

Date: May 1, 2013
From Elise Gerich
To: Louis Lee, Pail Wilson

Dear Paul and Louie,

As you are the chairs of the NRO EC and the ASO AC, I am seeking your guidance on the interpretation of the IANA Policy for Allocation of ASN Blocks to Regional Internet Registries which was ratified in September 2010.

The global policy defines the allocation unit as: "IANA allocates ASNs to RIRs in blocks of 1024 ASNs. In this document the term 'ASN block' refers to a set of 1024 ASNs." The same policy states that after 31 December 2010 "IANA and the RIRs will cease to make any distinction between 16-bit and 32-bit only ASNs, and will operate ASN allocations from an undifferentiated 32-bit ASN allocation pool."

Historically, it has been ICANN's practice to establish an ASN block from only 16-bit or only 32-bit AS numbers. Since RFC 5398 reserved 16 16-bit AS numbers for use in documentation and sample code, the unallocated pool of 16-bit AS numbers is not divisible evenly by 1,024. If we are to continue to follow historic practice there will be less than 1024 16-bit AS numbers to assign to a block.

Given that the current policy does not differentiate between the 16-bit and 32-bit numbers of the allocation pool, is it acceptable to form an ASN block from two noncontiguous ranges; one range of 16-bit AS numbers and the other range of 32-bit AS numbers?

We look forward to receiving your response on this question of interpretation of the global policy for allocation of ASN blocks.

Best regards,
-- Elise

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