

Should the RIRs Harmonize Allocation Periods?



What is an Allocation Period?

The length of time defined by policy used to determine the appropriate amount of IP address space a requesting organization needs to sustain its operations for that entire time.

Background Facts

- **General RIR principle**
 - ➔ Fair and responsible distribution of Internet resources
- **Policies based on needs of region**
- **Current disparity in allocation periods across regions**

In General...

● Allocation periods are:

- ⇒ ARIN – 3 or 6 months
- ⇒ LACNIC – 3 months initial/1 yr subsequent
- ⇒ APNIC – 1 year
- ⇒ AfriNIC – 2 years
- ⇒ RIPE NCC – 2 years

More Specifically... (for ISPs)

- ➔ ARIN - 3 months initially, 6 months if subscriber member for >1 yr (issue from 1 year reserve for aggregation)
- ➔ LACNIC – 3 months initial allocations, 1 year subsequent (new policy)
- ➔ APNIC – 1 year
- ➔ AfriNIC – 2 years, shorter periods used for less experienced LIRs
- ➔ RIPE NCC – 2 years, shorter periods used for less experienced LIRs

More Specifically...

(for End-users or PI assignments)

- ⇒ ARIN – 1 year
- ⇒ LACNIC – 1 year
- ⇒ APNIC – 1 year
- ⇒ AfriNIC – 1 year
- ⇒ RIPE NCC – Indefinite (no allocation period specified)

Current Discussions

- **LACNIC – new policy implemented to extend allocation period to 1 yr**
- **RIPE NCC - policy proposal to allocate for 1 yr discussed at recent meeting**
- **AfriNIC – discussion/proposal to be presented at next meeting in Dec.**

Fact or Fiction?

- **Longer allocation periods create an unfair advantage**
 - ⇒ Is there less admin. burden? [fewer requests to RIRs, ease of address assignments, etc.]
 - ⇒ Do allocation periods affect ability to do long term deployment planning?
- **There is a global perception of unfairness across regions due to policy differences**

Fact or Fiction?

- Longer allocation periods contribute to the increased consumption rate and rapid depletion of IPv4 addresses
 - ⇒ IPv4 space issued in 2005
 - ⇒ RIPE ~35%
 - ⇒ APNIC ~30%
 - ⇒ ARIN ~25%
 - ⇒ Some research indicates ~4 years of v4 address space left

Discussion