

IPv6 Address Policies for the Region Covered by LACNIC

Justification:

A policy for IPv6 address allocation is currently in existence. In putting it in practice, it has been found that some aspects of this policy do not completely satisfy our regional needs and reality. A specific example is the number of IPv6 block reassignment required as projection for the first two years. This number is currently 200, which is clearly high for the region covered by LACNIC. During the public forum held at LACNIC IV, the creation of a Work Group was agreed in order to study the current policy and suggest relevant changes.

IPv6 Work Group Results

Background

The IPv6 policy currently in force establishes that the conditions that an applicant must satisfy in order to qualify for an initial allocation of an address block are as follows:

5.1 Initial Allocations

5.1.1 Initial Allocation Criteria

- a) be a LIR;
- b) not be an end site (end user);
- c) plan to provide IPv6 connectivity to organizations to which it will assign /48s, by advertising that connectivity through its single aggregated address allocation; and
- d) have a plan for making at least 200 assignments to other organizations within the following two years.

Problems with the Existing IPv6 Policy

- The goal of assigning 200 /48 blocks within the following two years does not appear to be realistic in relation to the current state of development of IPv6 in the region covered by LACNIC (or the world).
- There are certain types of service providers that, due to the very nature of their service, cannot comply with the required 200 /48 block assignments (regardless of IPv6 development). Among these we can mention:
 - § Transit providers: These providers have few clients (less than 200), many of which do not require addresses as they can obtain by themselves.
 - § Providers that assign /64 or even /128 blocks to their clients, such as dial-up providers, ADSL providers, mobile providers.
 - § Investigation or research networks: These networks do not have 200 clients, as their group of clients is limited to a finite number of institutions.

Possible Alternatives

In other forums it has been mentioned that what is important is the policy's "spirit," not the actual wording of the policy; that the "spirit" of the policy currently in force is to assign addresses to any service provider who seriously wishes to provide IPv6 services, and therefore, if after two years the provider has not made 200 /48 allocations, this does not mean that the provider has not satisfied the policy, and for this reason the allocation should not be withdrawn. However, potential applicants may not grasp the "spirit" of the policy and simply choose to not request the addresses, believing that they do not meet the necessary requirements.

Even though this problem could be solved by publishing information explaining to the community the "spirit" of the policy, the doubt remains as to whether this approach is reasonable, because if the requirements included in the policy will not be mandatory, why have they been included in the policy?

The policy must be clear and the fulfillment of the requirements it establishes must be mandatory, or else the policy's very nature is affected. This leads us to the following proposal for modifying the existing policy and solving the difficulties that have been identified.

Proposal for Modifying the IPv6 Policy for the Region Covered by LACNIC

The proposal is to modify subsection 5.1.1, Initial Allocation Criteria, section 5.1, Initial Allocations, as follows:

- Maintain articles a) and b)
 - Remove existing articles c) and d)
 - Include the following new articles:
- c) Document a detailed plan for the services and IPv6 connectivity to be offered to other organizations (clients)
- d) Announce a single block in the Internet inter-domain routing system, aggregating the total IPv6 address allocation received, within a period not longer than 12 months.
- e) Offer native IPv6 services to clients physically located within the region covered by LACNIC within a period not longer than 24 months.

The result would be the following:

5.1 Initial Allocations

5.1.1 Initial Allocation Criteria

- a) be a LIR;
- b) not be an end site (end user);
- c) Document a detailed plan for the services and IPv6 connectivity to be offered to other organizations (clients);
- d) Announce a single block in the Internet inter-domain routing system, aggregating the total IPv6 address allocation received, within a period not longer than 12 months
- e) Offer native IPv6 services to clients physically located within the region covered by LACNIC within a period not longer than 24 months.