

Policy Proposal 2003-15:



**IPv4 Allocation Policy for the
African Portion of the ARIN Region**

Proposal

- Change minimum allocation criteria for Africa only
 - Non-multihomed organisation
Efficient utilisation of a /22
 - Multi-homed organisation
Efficient utilisation of a /23
- Change minimum allocation size for Africa only
 - From /20 to /22

Background

- Responsibility for the African continent has historically been divided between three RIRs: ARIN, RIPE, and APNIC. The ARIN region includes sub-equatorial Africa.
- AfriNIC is newly-formed, and is still in the process of establishing offices, training hostmasters, and defining operational procedures. It cannot yet implement its own policies.
- ARIN's minimum allocation criteria have limited membership to only the nineteen largest ISPs in Africa.
- Discussions at the iWeek conference in Johannesburg (Sep 2003) led to the formulation of policy proposal 2003-15.
- AfriNIC will ultimately apply this policy to the entire continent
- This policy will bootstrap membership and provide a means for ISPs to enter the RIR system within the next 12-18 months.

African Overview

- Continental region
 - 20% of Earth's land mass
 - 807 million population
- Low Internet penetration due to individual income of \$130/month per capita and simultaneous disproportionately higher costs
- Internet growth and policies bottlenecked by out-of-region monopolies



Key Arguments

- Only 19 African ISPs meet the current minimum criteria
- Others forced into NATs by upstream monopolies
- Market size:
 - 1.6m dial-ups in Africa. Almost no cable/DSL
 - Most ISPs have only a few hundred customers
 - Largest ISP in Africa:
 - 250,000 dial-up users
 - 1,000 leased-lines
 - 1% the size of North American equivalent (2.3m/100k)
- Proportionate reduction of criteria (1%) would be seven bits shorter. This policy only asks for two bit reduction (25%).

Support & Concerns

- Proposal endorsed by AfriNIC Board and members
 - AfriNIC will adopt these allocation criteria when it begins making its own allocations
- Unanimous support from African ISPs
 - At AfriNIC / iWeek joint meeting, Johannesburg, Sep 2003
 - On the ARIN Public Policy Mailing List (PPML)
 - Both large and small ISPs throughout Africa
- No problem of fairness
 - No ISPs operate in both regions
 - Cost of gaming the system would exceed the cost of legitimate use of the ARIN policies
 - Africa's ISPs are disadvantaged in many other ways