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# Oracle Database and IPv6 Statement of Direction

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## Executive Overview

Oracle Database 11g Release 2 supports IPv6 addressing for all features and components in single-instance mode. This paper provides an overview of IPv6 support available in Oracle Database 11g Release 2, and a roadmap for future IPv6 support.

## Introduction

Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6) is a Network layer (OSI model) protocol for packet switched networks, designed to address the shortcomings of the currently used Internet Protocol Version 4. The primary benefit of IPv6 is a large seemingly inexhaustible address space, derived from the use of 128 bit addresses.

Oracle Database 11g Release 2 supports the standard IPv6 address notations specified by RFC2732. A 128bit IP address is generally represented as 8 groups of 4 hex digits, with the “:” symbol as the group separator. The leading zeros in each group are removed. For example, 1080:0:0:0:8:800:200C:417A would be a valid IPv6 address. One or more consecutive zero fields can optionally be compressed with the “::” separator. For example, 1080::8:800:200C:417A.

Another IPv6 address format represents the four lower order 8-bit pieces in standard IPv4 notation. The six higher-order 16 bit pieces are represented in the standard IPv6 notation. For example, ::FFFF:129.144.52.38

IPv6 addresses in URLs are enclosed by the “[” and “]” characters. For example, [1080:0:0:0:8:800:200C:417A] can be used in a standard URL string.

## Oracle Database 11g Release 2 and IPv6

This section provides an overview of IPv6 usage with Oracle Database 11g Release 2.

### Supported Host and Network Configurations

The table below summarizes the protocol used for client-server connectivity with various host and network configurations. A host – client or server – is labeled IPv6 capable if:

1. It has a configured IPv6 interface
2. It can connect to other hosts using IPv6 (Network and Routing support)

A host is labeled a dual-stack host if it supports connectivity through both IPv4 and IPv6.

	IPv4 ONLY SERVER	DUAL STACK SERVER	IPv6 ONLY SERVER
IPv4 ONLY CLIENT	Supported (v4)	Supported (v4)	<i>Not Supported</i>
DUAL STACK CLIENT	Supported (v4)	Supported (v4, v6)	Supported (v6)
IPv6 ONLY CLIENT	<i>Not Supported</i>	Supported (v6)	Supported (v6)

### Oracle Net Listener

Oracle Net Listener listens for incoming connection requests on all network interfaces when the default hostname is used with TCP protocol in listener.ora. Separate listen end-points are not required for IPv4 and IPv6 in the listener, however they can be configured if needed.

IP parameter can be optionally specified as part of ADDRESS in listener.ora in order to determine which IP address(es) the listener listens on when a host name is used. Supported values are FIRST, V4\_ONLY and V6\_ONLY. When the IP parameter is not specified, and default hostname is used, the expected behavior is to listen on all IP addresses corresponding to the host name.

### TNS Connect Address

With clients or middle-tier applications using the 11g Release 2 version of Oracle Client stack, IPv6 addresses and hostnames that resolve to IPv6 addresses can be used in the HOST parameter of a TNS connect address. The TNS connect address can be obtained through any of the supported Oracle Net naming methods.

The client attempts to connect to all IP addresses returned by Domain Name System (DNS) name resolution until a successful connection is established or all addresses have been attempted.

For example, when using Easy Connect descriptor `sales-server/sales.us.example.com` from a client running on a dual-stack host, suppose that `sales-server` is configured as an IPv4-only host, but DNS maps `sales-server` to the following IP addresses:

1. IPv6 address `2001:0DB8:0:0::200C:417A`
2. IPv4 address `192.168.2.213`

In this case, Oracle client first tries to connect on the IPv6 address because it is first in the DNS list. In this example `sales-server` does not support IPv6 connectivity, so this attempt fails. Oracle client then proceeds to connect to the IPv4 address, which succeeds.

## Easy Connect Naming

Easy Connect Naming has been enhanced to support IPv6 hostnames and addresses. The syntax conforms to the IPv6 URL syntax discussed earlier.

The format of the Easy Connect string will remain the same for hostnames and IPv4 addresses. The syntax is as follows, where `host` can be a hostname or an IPv4 address and the other parameters are optional:

```
[//]host[:port][/[service_name[:<server>]][/instance]]
```

The preceding syntax can be used for IPv6 addresses as well. To use the syntax, the host is replaced with the IP address enclosed by the “[” and “]” characters. The new syntax will work with hostnames and IPv4 addresses as well.

For example, the Easy Connect string,

```
[2001:fe8::12]:1522/sales.us.example.com
```

is equivalent to the following TNS connect string in `tnsnames.ora`:

```
salesdb =
  (DESCRIPTION=
    (ADDRESS=(PROTOCOL=tcp)(HOST=2001:fe8::12)(PORT=1522))
    (CONNECT_DATA=(SERVICES_NAME=sales.us.example.com)))
```

## TCP Connect Timeouts

A TCP connect timeout of 60 seconds is applied by default to each IP addresses in the connect descriptor, including each IP address to which the host names resolve.

Different values of this timeout can be specified either at a per- connect string level in `tnsnames.ora` (`TRANSPORT_CONNECT_TIMEOUT`), or applied to all connect strings at `sqlnet.ora` level (`TCP.CONNECT_TIMEOUT`).

## Oracle Database IPv6 Roadmap

All features and components in Oracle Database 11g Release 2 support IPv6, with the following exceptions:

1. Oracle Real Application Clusters (Oracle RAC) and Oracle Clusterware
2. Oracle Fail Safe

Additionally, neither ASM nor ONS-based FAN notifications are supported for databases running on Windows in Oracle Database 11g Release 2.

Later releases of the Oracle Database, beyond CY2011, intend to remove the restrictions around these components.

## Conclusion

Oracle Database 11g Release 2 supports IPv6 addressing for all features and components in single-instance mode. IPv6 support for RAC will be available in a future Database release.



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Author: Kant Patel

Oracle Corporation  
World Headquarters  
500 Oracle Parkway  
Redwood Shores, CA 94065  
U.S.A.

Worldwide Inquiries:  
Phone: +1.650.506.7000  
Fax: +1.650.506.7200  
oracle.com



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