

Internet data traffic in Africa & Middle East to surpass North American volumes by 2020

The February 2016 update to Cisco’s Visual Networking Index projects 71% compound annual growth in monthly internet data traffic in the Middle East and African region between 2015 and 2020 – the highest regional growth rate in the world, followed by Asia Pacific (+54%) then Central and Eastern Europe (+52%). By absolute value, the Middle East and Africa’s projected data volume will reach 4.3 million Terabytes (TB) per month and will be the third highest globally, surpassing North America (3.2 million TB), Western Europe (2.8 million TB) and Latin America (2.1 million TB).

The share of smart devices and connections in the Middle East and Africa’s internet ecosystem is poised to grow by 40% to reach 52% by 2020 – this will be the second highest regional percentage growth in the world and second only to Central and Eastern Europe (+41% growth). This trend of improving quality of connected devices is reflected in projections for Internet Protocol version 6 (IPv6) capable devices by region which show the Middle East and Africa are poised to have the second largest concentration by number at +1 million and trailing behind Asia’s +3.7 million devices.

