

About the Number Resource Organization

Established in October 2003, the Number Resource Organization (NRO) undertakes joint activities of the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs), including joint technical projects, liaison activities, and policy coordination.

Goals

- To protect the unallocated Internet number resource pool
- To promote and protect the bottom-up policy development process
- To act as a focal point for Internet community input into the RIR system

Composition

The NRO consists of the five RIRs. The NRO's Executive Council consists of the Chief Executive Officer of each Regional Internet Registry. Officer positions rotate annually. The 2006 officers are: Chairman, Raúl Echeberría (LACNIC); Secretary, Ray Plzak (ARIN); Treasurer, Paul Wilson (APNIC); Members, Adiel Akplogan (AfrinIC), Axel Pawlik (RIPE NCC).

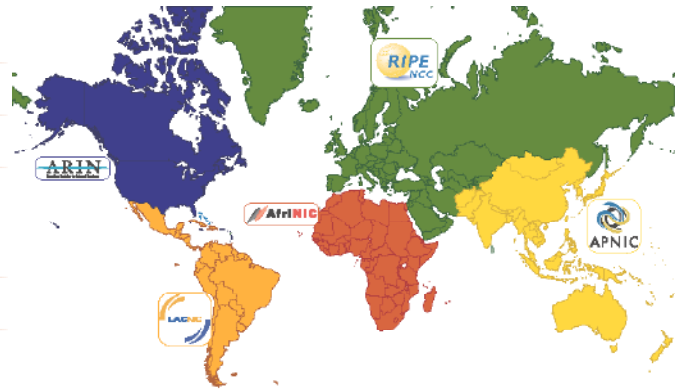
NRO Mailing Lists

NRO activities and events are announced via the nro-announce@nro.net mailing list. Subscription information and other NRO mailing lists are available at <http://www.nro.net/interact>.

Regional Internet Registries

Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) administer and register IP address space and Autonomous System Numbers (ASNs) and work together on joint projects via the NRO. There are five existing RIRs:

Registry	Region
AfrinIC	Africa
APNIC	Asia Pacific
ARIN	Canada, United States, several islands in the Caribbean Sea and North Atlantic Ocean
LACNIC	Latin America, Caribbean
RIPE NCC	Europe, the Middle East, parts of Central Asia



RIRs charge fees for services or membership, not for Internet number resources. IP addresses and AS numbers are shared resources, available for use by anyone who needs them, rather than commodities to be bought, sold, or traded. The RIRs provide number resources on a non-permanent basis for legitimate use by their recipients. The RIRs do not coordinate their fees. The membership and executive boards in each respective region discuss and decide on their own fee schedules independent of the other regions.

RIR memberships generally consist of Local Internet Registries (LIRs), Internet Service Providers (ISPs), telecommunication organisations, large corporations, and industry stakeholders such as end-users.

Each RIR:

- Provides services related to the technical coordination and management of Internet number resources (IPv4, IPv6, and Autonomous System Numbers)
- Participates in international Internet community meetings and events throughout the year
- Operates as a not-for-profit, membership-based organisation
- Facilitates policy development by its members and stakeholders via open meetings and mailing lists
- Is governed by a member-elected executive board
- Publishes publicly accessible documents such as websites, newsletters, and annual reports

Policy Development

Policy and the NRO

The NRO does not develop, approve, or implement regional or global number resource policies. RIRs administer regional policies and facilitate their creation using established, open policy development processes. With input from the RIRs via the NRO, ICANN's Address Supporting Organization reviews and develops recommendations on global IP address policy for ratification by ICANN's Board of Directors.

Regional Policies

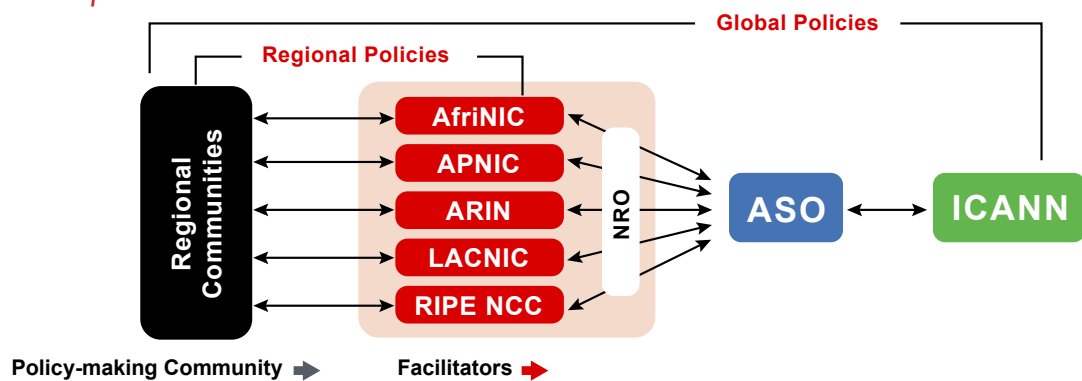
RIRs operate in an open, self-regulatory manner, facilitating direct participation by any interested party to ensure that the policies for number resource management are defined by all who need and use them. The RIRs ensure that policies are consensus-based and that they are applied fairly and consistently. The RIR framework provides a well-established combination of bottom-up decision-making and global cooperation that has created a stable, open, transparent, and documented process for developing number resource policies.

Each RIR holds independent public policy meetings to discuss and develop policy proposals. Public mailing lists allow the entire Internet community to participate in the process. While official, up-to-date RIR policy is maintained on individual RIR websites, the NRO publishes a document that provides a comparative overview of policies across the RIR system. The document is updated quarterly; for the latest version of the RIR Comparative Policy Overview, see <http://www.nro.net>.

Global Policies

Any individual may submit a global proposal. Each RIR community must ratify an identical version of the proposed policy. The NRO Executive Council (NRO EC) then refers the coordinated proposal to the ASO Address Council (ASO AC), which reviews the process by which the proposal was developed and, under the terms of the ASO Memorandum of Understanding, passes it to the ICANN Board of Directors for ratification as a global policy.

Policy Development Process



Community Meetings

RIRs hold annual or biannual public policy and member meetings within their regions throughout the year. Public policy meetings are open to all interested individuals; attendance policies for member meetings vary by region. RIR meetings are listed on the NRO website at <http://www.nro.net/meetings>. Upcoming meetings include:

- 27/2 - 2/3 / 2007 - APNIC 23, Bali, Indonesia
- 22-25 / 4 / 2007 - ARIN XIX, San Juan, Puerto Rico
- 2-3 / 5 / 2007 - AfriNIC-6, Abuja, Nigeria
- 7-11 / 5 / 2007 - RIPE 54, Tallinn, Estonia
- 21-25 / 5 / 2007 - LACNIC X, Isla Margarita, Venezuela

NRO Resources and Relevant URLs

NRO Home Page:

<http://www.nro.net>

NRO Statistics:

<http://www.nro.net/statistics>

NRO Memorandum of Understanding:

<http://www.nro.net/documents/nro1.html>

NRO Mailing Lists:

<http://www.nro.net/interact>

AfriNIC:

<http://www.afrinic.net>

APNIC:

<http://www.apnic.net>

ARIN:

<http://www.arin.net>

LACNIC:

<http://www.lacnic.net>

RIPE NCC:

<http://www.ripe.net>

ICANN Address Supporting Organization:

<http://aso.icann.org>