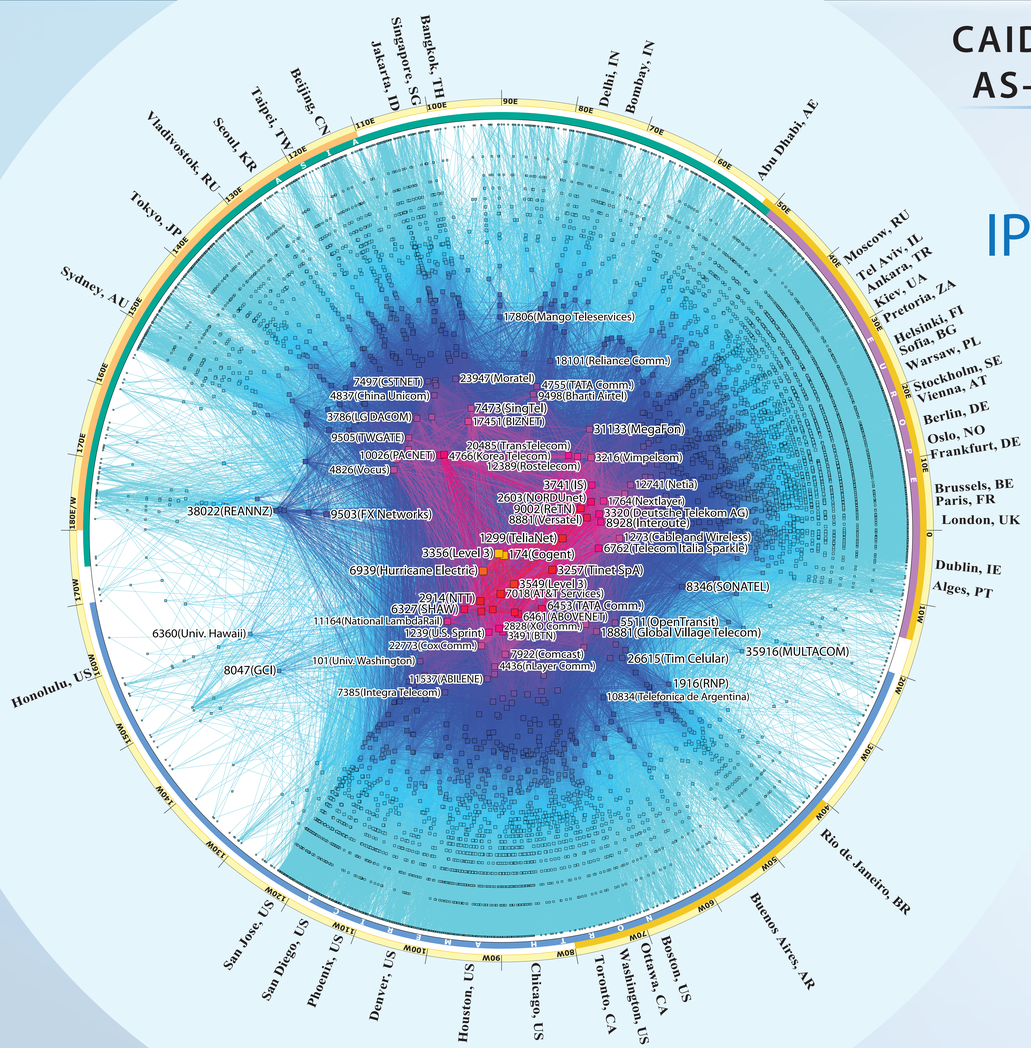
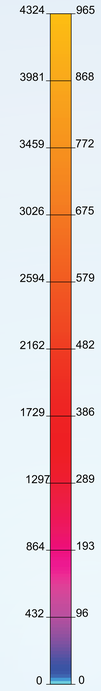
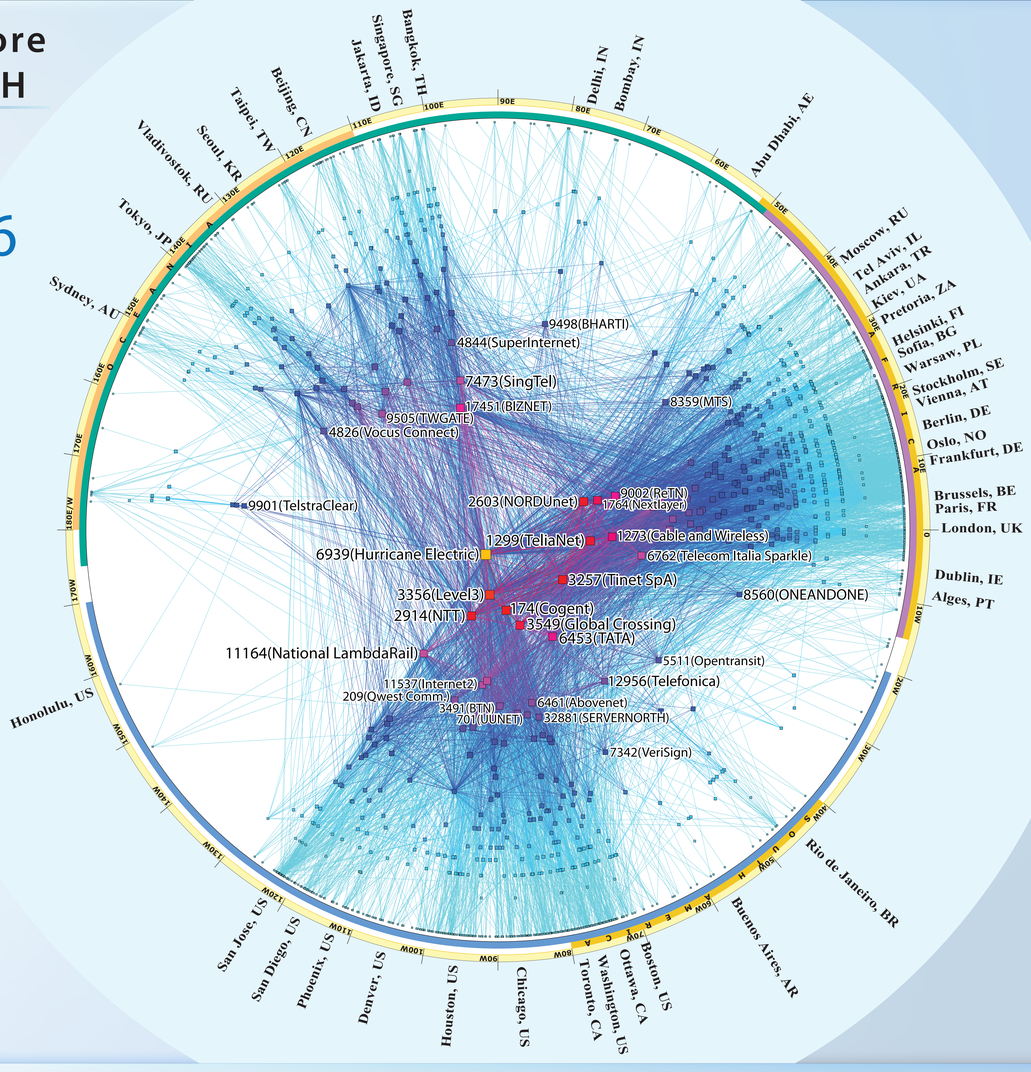
CAIDA'S IPv4 & IPv6 AS Core
AS-level INTERNET GRAPH

Archipelago January 2013







Data Source

This visualization represents a macroscopic snapshot of IPv4 and IPv6 Internet topology samples captured in 2013. The plot illustrates both the extensive geographical scope as well as rich interconnectivity of nodes participating in the global Internet routing system.

For the IPv4 map, CAIDA collected data from 58 monitors in 29 countries on 6 continents. Coordinated by our active measurement infrastructure, Archipelago (Ark), the monitors probed paths toward 214 million /24 networks that cover 93.5% of the routable prefixes seen in the Route Views Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) routing tables on 2 January 2013. For the IPv6 map, CAIDA collected data from 26 IPv6-connected Ark monitors located in 18 countries on 4 continents. This subset of monitors probed paths toward 2 million IPv6 addresses, which represent 82.2% of the globally routed IPv6 prefixes seen in Route Views BGP tables on 2 January 2013.

We aggregated this IP-level data to construct IPv4 and IPv6 Internet connectivity graphs at the Autonomous System (AS) level. Each AS approximately corresponds to an Internet Service Provider (ISP). We map each observed IP address to the AS responsible for routing traffic to it, i.e., to the origin (end-of-path) AS for the IP prefix representing the best match for this address in BGP routing tables collected from Route Views.

The position of each AS node is plotted in polar coordinates (radius, angle) calculated as indicated in Figure 1.

$$\text{radius} = 1 - \log\left(\frac{\text{transit.degree(AS)}+1}{\text{maximum.transit.degree}+1}\right)$$

$$\text{angle} = \left(\text{longitude of the AS's BGP prefixes in netacq}\right)$$

Figure 1. Coordinates of AS in AS core.

Changes in the graph since 2012

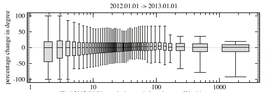


Figure 2: Between 2012 and 2013, a similar number of IPv4 ASes had degree increase and decreases. The drops were usually larger than the jumps, except for ASes with moderate degrees (between 35 and 150) which had larger jumps than drops. Among the 25 most highly connected ASes, Teremark (AS 23148) and VW Fiber (AS 19151) dropped their degree by over 92%.

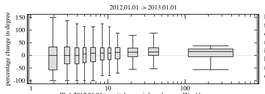
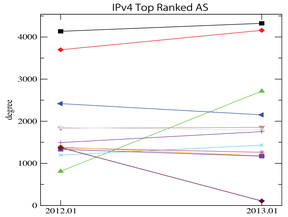
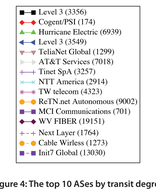


Figure 3: Between 2012 and 2013, for the 1,924 IPv6 ASes with degrees less then 4, the same number of ASes had degree increases as decreases. For larger-degree ASes, a slight majority increased their transit degree since 2012.

As in previous years, our IPv6 graph saw greater relative growth then IPv4, with 26% more ASes and 17% more AS links. (In IPv4 the growth was 11% more ASes and 6% links). These growth numbers hide a great deal of churn. Figure 13 shows that for the ~2K IPv6 ASes with degrees less then 4, about the same number of ASes increased as those that decreased their degree. The half of ASes represented by the whiskers outside the boxes increased or decreased their degree by over 30% between 2012 and 2013. Over the last year our IPv6 graph lost 295 (15%) ASes and almost 3K (38%) links, but gained 790 (41%) new ASes and over 4K (55%) new links. Our IPv4 graph was more stable, it lost ~2K (7%) ASes and ~38K (37%) links, but gained ~5K (18%) new ASes and ~43K (42%) new links. The net change in number of ASes was 495 (+26%) in our IPv6 graph and ~3K (+11%) in our IPv4 graph.

In both our IPv4 and IPv6 graphs, small and large (degree less than 5 or greater than 100) ASes split evenly between those that increased and decreased their degrees from 2012 to 2013. Drops in the IPv4 graph tended to be larger than increases; and increases in the IPv6 graph tended to be larger than drops. This reflects the faster growth of the IPv6 topology, especially for larger transit ASes.





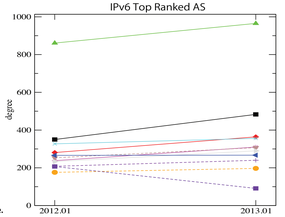


Figure 4: The top 10 ASes by transit degree.

Figure 4 plots the top 10 ASes by transit degree in either 2012 or 2013, which includes a set of 11 ASes in IPv6 and 12 ASes in IPv4. Half of these 12 most highly connected ASes in IPv4 increased and half decreased their transit degree from 2012, with a range from +234% for Hurricane Electric (AS 6939) to -92% for WV Fiber (AS 19151). Ten of the 11 top IPv6 ASes increased their degree since 2012. One AS, Init7's (AS 13030), had their transit degree drop from 207 to 91 (56%), but Hurricane Electric (AS 3356) and NTT (AS 2914) grew their transit degree over 30% to 965 and 310 respectively.

Although the set of ASes with the largest transit degrees in both IPv6 and IPv4 are increasingly converging, major differences remain. Hurricane Electric (AS 6939), the AS with the largest transit degree in IPv6, has a degree 192% larger than Level 3 (AS 3356), the second largest IPv6 AS by degree. But despite Hurricane's huge increase in IPv4 transit degree between 2012 and 2013, Level 3 (AS 3356) still has a transit degree 159% larger than Hurricane Electric's (AS 6939), and only 4% larger than Cogent (AS 174), the second largest AS by transit degree in IPv4.

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	Number of IP addresses	Number of IP links	Number of ASes	Number of AS links
IPv4	27,954,132	23,494,835	34,082	109,354
IPv6	36,055	91,420	2,419	8,881

ARK HOSTS AARNet, AFRINIC, AMS-IX, APAN, ARIN, ASTI, Acreo, CAIDA, CENIC, CNNIC, CNRST, Canarie, Colorado State University, DCS1 Pte Ltd, DePaul University, Evolva Telecom, Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Foundation for Research and Technology - Hellas (FORTH), FunkFeuer, HEANet, Hurricane Electric, Indonesian IPv6 Task Force, International Computer Science Institute (ICSI), Internet Systems Consortium, Iowa State University, Jaguar Network, KREONet2, Kantonsschule Zug, Level 3 Communications, Men and Mice, NCAR, NIC Chile, NIC Mexico, NORDUnet, NTT, Northeastern University, Ottawa Internet Exchange, Public University of Navarra, Purdue University, QCell, RIPE NCC, RNP, Rede ANSP / Projeto NARA, Registro.br, SURFnet, Simula Research Laboratory, Southern Methodist University, TKK, TWAREN, Tinet, TorIX, UCAD, US Army Research Lab, Universitat Leipzig, Universitat Politecnica de Catalunya, University of Cambridge, University of Hawaii, University of Limerick, University of Melbourne, University of Napoli, University of Nevada at Reno, University of Oregon, University of Waikato, University of Washington, University of Zurich

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