And will probably overtake many more countries

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Effects of this deployment

- Content
  - Content providers are sceptical about IPv6
  - IPv6 deployment to eyeballs is crucial
  - Sudden uptake does wake up the sceptics

- Other ISPs and networks
  - They now feel the pressure
  - Mobile IPv6 access will be next

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Conclusions

- Saudi Arabia shows how IPv6 can benefit from
  - a good IPv6 task force
  - a good national strategy with supporting regulator
  - lots and lots of training
  - deployment by access providers

- Education
  - There is a lot to be done for enterprises
  - RIPE policies and procedures are difficult for outsiders