The Number Registry System

RIPE, the RIPE NCC and Global Internet Governance

Chris Buckridge | 19 April 2017 | RIPE NCC Roundtable Meeting
RIPE NCC

- A not-for-profit membership association under Dutch law
- Founded in 1992
- Serves as Regional Internet Registry for 76 countries
- Around 140 staff based in Amsterdam, Dubai, Moscow

Image credit: TUBS, via Wikimedia Commons
RIPE Community

- Open, bottom-up, inclusive, transparent
- The community is responsible for making policy
  - Also sharing information, best practices

RIPE structures:
- Working groups
- Mailing lists
- RIPE Meetings
Global Internet Administration

- RIPE develops specific policies for distribution of Internet number resources

- Part of a broader administration and standardisation ecosystem that includes:
  - Four other RIR communities
  - IETF
  - ICANN
  - W3C
  - 3GPP
  - ITU
  - Many others…
The RIR Ecosystem

Policy

Internet number resources

Secretariat for RIPE community

RIPE NCC membership

RIPE community

Governments

Law enforcement

Regulators

Business

Civil society

Tech community
Governments and RIPE Policy

• Government policy
  - National regulation can affect the RIPE NCC and our members
  - Exchanging information can lead to better public policy

• RIPE policy
  - Governments and regulators are part of the RIPE community
    ➔ And have their own interests in RIPE policy development
Challenges for Government

• Different ways of working can prevent open participation

• Few government staff have background in RIPE

• How to address this:
  - RIPE Cooperation Working Group
  - RIPE NCC outreach to governments, law enforcement, regulators
  - Capacity building about RIPE and the Policy Development Process
From the RIPE NCC Survey 2016:

On Internet governance:

- The RIPE NCC should be a neutral, trusted advisor for governments rather than a lobbying party
- The RIPE NCC should be giving governments insight on the technical environment of the Internet community and explaining related technical issues
- Education is an important function of the RIPE NCC in this area

https://www.ripe.net/participate/member-support/surveys/ripe-ncc-survey-2016
IANA Stewardship Transition

“The Internet’s largest single, global, multistakeholder policy development project”

Nurani Nimpuno, May 2016

- IANA = Internet Assigned Numbers Authority
  - Global pool of Internet number resources (and other top level registries, including the DNS root zone)
  - Managed under contract to U.S. government agency since the early days of the Internet
  - In 2014, U.S. government announced intention to pass stewardship to the global community
IANA Stewardship Transition

• Transition completed on 1 October 2016

• As a result:
  - Five RIRs have a Service Level Agreement (SLA) in place with ICANN, who is responsible for operation of the IANA functions
  - RIR operations have not been affected
  - The RIRs and their communities are now ultimately responsible for the IANA number-related functions

• With greater power comes a greater focus on accountability
What is Accountability?

• Responsibility
  - Who is making the rules?
  - Who is enforcing the rules?

• Transparency
  - Are the rules clear?
  - Are all stakeholders rights and responsibilities clear?

• Processes
  - What are the processes for making/enforcing the rules?
  - Are these processes being followed?
RIPE NCC Accountability

• RIPE NCC is accountable to:
  - RIPE NCC membership
  - RIPE community
  - Other Internet stakeholders

• We believe that our accountability is solid
  - All processes clearly documented and explained
  - Regular reporting to stakeholders
  - A high priority since 2010

RIPE Accountability

• Focus shifting from legal entities (RIPE NCC) to communities (RIPE)

• RIPE Accountability Task Force established in October 2016 to consider:
  - Scope of RIPE
  - Origins of authority to make policies
  - Participants
  - Decision making process
  - Implementation/enforcement

https://www.ripe.net/participate/ripe/tf/ripe-accountability-task-force
RIPE NCC Focus Points for 2017 *

- Maintain a strong, secure and accurate registry
- Play an active role in enhancing RIR stability through good governance and accountability
- Increase efficiency and cost-saving through automation and streamlining of processes
- Increased engagement with members, the RIPE community, governments and regulators

* RIPE NCC Activity Plan and Budget
  [https://www.ripe.net/publications/docs/ripe-671](https://www.ripe.net/publications/docs/ripe-671)
## Current Agreements

### Reciprocal Agreements (MoU or LoU)
- NRO (Number Resource Organisation)
- ICANN ASO (Address Supporting Organization)
  - APNIC
  - EuroDIG
  - CEPT Com-ITU
  - Euro-IX
  - Europol
- Russian Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications

### Service Level Agreements
- IANA (Internet Assigned Numbers Authority)

### Membership Agreements
- AIOTI (Alliance for Internet of Things Innovation)
- ITU-T (ITU Telecommunication Standardisation Sector)
- ITU-D (ITU Telecommunication Development Sector)
- Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC)
Goals

• Establish more durable institutional relationships

• Develop and identify cooperative activities for the benefit of our community, membership and the organisation

• Provide clarity on the nature of RIPE NCC’s institutional relationships for our members and community

• More information:

https://www.ripe.net/about-us/what-we-do/engagement-external-organisations
Thank you

chrisb@ripe.net