

The IPv6 Loopback Address Prefix

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Loopback Address in IPv6

::1

RFC 1884 and its successors

Proposal Loopback Address Prefix in IPv6

::/96

The fine print

::/128 remains “the unspecified address”

All other loopback addresses drawn from this loopback address prefix may be used by a node as a destination address to send an IPv6 packet to itself

These addresses **MUST NOT** be assigned to any physical interface.

Numerology

- Many prefixes are possible candidates for additional loopback prefixes
- We have had many proposals for loopback addresses over the years, and in some ways one address prefix is as good as any other as a loopback candidate
- This proposal copies IPv4 in using the “lower” part of the IPv6 address space with a single loopback prefix, as a simple update to the current situation