

Number Resource Organization - Frequently Asked Questions

What is the NRO and what does it do?

The Number Resource Organization (NRO) was formed by the Regional Internet Registries (APNIC, ARIN, LACNIC, and RIPE NCC) to formalize their cooperative efforts. The NRO exists to protect the unallocated Number Resource pool, to promote and protect the bottom-up policy development process, and to act as a focal point for Internet community input into the RIR system.

Specific duties include the administration of upper level reverse DNS domains, inter-RIR technical coordination, negotiations and agreements with external entities, and provision of a convenient single point of contact with the RIR system by third parties. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) outlining the purpose and structure of the NRO was signed by the RIRs on October 24, 2003.

According to the MoU, the NRO is operated for the purposes of:

- a) Serving as the coordinating mechanism of the RIRs to act collectively on matters relating to the interests of the RIRs, as delegated to the NRO by the unanimous written agreement of the RIRs.
- b) Undertaking any joint operational or external activities delegated to the NRO by the RIRs.
- c) Entering into appropriate cooperative agreements with representative Internet coordination or administrative bodies (including any national, international, or public sector entity), on such terms as the NRO Executive Council deems appropriate, in order to coordinate the activities of the NRO with the activities of those of those bodies.

Does the NRO replace ICANN or the ASO?

No. The NRO is independent of ICANN and is in the process of negotiating a new ASO MoU with ICANN. Upon implementation, certain aspects of the NRO will become part of the ASO. For example, the NRO Numbers Council, which is not currently active, will become the ASO Address Council.

How does the NRO change the relationship between ICANN and the RIRs?

The NRO is an interface for organizations outside of the RIRs to interface directly with them at a single point instead of dealing with each RIR separately. For example, this allows ICANN to interact directly on non-policy items such as the ICANN budget and service contracts. Currently, ICANN must deal with each individual RIR on such matters. The NRO provides a similar single interface to the RIRs for other organizations, such as the IETF, on Internet number resource administration issues.

The NRO also provides a visible framework for existing cooperative joint activities in which the RIRs are already engaged. Such activities include the administration of upper level reverse DNS domains. Future activities of this nature will also be undertaken within the framework of the NRO, such as a common whois interface to RIR data.

How Do I Contact the NRO?

More information on the NRO is available online at <http://www.nro.net> or via e-mail to nro@nro.org.