

### North American IPv6 Summit

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Rocky Mountain IPv6 Task Force



# IPv6 labs-as-a-service The easy way to hands-on training

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### Christian Elsen – Who am I?

- Staff Product Integration Architect at VMware
- VMware's "IPv6 enthusiast"
  - Technical Product Management:
     IPv6 Requirements and Use Scenarios
  - Engineering: Helping to test solutions
  - Also covering: Certificate Management
- Background
  - Cisco
    - Corporate Business Development (Technology Intelligence)
    - Nexus 1000V EMEA launch team







### What's this presentation about...

### ...and what is it not about?

- Tools VMware uses internally for:
  - Training people on IPv6
  - Provide sophisticated test and training environments
  - What works well for teams within VMware

- Using VMware products with IPv6
  - An interesting topic for another time









## Agenda

1	What's the challenge
2	Cloud to the rescue?
3	The key to more than hot air
4	Use case example





## One day even we realized...

- Need to provide solid IPv6 capabilities in our products
- One hot topic: Exposure to IPv6
  - Train people on IPv6, best with handson experience
  - Allow architects and engineers to try out features with IPv6
  - Provide test beds in minutes, not hours
- We need:

IPv6 labs-as-a-service

### **BRACE YOURSELF!**



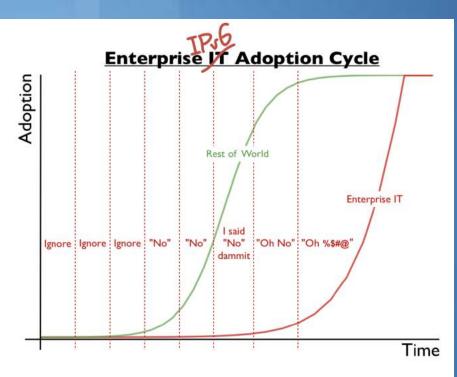




### But then there is IT...

- Reality: IPv6 adoption in Enterprises is somewhere between lagging behind to nonexistent
- Retrofitting a global enterprise network for thousands of distributed engineers is not easy...
- ... and takes time. A lot of time.
- So what we actually really need:

IPv6 labs-as-a-service without IT having to implemet IPv6







# Can we copy others: What are they doing?

- Physical labs
  - Costly to operate
  - Nightmare to maintain
  - Long lead times for equipment

- More computers under your desk
  - Inefficient utilization of resources
  - Didn't we invent virtualization to get rid of this?

Didn't want more of this!







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## What makes a lab in the cloud attractive?

- Abstract resources
  - Focus on your lab needs, not HW specs
- On-Demand provisioning
  - Have a lab available in minutes
- Scalability in minutes
  - Need a bigger lab, have it available in minutes
- Pay per consumption
  - Pay for what you really use
- Efficiency of experts
  - Leverage the skills, knowledge and resources of experts

That's how VMware runs VMWorld labs







# Not so fast: Does the cloud actually support IPv6?



No, it doesn't!

At least not to a level that you could build labs with it.









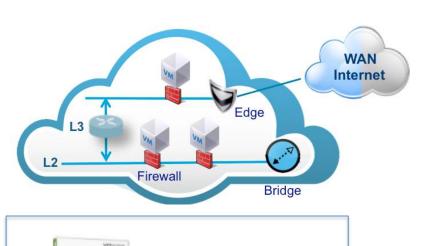




# Also: Most clouds abstract away infrastructure

- Cloud abstract resources
  - Focus on running applications, not infrastructure components
- Network is usually presented as single L3 network
  - Need L2 for useful IPv6 labs
  - Need multiple L2 segments for advanced IPv6 labs
- We need:

A cloud that still shows us network resources









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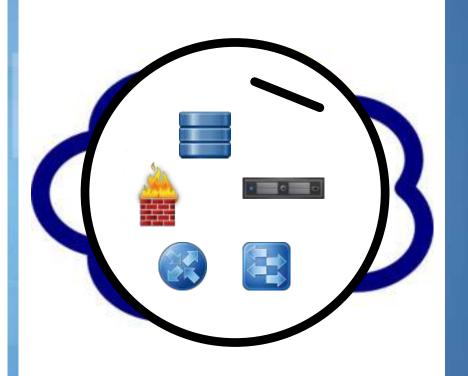




# The secret sauce: Encapsulate infrastructure inside the cloud

- Capture multiple VMs into a "bubble"
  - Includes L2 network between them
  - Each VM can be an infrastructure component
  - "Bubbles" shielded from each other (Encapsulation)
- Lifecycle around these "bubbles"
  - Create new "bubbles"
  - Store a golden master copy in a library
  - Instantiate multiple independent copies from the golden master
  - Discard a "bubble"
- These "bubbles" are very powerful:

**Called vPod (virtual Pod)** 



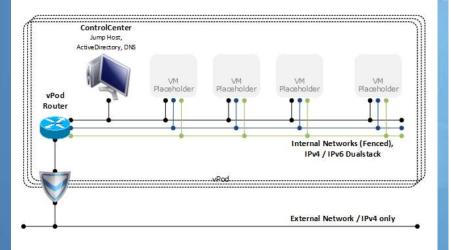




# Virtual Testbeds (vPods) A closer look

#### Goal:

- Mimic a customer's data center environment
- In an isolated and thus replicatable fashion



#### Included

- Common data center services (Active Directory, DNS, NTP, CA)
- ControlCenter as Jump Host
  - Connect to lab via RDP
  - Have all tools and clients installed here
- Multiple L2 network segments
- Linux-based Router (vPodRouter) for L3 and basic network services
- SLAAC, DHCPv6, NTP, much more if you want to
- Pre-configured placeholders for various items
  - IP address scheme + DNS name





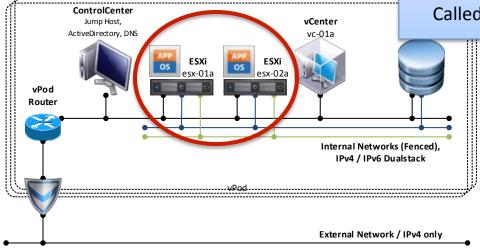
# A simple example with VMware vSphere

- Simple vSphere Setup
  - Multiple ESXi hosts + vCenter
  - Network-based storage (NFS/iSCSI)
  - Isolated (non-routed) networks: NFS/iSCSI + VMotion

#### **Even more secret sauce:**

Here: ESXi host run inside a VM on another ESXi host (not visible)

Called: Nested virtualization

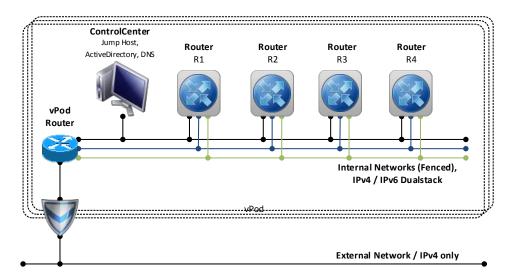






## A more interesting example for network folks

- Network Equipment Setup
  - VM-based Router / L3 switches / firewalls / load balancer
  - Interconnected via various L2 links
  - Simulate, experiment, learn various complex network scenarios
    - This includes IPv6!







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### IPv6 with vSphere: Let's help Emily!

- Emily the engineer
  - Is working on customer support cases
  - Ended up with the short stick:
     Has to deal with all the IPv6 related cases
- Has to find out:
  - Will vSphere work with NFS or iSCSI over IPv6?
  - Can an ESXi work with Stateful DHCPv6?

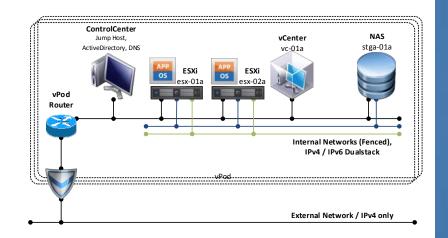
Let's help her via hands-on labs





### Testbed for use case example

- What to do in each test
  - Test #1: Will vSphere work with NFS or iSCSI over IPv6?
    - NAS configured for IPv6?
    - ESXi configured for IPv6 only?
    - NFS share / iSCSI target mounted via IPv6?
  - Test #2: Can an ESXi work with Stateful DHCPv6?
    - L2 segment configured for Stateful DHCPv6
      - DHCPv6 server + RA (A=0, M=1, O=1)
    - Attach ESXi host to L2 segment
    - See what happens

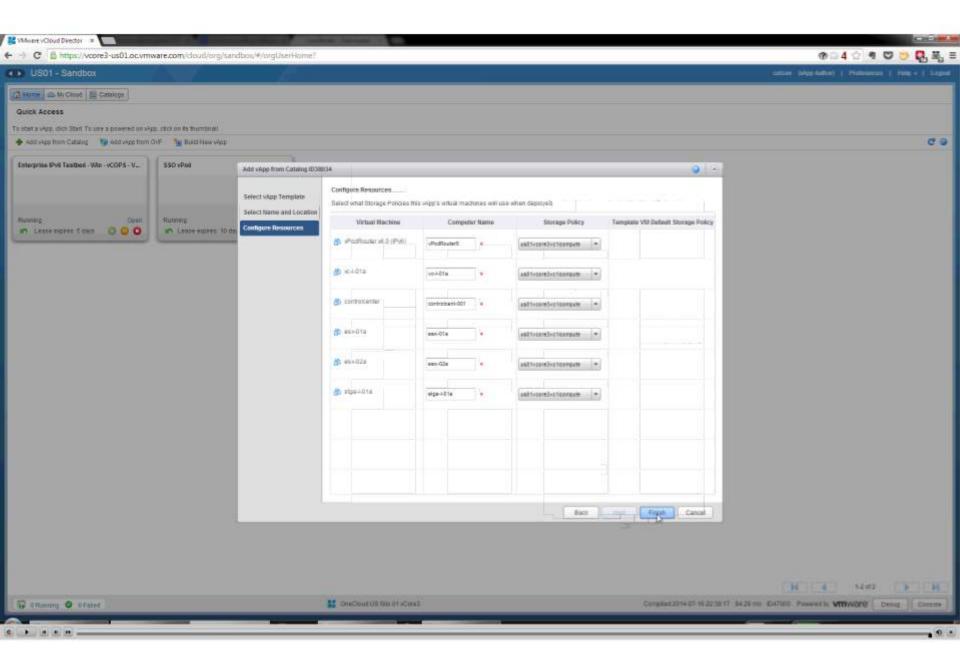


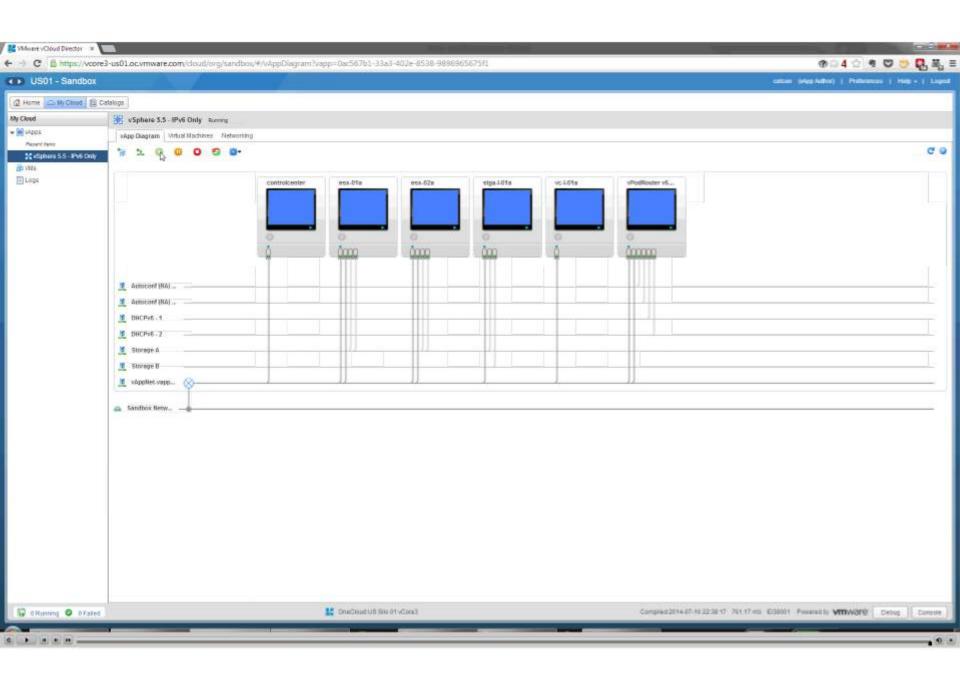




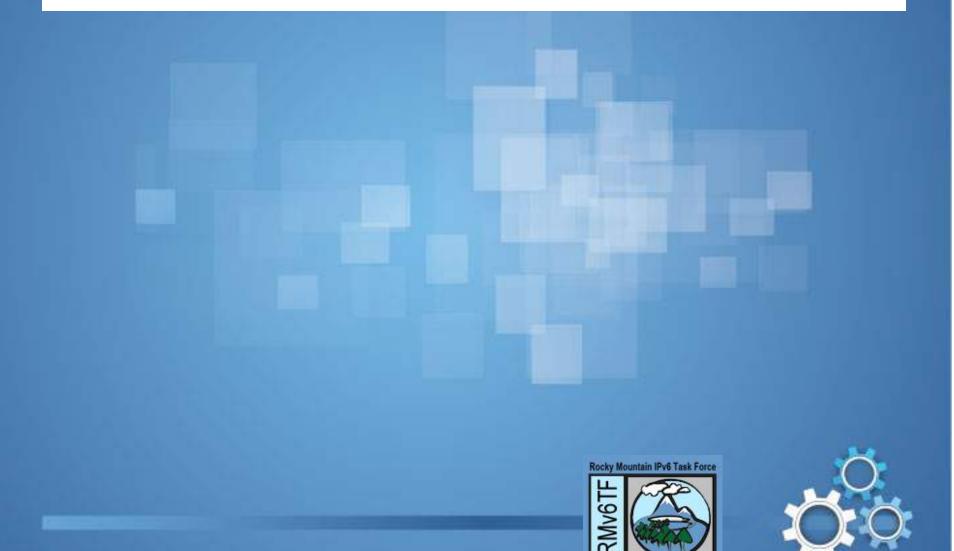
## **Demo: Deploying the vPod**

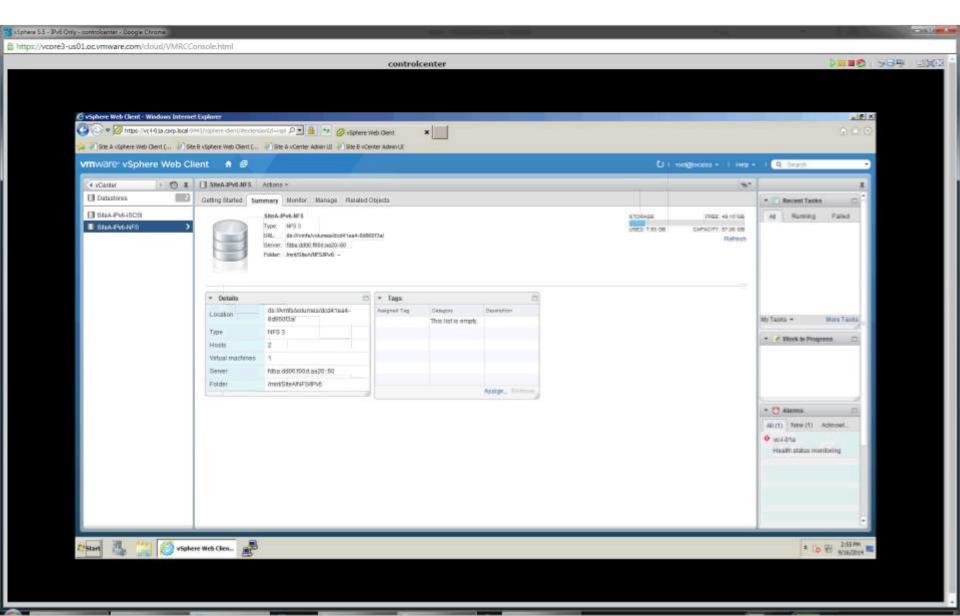


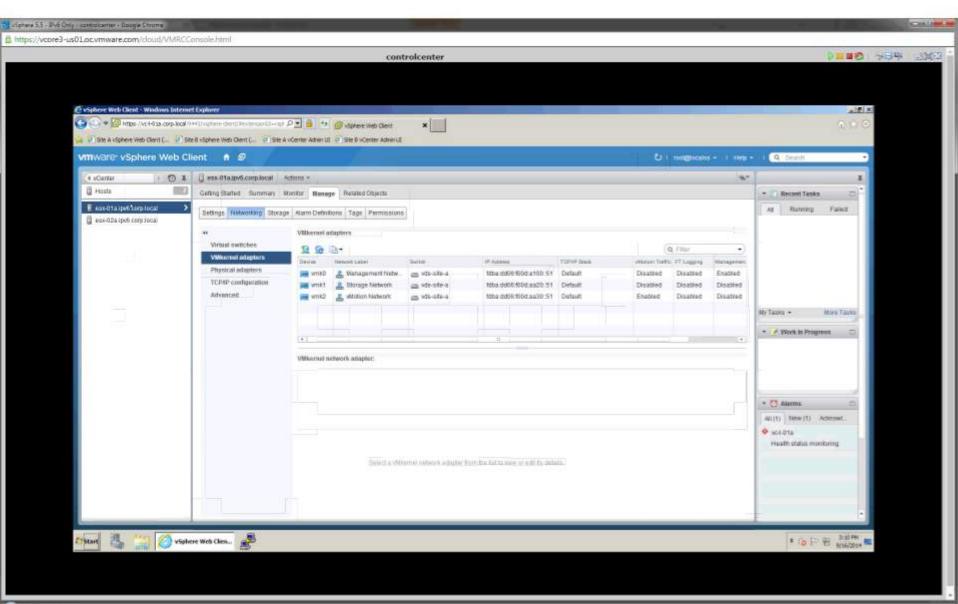




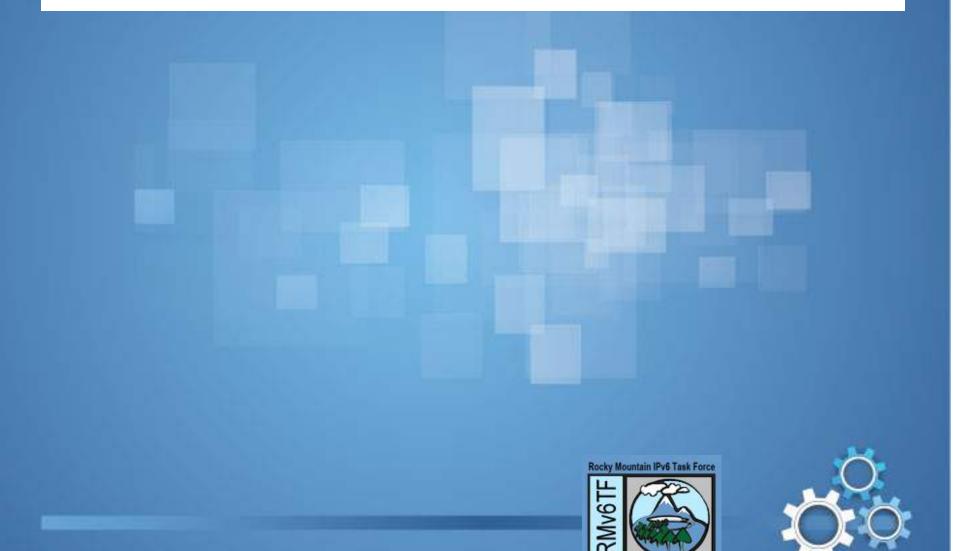
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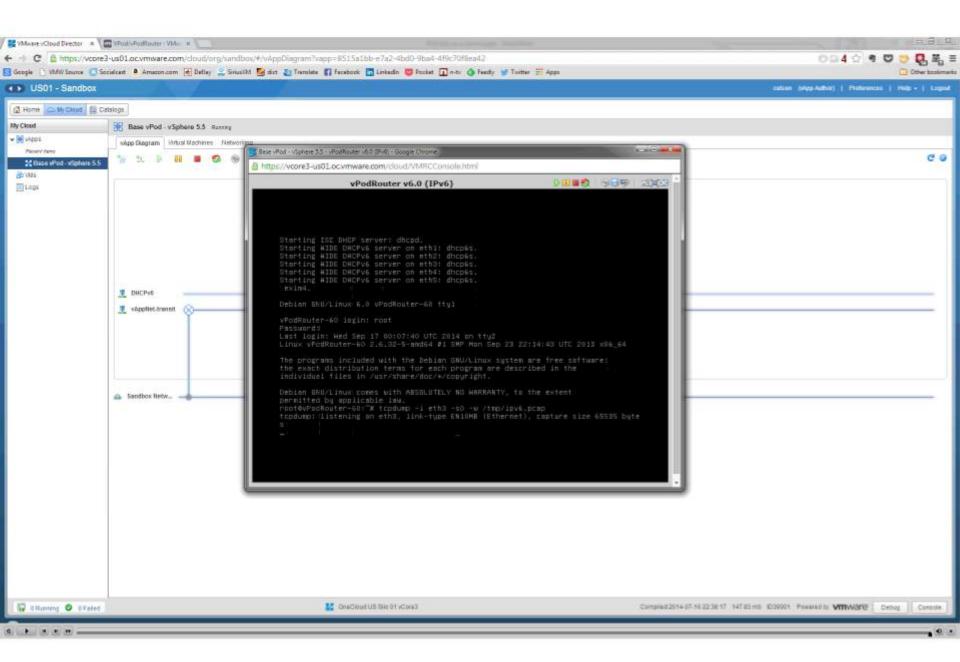


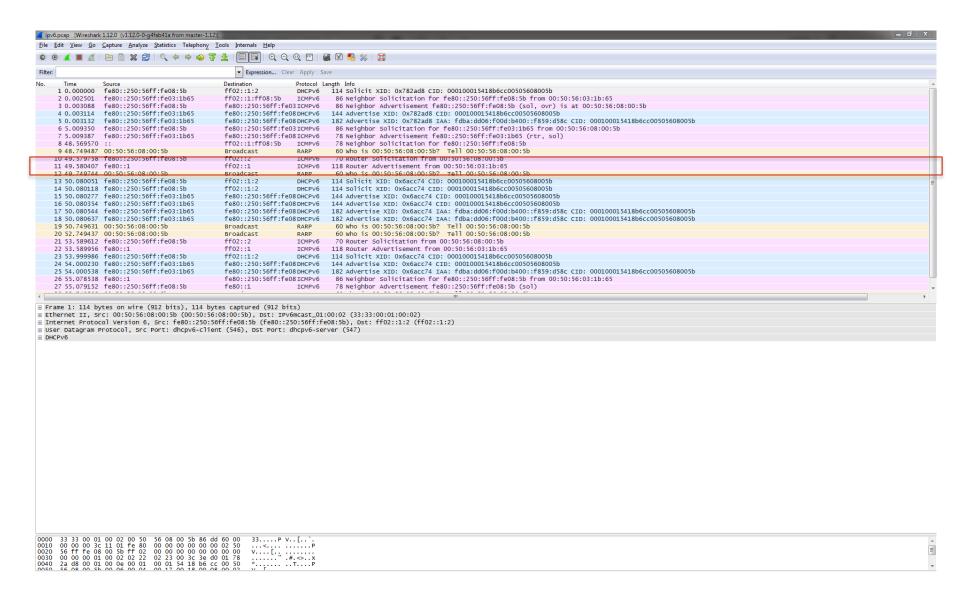


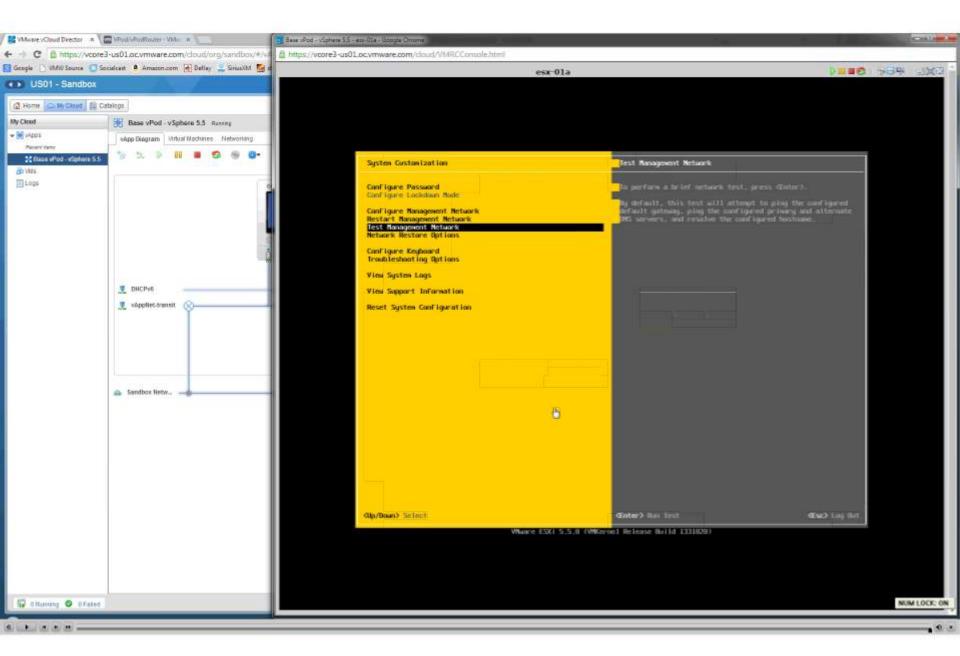


# Demo: Can an ESXi work with Stateful DHCPv6?



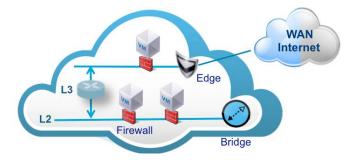






### Summary

- vPods Excellent for Hands-on-Labs
  - Mimic a customer's data center environment
  - In an isolated and thus replicatable fashion
- vPods and IPv6
  - Leverage full capabilities of IPv6 inside
  - Outside of vPod: No IPv6 necessary
  - About 1 week of work to IPv6-enable the Base vPod
  - All vPods for Hands-on-Lab at VMWorld were IPv6 capable







### Thank you

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