Report of RIPE 65 Amsterdam

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for the CENTR secretariat

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Highlights

What to do about DNS attacks – call for regulation?

An explosive growth in the number and magnitude of attacks on DNS servers recently made the DNS Working Group of the RIPE to put the issue on the agenda. Networks like SurfNet, the academic network in the Netherlands, have been flooded according to experts with high query rates - 10.000 instead of 200 queries becoming routine instead of being exceptional, Xander Jansen from SurfNet reported during an expert panel in Amsterdam. DNS amplification attacks give the operators headaches. Jansen said SurfNet had played on all sites: as a middleman for the attacks, as a victim and also in research.

Popularization, even “customization” of DNS amplification attacks was what made the difference, Paul Vixie, BIND-Guru and ISC founder said. „It's been popularized. There are easy software kits, any angry teenager can now use this technology.” Vixie rejected the idea of doing something about the protocol. The choice between TCP/IP and UDP was comparable to the one between Republican and Democrats – both were bad. A new more secure protocol was not deployable, so there was a need for plan b, which for Vixie comes down to prosecution and also international regulation to allow for prosecution everywhere.

„Recourse ultimately has to come down to criminal punishment“, he said, and invited people to join what he called a „secret handshake society“ that was trying to track attackers down all over the globe. ISC has been closely cooperated with the FBI on cases like the Operation Ghost Click (DNS Changer) before. „The Internet cannot always be a place where you have no recourse. We need accountability of the owners of resources or the operators of various resources.“ Vixie said to this reporter that in the end an international treaty might be what was needed, but rejected the much debated International Telecommunications Regulation (ITRs). ISC CTO João Damas said the question for the DNS operators might be: “whether the right thing to do here is to simply admit that the solution to this problem cannot come from the people in this room, that maybe as much as you are afraid of meats based law that will, in the end, be the only solution.” Voluntary measure like egress filtering proposed in BCP 38 had not been universally deployed.

Other network engineers warned against the calls for regulation. Andrew Sullivan, Chair of the DNSEXT Working group of the Internet Engineering Task Force, said: „I am nervous because we have heard at this meeting already, that there are people who are really keen to apply what are effectively old-fashioned top-down laws to the Internet and we already know that part of the reason the Internet is successful is because we didn't use that style of operation for it. We may kill the patient while we are trying to cure the disease.“ Instead, other things should be looked into, especially mechanisms by which network operators themselves could do something. One option was a reputation system for networks.

„If you start to discover that certain networks become the source of a lot of abusive traffic, you gradually turn down those networks and you just don't accept traffic from them or you filter the traffic or you limit it so that it can't come through.“ Sullivan said there could be nasty effects from such a system, too, for example different classes of Internet service. Another idea, proposed by Jim Reid, was to incentivize “good (filtering) behaviour be giving well-behaving operators (who, for example, have implemented BCP 38) a discount on fatter pipes.” But Sullivan also warned that one risk was that operators by taking on responsibility now, might become a target for legislators, regulators and prosecutors.
Olaf Kolkman, former Chair of the Internet Architecture Board and Chairman of NLnet Labs, said: „The problem with law is if you were to try and really catch the culprits that are behind this type of reflection attacks, that takes serious amount of investigative resources, that's not a trivial thing.“ Kolkman said the need for international agreements did further complicate an approach based on legislation.

At the same time as engineers are considering how to tackle malicious attacks, others consider how to react to “policy attacks” on the DNS, including filtering or proposals discussed in an EU project about terrorist use of the Internet (see Abuse Working Group).

The World Conference on International Telecommunication – does it affect operators

International legislation under discussion by the 193 member states of the International Telecommunication Union in fact was one of the hot topics at this RIPE meeting. ITU member states have agreed to review the International Telecommunication Agreement (ITRs), a treaty that helped to settle the exchange of international phone calls between then mainly state-owned operators. The RIPE community discussed the concerns so far voiced by Internet service providers, the Internet technical community and also the US administration, about a potential expansion of its scope to the Internet.

Three slots and a lot of hall-way discussions were devoted to the WCIT, including a plenary talk, a plenary panel and a presentation by Swedish regulator and former COM-ITU Chair of the European Regulator Body CEPT, Anders Jönsson, at the Cooperation Working Group.

Entrenched positions: Sender Party Network pays or no EU bailout for telcos

A fierce speech against the inclusion of end-to-end quality of services provisions and a sender-party-network-pays regime into the future ITU was made by the Chief Scientist of APNIC, Geoff Huston. Huston with his speech reacted to the much debated proposal of the European Telecom and Network Operator Association (ETNO) filed into the still growing corpus of proposal documents for the WCIT. Core proposals from ETNO are

> *the rules for IP networks and interconnections, with reference to best effort delivery and end-to-end quality of service delivery, with related definitions;*
> *the economic background, advocating for an adequate return on investment based, where appropriate, on the principle of sending party network pays;*
> *the role of commercial negotiations and differentiated quality of service.*

Huston attacked these wishes. Yet quality of service, he said, would go „against everything we ever understood about what makes IP effective. You only needed 20 bites of header. You only needed stateless networking. What you do need is to add more bandwidth where it's needed. Build 100 gig, build terabit, just go and do it, and if your business model sucks and you can't afford it, change your business model.“ To ask Google for money, was “a silly answer” to the challenges telcos faced in a changing market and mocked: „There is an axiom in business that if your business plan is completely broken and you are about to go bankrupt, if you go to Brussels and make the right case, they'll save you. Speak to the Greeks!“

Mike Blanche, Manager for Network, Peering and Content Distribution (EMEA) at Google said, currently „99.95% of all peering agreements are done without a single contract“. Scaling of a receiving party network pays to the Internet with cascading networks would be difficult and discriminate small providers and benefit big ones. „They (large operators) would get more money than the smallest operators, they would have more network power and there is this terminating monopoly, that means to reach a certain user on a certain network there is only one network you can go through to get to that user. So you then need to have regulation in place to stop that provider from putting their rates up and up and up, to charge more and more for people to collect and deliver traffic to that user.“ This was where network neutrality came in, because “if the ISP you connect to becomes a toll booth, to deliver that traffic to you, then you no longer have freedom of choice.“

The opposition to the ETNO proposal from the US was also underlined by the US Ambassador to the EU, William Kennard during the FT Summit on October, 2nd. Kennard said opposition to the sender-party-networks-pays principle was unanimous in US stakeholders, not only the Obama administration and the FCC, but also both houses and stakeholders outside of the government and the administration. There

was no “net neutrality legislation tsunami” on the horizon, and traffic flow's imbalances between the US and the EU would not be solved by Internet termination rates. Therefore there were just no good arguments for the ETNO proposals.

Governments in Europa do not seem to have an accord on the other hand. The Swedish government and administration representatives at RIPE, Maria Hall and Anders Jönsson, said the ENTO proposal while still to be discussed on its merits, was rather a topic outside of the ITR.

Layers of negotiations, so far no EU appetite to include the Internet in the ITR

Anders Jönsson, until recently the Chair of the COM-ITU Working Group of CEPT, the official association of 48 European regulatory agencies in “Greater Europe” introduced RIPE members in Amsterdam about the process of the WCIT preparations. Jönsson pointed to two ongoing preparatory processes in the EU.

Not only had CEPT agreed on its first draft opinion (European Common Position, ECP) on the future ITRs, but there was also an EU negotiation between Council, Commission and Parliament on that would eventually result in an EU (27) Council position on WCIT. The time line for next meetings is below and indicates how much talk there will be over the next two month.

16. - 18. Oct	20-22.Juni	10-14.Sep	8-9.Oct	15-18. Oct	3-13. Dec
COM-ITU	WG WCIT	COM-ITU	ITU info	COM-ITU	WCIT 12
final draft	1. ECP	meeting	meeting	2. ECP draft	adopt ITRs
	EU process	EU process	EU process	Council Decision	

Jönsson reported about the CEPT position that so far „there is no proposal from Europe to expand the ITRs to deal with Internet“. Issues so far did not want the ITR to contain provisions on „fraud or dispute resolution or Internet connectivity, nothing on quality of service, nothing of spam, and nothing of routing or traffic.“ All these issues according to the European regulators should be mainly dealt „between operators“. But during the October discussion changes were still possible.

Beside the CEPT discussion a process is underway in the EU to finalize a joint position of the EU member states (the majority in the CEPT), that is expected to also happen in October, ahead of the final CEPT discussion. One issue still under discussion at the CEPT level is how much the ITR should try to address robustness and security of telecom networks. Looking back at the security discussions in the operator community (see DNS attack panel above) it seems hard to argue against attempts to include something in an international telecom treaty, but certainly the very thought of somehow tasking the ITU with cybersecurity, which anyway has been a field the ITU has been tried very intensively to get a foot down (see their Cybersecurity project), is not welcome by most in the Internet industry. Also, once more, those viewing security as an issue are hesitant to fall in line with the most prominent promoters of a strong role of ITU in cybercrime, like Russia.

Potential fallout

Internet network operators gathered at the RIPE meeting very much wanted to know if there was any chance that member states will agree over the rather long list of open issues in December (4-13), especially given the criticism from the EU and also the US about including the Internet into the scope. Answers from observers of the process and also public officials were only clear in that this was not clear. Jönsson said: “It comes down to the negotiations. There may be some issues that are more important than others and we have seen that in many conferences, that you have to negotiate and some instances you have to compromise on, that is for sure. I think everybody knows and everybody goes into the discussion with that assumption.“

Two other aspects of the discussion were raised by Gordon Lennox, former EU Commission Official. Lennox pointed to the ITU and its interests as an organization: „The ITU is big, it is about 800 people and it's also a lot of money.“ The organization might have a self-interest and might look at the ITRs as

something that might help its position in the future. Jönsson confirmed that the ITR might give the ITU new tasks. And finally Lennox also reminded the RIPE participants that despite potential reservations from member states the ITR as well as documents developed in the next year at the ITU World Telecom Policy Forum might be used as references in the future. „You have got the regulations and whatever is agreed, despite what any individual member state says about it afterwards, will be the reference for what then happens in future discussions. That is why I suggest it's very, very important."

It is not the end of the world: Ipv4 depletion, Ipv6 outlook and what is next

Ipv4 no more

RIPE NCC has followed APNIC to start distributing addresses from the last /8 according to a much tighter rule. Every LIR now can only receive one /22 block and if a member hands over its block to somebody else it is not eligible for another block. Members that have several LIRs on the other hand get as many /22 as they have LIRs. While the operators gathered at the RIPE 65 had seen this coming, there certainly is work to be done to push IPv6.

Ipv6: 50 percent of users have it in five years, according to Google calculations

IPv6 adoption has grown 150 percent over the last year, Lorenzo Colitti, IPv6-expert from Google reported at RIPE 65. If this speed of adoption would be sustained, 50 percent of all Internet users would have IPv6 in five years time. World IPv6 launch day this summer was all the more important, according to the experts and, as Colitti said, quite successful with several thousand web pages offering dual stack services, several hundred ISPs and a few manufacturers involved, with many keeping IPv6 after the day.

„We actually had real impact. We got thousands of websites, dozens of ISPs and home vendors to leave it on. If you deploy IPv6 to your access network, 40% of your traffic to v6 users will be v6 traffic", Colitti said. AT&T, he reported, had now 7 percent IPv6 users and would reach the five million user mark by the end of the year, of Verizon Wireless LTE phones 20% were now using the new protocol on a daily base. „This is really impressive", Colitti said. At the same time engineers still look for ways to speed up deployment and to solve issues resulting from both protocols needing to live side by side.

RIPE NCC, too much on a commercial road?

A rather controversial debate developed during the RIPE Services session over the question if the RIPE NCC could force the owners of PI space to become members before they would be eligible to get RIPE certificates. RPKI should be a service for members only, RIPE NCC CEO Axel Pawlik said during the session. Several "non-members" complained about the trend of the RIPE NCC to reserve more and more of the services for members only. Members warned that RIPE NCC should not act without asking the working groups and members first.

Both address policy WG chairs (Gert Döring, Sander Steffan) warned against alienating an increasing number of resource holders – after the legacy holders, now the PI holders. With regard to the legacy holders, RIPE NCC made a push to request that legacy holders had to adhere to all policies developed by the RIPE community over the past in order to be able to use the RIPE NCC services. In the closing plenary Pawlik came out with a public apology. Now the address policy and the services working group were asked to discuss the issue.

Questioned about the push from the RIRs via the Numbers Resource Organisation (NRO) to have a global Trust Anchor, John Curran, CEO of ARIN and currently NRO Chair said: "We have engaged with ICANN and asked if they would be willing to host that global Trust Anchor because beyond the five RIRs there are resources held by the IANA, for example, that would be good to have a home in that, and in concept, we are in agreement that that could be done." It was now up to the RIRs to "document what we expect in that global trust anchor," and the RIRs were in the process of doing that. "As soon as we have an agreement on what it is we want them to do, we'll move ahead."

When asked if the global Trust Anchor should be hosted by IANA or ICANN, Curran said “we do not see any need for the IANA functions contract with the Department of Commerce to ever grow in scope. We'd like to see it be reduced in scope over time, if anything.” There have been examples for other tasks that the RIRs had handed to ICANN by MoU, cooperating with the Internet Architecture Board (on the management of in-addr.arpa for example).

On RPKI deployment, RIPE NCC in the closed round table meeting with governments according to observers reported that criticism between members has died down and adoption had grown. Currently out of 8279 LIRs 1105 have requested certificates for their resources of which 840 ROAs have been created.

More news from the Plenary

Against the censors: FriDNS project

While more control over certain types of content is on the agenda of some EU governments, Thomas Steen Rasmussen -who in his day job is responsible to implement the Danish blocking- presented “remedies” to the DNS-based blocking system list as an employee of a Danish networking company. In 2006 he started the project “Uncensored DNS (or censurfridns)” to allow people to route around the blocking list using open recursive servers. The list that is prepared by the Danish police is kept secret, Rasmussen confirmed. But an earlier leaked version revealed that it contained over 3000 domains, while now it was over 5000 domains, for which all traffic was blocked (including non-http-traffic like mail). Over the years the Danish authorities had blocked not only child abuse images, but also other content types, including copyright related content, unlicensed gambling sites, or illegal pharmaceutical vendors. While the blocking list that is distributed to ISPs via SSH is supposed to contain only child abuse material, an analysis by German activists of the leaked blocking list revealed only four clear-cut and still online illegal sites, which were taken down after call by the activists to the hosting providers.

Rasmussen applauded Germany to decide against a legal provision on DNS filtering, which had already been passed by parliament. In Denmark the blocking at this moment is only done on a voluntary basis, there is no legal obligation to do it. Next steps for the censurfridns would be the set up of an anycast network for the servers, and while in the future more intrusive filtering methods might be expected, for the time being, he said, he was glad to help out not only people in Denmark, but also in China and other countries who were using his service.

Chokepoint project

Another project dealing with censorship in a more general way was presented by Ruben Bloemgarten: the Chokepoint Project. The project, which seems to try to get funding mainly by foundations and private donations, according to Bloemgarten is an **“**attempt to do near real-time monitoring visualisation of censorship and surveillance measurements.” Started after the Internet cut-off in Egypt, the team (of about a dozen people) started to design the monitoring system that wants to visualize and conceptualize the information from various data feeds, including so far mainly: MLAB (www.measureentlab.net), RIPE Atlas (https//atlas.ripe.net), RIR ASN tables and MaxMind GeoIP. The core two elements are a frontend and public database and an intended globally distributed network monitoring data collection system.

Applications to be provided for public authorities, researchers and the public in general are (dis)Connection State Map, OONI (Open Observatory for Network Interference) Map, ContextFeed (based on journalistic reports), JuriTrace (tracing packets trough jurisdictions to see how they travel), OwniTrace (tracing packets through the networks of different owners), SourceGrapher (allowing the selection and comparison of data sources)

The project falls cleanly in line with efforts from various governments to prevent Internet shut-downs, especially the EU Commission's (Neelie Kroes) “no disconnect strategy”.

Working Groups

DNS WG

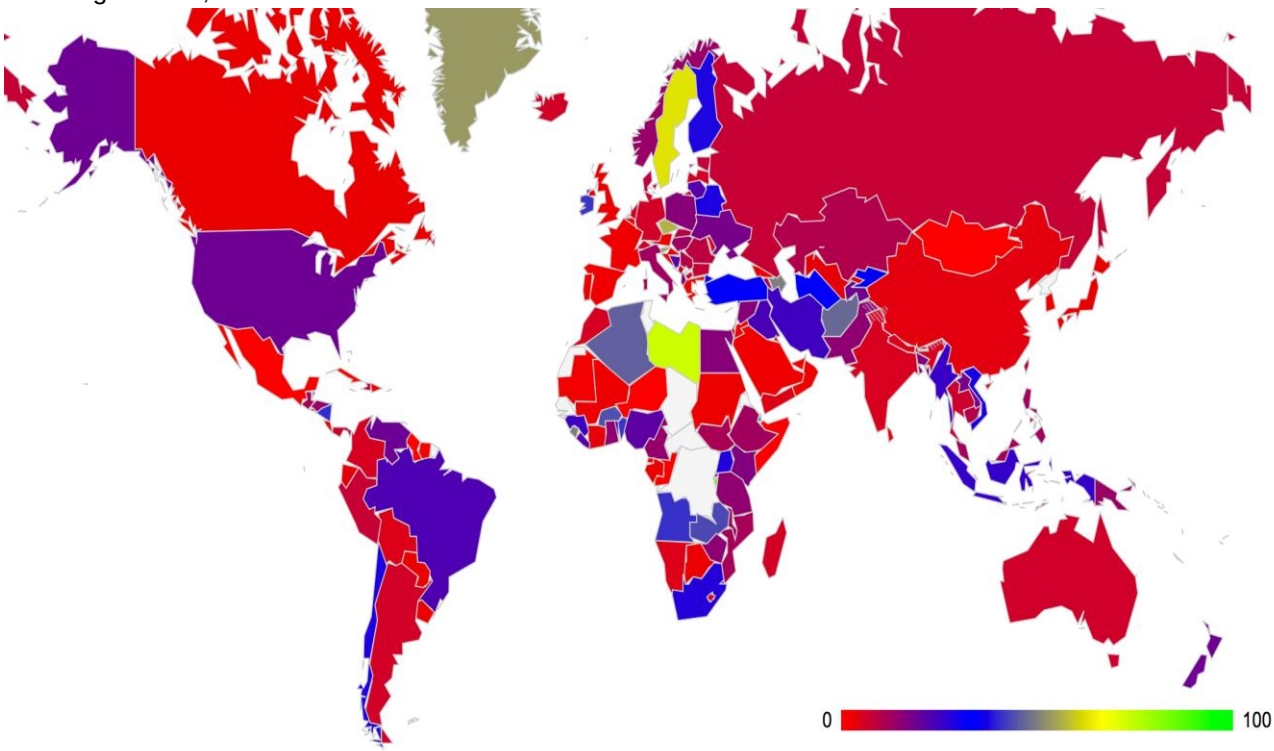
World DNSSEC validation Day?

The DNS WG is up for more panel discussions and had two interesting ones during RIPE 65. Beside the one on DNS reflection amplification attacks (see above), a second one discussed the question how a push could be made for DNSSEC validation. A World DNSSEC day, similar to World v6 launch was considered, as somehow experts observe there are parallels to the slow take-up of the IPv6 protocol. Both technologies suffered from a kind of “commons” problem, because people were asking, why should I introduce it when it only helps other people?”
Validation was no problem for network providers, said Roland van Rijswijk from the Dutch academic network provider SURFnet. Given low failure rates (0,005% of validation from 1 Million signed names failed) there was no more excuse to not do it. Antoin Verschuren from SIDN said that with 20 percent of the nl-zone signed, SIDN was looking for incentives to turn on validation. One thing the registry could do was to make DNSSEC validation mandatory for those who want to run a local instance of the .nl zone in the future.

The cost for validation, according to Patrik Fältström, has been said to be zero by Swedish operators. Training might be the only investment necessary. Van Rijswijk did agree, yet had on the other side to acknowledge that so far now money could be made with DNSSEC.

Validation in the Wild

Geoff Huston presented figures about DNSSEC validation done at the moment. Using a Google ad with an embedded flash-code test, Huston checked if resolvers did query for DNSSEC records or not. Huston's initial figures showed that of 57 268 resolvers that received the ad 2316 – 4 percent - queried for the DS record. When differentiating of 40446 small (only serving one or two clients) resolvers 1136 (2,8 percent) of the 16 822 large resolvers 1180 (7 percent) did the query. Of over 770.000 clients connected to during the test, over 69.000 showed DNSSEC-validation



(Client Use of DNSSEC by Country in percent, graphic by Geoff Huston, see here)

Countries at the bottom of the list include also several European ones, countries on top were according to the statistics, Libya, Sweden, Czech Republic, Palestine.
What made interpretation of the data difficult was the short attention span on the net that cut the queries short and the fact that failed queries often were reiterated querying the next server. Would they then query the unsigned zone, everything just worked fine. Huston was especially taken aback by a result that 5.39 percent of resolvers fetched the invalid answer.

K-root instances serving one AS

RIPE NCC is considering to have yet another sort of K-root anycast instance. Beside the anycast instances that serve a global or local community, a smaller instance that serves a single autonomous system (AS). Communication between RIPE and the small anycast instance would be via iBGP (not BGP). The advantages RIPE NCC expects to secure by this are further deployment of K-root instances and also a growth path for local instances.

DNS Reverse Zone incident (June, 13-15. 2012)

Romeo Zwart from the RIPE NCC gave a short summary of the incident in June, during which reverse DNS service was lost for some hours for all DNS reverse zones, followed by problems over several days for various reverse address zones. The RIPE NCC did not deliver a full explanation. Zwart said that even after analysing the incident the root cause was not found. RIPE researchers have no explanation why some zones vanished from the provisioning system. Lack of backups and other organizational problems then resulted in a chain of events that prevented RIPE NCC from full recovery of the system for days. A timeline is given here. Lessons learned summarized by Zwart were the need for more frequent updates, improved 24/7 reachability of the RIPE NCC, better backup routines including cold start of the provisioning system, plus verification of backup processes and a replacement of the provisioning system. A full report on the incident would be given in October.

Open DNSSEC Update

Sara Dickinson gave an update on OpenDNSSEC (turnkey solution for DNSSEC), which is preparing for version 1.4 (release date mid October) with „added input and output adapters to enable zone transfer through either file AXFR or IXFR“ and with the removal of „the integrated auditor that was available in the product up until 1.3“. The latter was a reaction to the thinking that it was good to use different products for generation and validation of zones. Finally 1.4 also included a PIN storage facility in order to get rid of the current clear text HSM pin in the configuration file. For the High Security Module, version 2.0 was in the making with pluggable crypto libraries for example. Also different key roll-over models shall be supported. The release date for the HSM 2.0 is 2013. More information about new features and increased performance can be found on the WIKI.

Cooperation WG

Alongside the open meeting of the Cooperation Working Group, RIPE NCC had planned for one of its closed government round tables. As the European High Level Group on Internet Governance had a meeting scheduled for the RIPE week, organizers hoped to bring more than the usual handful of governments to the open RIPE meeting, too. Yet the High Level Group in the end did not follow the invitation, resulting yet again in a very limited participation of government representatives (Sweden only) and/or regulatory or public agency/consultants (Germany, UK, Norway, Sweden) in the Consultation Working Group. Issues discussed at the closed round table meeting were WCIT and other international conferences, RPKI and the IPv4 run-out.

Beside the big issue in the cooperation WG – WCIT (see above) – there were presentations from RIPE NCC communication manager Paul Rendek (now based in Dubai) from WCIT and IGF related

preparations in the Arab world, there was also a heads up on more upcoming Internet related diplomatic conferences. Cathy Handley, who follows the internet governance trail for RIPE's US-based sister ARIN, pointed to the 2013 World Telecommunication Policy Forum (WTPF) warning that there was no big preparatory meeting to that. The NRO has filed a statement already on the sole source for the WTPF, the report of ITU Secretary General Hamadoun Touré. The WTPK much more than the WCIT covers Internet governance related issues, it talks also about issues like RPKI, pointing to concerns about a global trust anchor for example.

Address policy

The Address Policy Working Group is once more considering to put together an IPv4 maintenance policy, to collect all policies still relevant for the ongoing use of IPv4 in one place. An earlier attempt by Rob Blokzijl did not come to fruition, but will now be resumed. Instead of IPv4 policies, it is transfers policies that now take the centre stage.

Sandra Brown, IPv4 Market Group, presented an Inter-RIR transfers proposal (see RIPE 2012-02) For intra-RIPE transfers the allocation period is changed back from the current 3 months into 24 months (RIPE 2012-03).

Transfers to RIPE would be possible on the condition that both originating and receiving organisation was in line with the policies of their respective regions. Also the originating region had to have a policy allowing for Inter-RIR transfers and the receiving organisation did according to its own region qualify for an allocation (needs-based principle). For transferring IPv4 a First interregional transfers will soon take place, said ARIN CEO John Curran, after the regions harmonized their policies on the conditions for the transfers (APNIC just is about to pass a needs-based policy for the transferred addresses). The same conditions applied for transferring from RIPE to other regions, with the exception of the needs-based condition.

Finally there are ongoing discussions on how legacy members should be brought in, a policy proposal has not been filed yo far, but seems to be in the works. With regard to PI space, many RIPE65 participants warned against excluding allocation of PI (private space) from future allocation. It was too harsh to not allow IPv4 to be given out to the operators. Yet others said, the little address space that has been left should not be given to RIRs. Those who wanted to get addresses from the reserve pool or later, could be easily one by joining RIPE as a RIR.

A proposal to have a transparency IPv4 address space transfers would be helpful. The proposal made by US academic Milton Mueller was well received, even if it is so fare unclear about “shall prices also be transparent?”

Anti-Abuse

Clean IT

The Clean IT project has received some major media attention recently and Clean IT project coordinator But Klaasen, responsible for Counter Terrorist activities in the Dutch Ministry of Justice obviously returned to the RIPE meeting to give an apologetic speech.

The project is deemed to prevent “terrorist use” of the Internet, it received 400.000 Euro project money from the EU, yet EU Home Commissioner Cecilia Malmstroem was quick to declare that the EU had not control over the project amidst a flurry of rants published in many newspapers. Klaasen on the other hand said, one goal of the project certainly was to bring about some harmonization of what terrorist use on the Internet was and was dealt with in the EU member states.

In his presentation Klaasen listed “spread violent material, find new recruits, glorify violence, spread terrorist attack and planning material, radicalise individuals, plan and organize deadly attacks”. The planned “best practice recommendations” would include measures targeting:

the use of social media by terrorists,
ideological websites
deep web.

While the project has recently published a draft paper with a preamble to be signed by governments, a set of general principles and a list of best practices (to be signed by governments and companies), a classified document on potential Clean-IT measures has been published by the civil rights organisation European Digital Rights (EDRI).

The classified document contains a long list of potential measures. And even if the more controversial ones like the distribution by governments of names not to be registered or the preferably automatic detection (and report back to the police) of alleged terrorist use or the inclusion of companies track record in fighting terrorism on the net when it comes to public procurement are still under discussion, there are a lot of provisions that are sparking harsh criticism, like the patrolling of the social network by police or the recommendation to allow easier ways to cross-border investigation and a real time identity policy.

Klaasen's RIPE presentation mentioned the real identity policy as being abandoned just recently, because it was seen as not proportionate. The same was true for social media policing, according to the presentation. Yet the draft paper still on the Clean IT Website still contains these policy proposals.

In part it was the vagueness and also the secretiveness – which for example was shown by the rejection to publish the project partners in the beginning – that has created a lot of mistrust. Daniel Karrenberg from RIPE said during the session in Amsterdam that people would not have confidence in a process that was on the one site said to be all informal, but on the other site was an EU project that included all sorts of recommendations up to legislative proposals. RIPE members from Russia and Estonia warned against the potential abuse of counter-terrorist measures against all sorts of political activists or opponents. The discrepancy between the hidden wish-list and the still controversial published draft list of recommendations also has sparked a lot of criticism.

Yet, one German commentator, rather plainly pointed to the sheer commercial interests involved: the ill-defined project was just an over-funded event and would go nowhere in the end. One goal nevertheless is to establish an expert platform on terrorism use on the Internet – funded by the EU member states.

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RIPE Anti-Abuse Widget

There is a discussion about the Anti-Abuse widget currently under construction by the RIPE NCC that wants to facilitate receiving abuse-information about resources and their holders respectively. There was a lot of scepticism especially for the RIPE NCC to include information about blacklists on its sites, especially if there was no qualification as non-RIPE or non-RIPE recommended pointers.

RIPE News

There is an ongoing discussion about how to deal with legacy space and PI space and a lot of sensitivities come to play here.

The charging scheme for RIPE members has been accepted at the RIPE General Meeting with 197 against 105 votes (11 abstentions). After a system to differentiate between smaller and larger companies had been rejected last time, this time, as RIPE Executive Board Member Nick Hilliard explained to this reporter, members passed a scheme of equivalent fees for all members. The sign-up fee continues to be 2000 Euro, the flat fee will be 1800 Euro a year for all members. This means that while extra small members pay 38 percent more than currently, everybody else pays less (medium: – 29 percent, large: -56

percent, an extra large: -67 percent) while small pay just the same. PI blocks have to be paid for in addition (50 Euro per block), AS numbers will remain to be free of charge.

RIPE is discussing to create a Open Source Working Group. After two BoFs that were successful in discussing open source routing, Martin Winter (Quagga) and Ondrej Filip (Bird) said it would be nice to have something more regular and not limited to routing protocols. Comments will now be gathered about the proposed charter, the RIPE meeting closing plenary (Dublin) will decide on the starting the WG.

Will Hargrave, Elisa Jasinska, Shane Kerr, Benno Overeinder and Job Snijders have been elected to the Program Committee.

The next RIPE meeting will take place in Dublin, May 2013