

Press Release

Movistar, the first operator to roll out IPv6 in its mobile network in Spain

- Movistar already counts 600,000 accesses over IPv6 and strengthens its commitment to deliver the best technological innovations in networks and services.
- The main advantage for the customer is a faster access to native content in IPv6, such as those offered by Google, Microsoft or Meta, as well as including improvements in security and mobility.
- This functionality is transparent to the user, who does not have to activate it or request it.

Madrid, 23 February 2023.- Movistar has begun to deploy IPv6 (Internet Protocol version 6) in its mobile network in dual-stack mode, so that when a user terminal establishes a connection with the mobile network to access the Internet, it receives both the traditional IPv4 address and the new IPv6.

In this way, Movistar becomes the first operator in Spain to address the Internet traffic of its mobile users with IPv6. Currently, Movistar has a total of 600,000 accesses over IPv6 and the deployment is expected to be completed during the first quarter of 2023.

The main benefit of using IPv6 is a higher speed of access to the so-called 'hyperscalers' (Google, Microsoft, Meta, Amazon, etc.), which already offer content in IPv6.

In addition, this protocol includes improvements in security and mobility, which will allow the development of new connectivity services and advanced solutions for the home based on IPv6.

This new functionality is transparent to the user, since they do not have to purchase it or request its activation, as it is something related to its terminal operator configuration. Currently, all Android terminals support it and are enabled and throughout 2023 it will also be available for iOS.

The user can voluntarily activate or disable it from his terminal by accessing the mobile configuration menus. In addition, the client can know if they are accessing the contents with IPv4 or IPv6 in different ways: through a page that shows the IP with which it is accessed (www.cualesmiip.com or www.whatismyip.com) or through the page www.test-ipv6.com that checks the use of IPv6 addressing, or download an app that indicates the IPs used in the terminal.

In November 2022, Movistar began deploying this Dual Stack functionality to be able to provide IPv6 addresses to mobile line users who had the "telefonica.es" APN configured on their IPv6/IPv4 compatible device.

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