

American Registry for Internet Numbers

ARIN

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general info: <http://www.arin.net/>

this presentation: <http://rip.psg.com/~randy/970414.fncac.pdf>

IP Numbers are Addresses

- Addresses are not names
- They are more like Postal Addresses
- We can deliver the mail without knowing your name, but not if we do not know your address
- This is not the DNS
- The DNS maps names to addresses

Separate from Name Controversy

- Addresses are not names
- Names are commercial and are not limited
- Addresses are a public trust of a finite resource
- Addresses and names are two separate groups at the InterNIC
- They are already very separate in Europe and Asia

ARIN will be

- One of five stewardships under the IANA
- An address, not name, registry
- Income will be from service not sale
- A non-profit organization
- BofT and AC from membership
- Staff from InterNIC
- NSI says that they are willing to subsidize the startup

Authority

- IANA allocates the raw space
- RIPE and APNIC exist today, so this is not at all new, but demonstrated as workable
- Currently, InterNIC covers North America, ALyC, and Southern Africa (with address funding subsidized from name allocation!)
- ARIN forming to cover North America
- ARIN assisting ALyCNIC and AfriNIC

Some Technical Detail

- RFC 2050 details current IP allocation policy and registry formation
- Address assignment must follow network topology, so 1000 registries can not bloom
- IP registries deal with ISPs and most ISPs now have clauses in their contracts about address non-portability
- Try to sell address space, and NATs and other walls will appear, and only fill the coffers of the router makers, not the feds

Stewardship not Business

- Registries perform address allocation not sale
- Addresses are a finite resource
- Under ARIN, allocations will have to be justified technically, just as they are today
- Actual engineering plans are used to evaluate justifications
- But it has to be run like a business or it will fail the public trust

Problems with Current System

- Subsidized by name registration
- Stakeholders have no control
- Tortured by name wars
- Tortured by NSI and NSF indecision
- Confused by discrepancy between authority and responsibility shown by players in DC

ARIN - more Defensible than Status Quo

- No cross-subsidy from sale of names
- Non-profit, RIPE has even reduced rates
- Stakeholders have a say
- No plan to change policy
- Current and old allocations and their DNS will be maintained with no policy changes

There is Consensus for ARIN

- Mailing list wars are over
- ISPs are behind it, large and small
- Small folk are not affected
- International support
- Except the “I want to own the internet” folk, both within DC and out
- ARIN has the IANA support and mandate
- ARIN has the support of troops at NSF, ...

Please Separate from Name Wars

- IANA has asked it be done
- APNIC and RIPE, the existing models, have been shown to work well and fairly
- AfriNIC and ALyC NIC are coming along
- NSF, NSI, and we need to act