Abstract:

This document provides a report on the establishment and features of the 6NET website.
# Table of Contents

1. **Introduction** ................................................................. 3  
2. **Standards** ................................................................... 3  
3. **Infrastructure** .............................................................. 3  
4. **Public Website** ............................................................... 4  
5. **Private Area** ................................................................. 5  
6. **Statistics** ................................................................... 7
1. Introduction
The objective of Work Package 7 is to disseminate and exploit the results of the 6NET project. For any IST project, and arguably for any activity these days, a website is the most effective method of disseminating information. As it is accessible to anyone with Internet access, this effectively means that information is available on a worldwide basis. For this reason, the development and maintenance of a high-quality website is one of the major activities in the 6NET project.

One of the requirements of Activity 7.1 was to establish a website within three months of the project commencing. However, as 6NET is a large IST project with high visibility, the decision was taken to establish a public website within the first month. This target was actually achieved, and the public website went live on 19 January 2002.

The establishment of a private area for project management purposes was also a requirement of Activity 7.1. The Coordinators and Work Package Leaders collectively determined what features would be required and developed a specification at their first meeting.

The design brief was to develop a web-based system that integrated document sharing facilities, mailing list archives, contacts databases and remote management. Individual logins were also necessary to allow different types of user rights to be allocated. Finally, the system needed to be extensible so that features could be added as necessary.

As there were no 'off-the-shelf' solutions that satisfied this specification, TERENA developed the project management system in-house. This was completed in February, and after user trials, went live on 12 March 2002.

The website continues to be maintained by TERENA on a daily basis. They are responsible for both content and technical management, although the hierarchical project management system means the private area requires very little intervention.

2. Standards
The website is designed to be conformant with the latest W3C standards; in particular HTML 4.x, CSS2 and PHP 4.1.x. This means the content and layout of the website should appear similar on most (if not all) modern web browsers.

However, it is recognised there are still many older web browsers in use, so the website has also been designed to be fully accessible to some of the more popular legacy browsers (e.g. Netscape 4.x). Even for other browsers (e.g. text-only Lynx), the basic content should still be readable.

No assumptions have been made about end-user equipment and the website is designed to scale to any size of screen. As a result, the website can just as easily be browsed on a PDA as on a 20-inch monitor. The 6NET project believes this is an important consideration as web clients are increasingly being integrated into devices such as televisions and telephones.

3. Infrastructure
The website is currently running on a Pentium III-based server with 1 GB of RAM and 18 GB of hard disk space. This is located in a managed facility which has a 1 GB connection to SURFnet (the Dutch NREN and a 6NET partner) and thence to the wider Internet.
It is anticipated this infrastructure will be more than adequate during the lifetime of the project, but there are plans to introduce additional mirrored servers if necessary. In addition, whilst the web server is currently only accessible via regular IPv4 protocols, there are plans to make it accessible via native IPv6 once a connection can be arranged to the 6NET network.

4. Public Website

The 6NET website can be accessed at “http://www.6net.org/”. The homepage (see Figure 1) provides an executive summary of the project, a brief explanation of the various sections, and highlights recent developments.

Several navigation links also appear that are common to all pages. These allow users to quickly access particular sections, to contact the project, and to search the website. On all pages other than the homepage, there are links to take a user directly back to the homepage. On the homepage itself, this link is replaced by a link to a “What’s New?” page which highlights the most recently updated information.

Figure 1 – The 6NET Homepage
The major sections of the website are as follows:

Overview – This provides more comprehensive information on the objectives and activities of the 6NET project.

Partners – This lists all the organisations in the 6NET project consortium, with logos and contact details.

Publications – This contains all 6NET press releases, public deliverables, standards contributions and presentations.

Calendar – This lists forthcoming 6NET events and other important dates.

Technology – This will provide an introduction to IPv6 technologies. This section is currently being developed.

Related Sites – This provides links to IPv6 activities, standardisation bodies, the European Commission, and other projects in the IST IPv6 Cluster.

Private Area – This section is only accessible to the 6NET project partners (with an appropriate login) and contains the project management system.

5. Private Area

The Private Area of the website is only accessible to the 6NET project partners. This contains the project management system.

Each project partner is allocated a login, but these have differing user rights depending on their status within the project. For example, the Coordinating Partner (Cisco) may add, delete or modify any document in the Private Area, Work Package Leaders (e.g. DANTE) may only add, delete or modify documents within their respective work packages (e.g. WP1), whilst other partners may only add documents to certain sections. User rights may be granted and revoked as necessary by the Coordinating Partner, which means the system can be adapted as the project evolves.

Users currently have to login with a username/password combination (see Figure 2), but the use of security certificates is being investigated. This would improve security and would remove the requirement for users to remember different login details for each web site they visited. This would be a similar concept to the ‘Passport’ schemes being developed by Microsoft and others.

![Figure 2 – Login to 6NET Private Area](image)

The Private Area is divided into number of sections. Some of these are common to the whole project, whilst others are specific to the Project Management Committee (PMC), Work Package Leaders (TMC), or individual Work Packages (WP1 to WP7). This arrangement allows the various activities to be easily organised within the system.
The main sections within the Private Area are:

**Figure 3 – Document Sharing Facilities**

The PMC, TMC and each Work Package have sections in which to store documents for collaborative purposes. WP1 Deliverables is shown here as an example.

Documents may be uploaded via the web interface if a user has upload permissions.

**Figure 4 – Mailing List Archives**

Every mailing list run by the project has a web archive. The PMC mailing list is shown here as an example.

The web archives are fully searchable.
6. Statistics

Comprehensive usage statistics are maintained for the 6NET website. These provide information on the total number of hits, the most requested pages, and a breakdown of hits by country and user agent. They may be found on the public website at “http://www.6net.org/stats/”.

Figure 5 – Contacts Database

The contact details of project participants can be found in this searchable database. Users with edit permissions may change the details.

Figure 6 – Editing Users

Coordinators may add and delete user accounts via this web-based interface.