340,282,366,920,938,463,463,374,607,431,768,211,456

That is the number of Internet addresses (or 2^{128}, also expressed as 340 *undecillion*) possible under the IPv6 scheme now being implemented by EONI and the rest of the world. The existing scheme, known as IPv4, or Internet Protocol version 4, was created in the 1980s but is running out of available addresses, as it is nominally capable of a "mere" four billion-plus IP addresses. The new IPv6 system should last for a while. And it will lead to a mind-boggling potential for connecting just about anything with anything, Internet-wise, as illustrated by this piece from Cisco InfoGraphics.

http://allthingsd.com/20110714/cisco-reminds-us-once-again-how-big-the-internet-is-and-how-big-its-getting/ciscoinfographic/

We have been told that, to put it in perspective, if the current pool of 4.3 billion addresses were the size of a golf ball, the new 340 undecillion address space would be about the size of the sun.

- lawrence