IPv6 in Saudi Arabia

Deployment project and results
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
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
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
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
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