



RIPE Address Policy Development Process

Proposal by
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Content

- Recap from last meeting
- Draft policy proposal

H. Policy Development Process

- http://www.ripe.net/ripe/wg/lir/howto_develop.html
- The RIPE working group named lir-wg, an abbreviation for Local Internet Registry Working Group, is the open forum where addressing policy in the RIPE area has been developed. Great care has been taken by the community, the previous chair of this working group, and the chair of RIPE in particular, to keep this an open forum.
- It is worth being particularly clear on the fact that, even though the RIPE NCC finances and operations are eventually controlled by the RIPE NCC Association membership, i.e. those who buy services from the RIPE NCC, particular care has been taken over time to make sure that the forum for setting the addressing policies RIPE NCC operates under, is NOT restricted to its membership.

- Historically we have initiated changes to policy in several different ways:
 - Changes have been initiated by the RIPE NCC
 - Individuals have initiated Changes
 - Other fora like IETF have initiated Changes
- Developing documentation of new policy has likewise been carried out in a number of slightly different ways, the two most important being:
 - The major rewrite that resulted in RIPE 185 European Internet Registry Policies and Procedures was managed by an editorial group consisting on members of the working group and RIPE NCC staff. The policy was put in writing by the RIPE NCC staff acting as a secretary of the group.
 - The IPv6 policy document RIPE 196 was developed jointly by the regional registries in close co-operation with the IP v6 working group and others.

- The working groups conduct their work not only at open meetings at the open RIPE meetings where anybody can participate. Common to all of this is that the final policy documents are made public not only to the working group but also presented to the RIPE plenary and published on the RIPE public web site at www.ripe.net.
- Currently there are no formal ways to adapt new policy at the working groups meeting or at the mailing list. This leaves the chair of the WG with the power to suggest to the meeting not to adapt changes and thus initiate further discussion at the list or future meetings.
- The meeting does have the power to follow such advice or not. In many ways this is similar to the IETF rough consensus, but we need to rely on advice from the RIPE NCC, our common sense and fairness instead of running code.
- When consensus has been established in the working group the conclusion is reported to the RIPE plenary where final consensus is established.

last additions

- added at
 - circulate policy proposals well before the meeting
 - add technical discussion on the mailing list ?
 - add clearer description of the process ?
 - add list of policy proposals with status ?



Proposal

ARIN

- <http://www.arin.net/policy/ipep.html>
- Proposal @ Arin IX
- **APPPPARIN Public Policy Policy Process**
 - http://www.arin.net/policy/process_changes/index_files/frame.html
 - from RFC 2418
- In the case where a consensus which has been reached during a face-to-face meeting is being verified on a mailing list the people who were in the meeting and expressed agreement must be taken into account. If there were 100 people in a meeting and only a few people on the mailing list disagree with the consensus of the meeting then the consensus should be seen as being verified.
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APNIC

- <http://www.apnic.net/docs/policy/dev/index.html>
- APNIC's policies are developed by the membership and the broader Internet community through a bottom-up process of consultation and consensus. The elements of the policy development process are the face to face [APNIC Open Policy Meetings](#) which are held twice per year and which are complemented by [mailing list](#) discussions.
- Anyone may attend the meetings and participate in discussions and the decision making. The Open Policy Meetings comprise many different elements, but core to the policy development process are the [Special Interest Groups \(SIGs\)](#) and the Member Meeting. At the SIG meetings, and throughout the year on the associated mailing lists, policy is created and refined through discussion and consensus-based decision making. Participants at the Member Meeting are asked to endorse the policy outcomes of the SIGs. The process of decision-making is described below.

Proposal

- Background
- Policy Development
- Publication
- Consensus

Background

- The charter of the RIPE Address Policy Working Group states that “anyone with an interest in Internet numbering issues is welcome to observe participate and contribute to the WG” The policy development process has historically been open and bottom up. The people operating Internet networks have worked together in RIPE to develop and agree the policies for distributing the finite address spaces used on the Internet. Because the process has been open to everyone to participate in and observe it has also been flexible and adapted to the community’s needs at the time. This flexibility and adaptation has allowed the community to react quickly and meet the needs of networks using address space. As the Internet grows and the community of interest expands it is necessary to document the procedure followed to ensure that all those who wish to participate are able to do so.

Policy Development

- Policy is developed through discussion in working group sessions at RIPE meetings and between the meetings at working group mailing lists. Discussions can be started by anyone at any time. Participants are welcome to discuss broad ideas as well as make formal policy proposals. The agenda for a working group meeting is normally published one month before the meeting takes place.
- A formal proposal should indicate the details of the change proposed, the reason for the change and any perceived consequences of the change. The RIPE NCC will publish formal policy proposals on the Address Policy Working Group pages of the <http://www.ripe.net/> web site. The page will indicate the status of the proposal: “Open for Discussion”; “Agreed” or “Withdrawn”. Discussion on policy changes may take place on either the address-policy-wg@ripe.net mailing list or on a separate Task Force mailing list for discussion of a particular subject. All Working Groups mailing lists are open to all and are publicly archived on the <http://www.ripe.net/> web site.

Publication

- Where a policy change will result in an amendment to a published policy document the textual changes are initially published as a draft document for community review and comment. There may be multiple iterations of a draft document if there is significant comment and change suggested.

Consensus

- Policy will be changed when the Working Group Chair decides that there is a consensus in favour of the proposal. Normally there will be a final call for consensus at the mailing list, following a technical discussion on the mailing list and discussion at one or more working group meetings

Selection of Chair

- Participants in the Working Group at RIPE meetings select the Working Group Chair. Like the mailing lists, these meetings are open to participation by anyone with an interest in the development of policy for the distribution of Internet numbering resources.