Proposal-061: 32-bit ASNs for documentation purposes

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Introduction

- Proposal to reserve four 32-bit ASNs exclusively for documentation purposes

Current Problem

- There is no ASN space above 65535 which is usable for documentation purposes

- Documentation writers:
  - Transition and interworking cases studies
  - Private ASNs 64512 to 65534 aren't examples from the extended 32-bit ASN range
  - Shouldn't use real life operational ASNs in documentation
  - Shouldn't use currently unallocated resources as they will be required in the future

Situation in other RIRs

- The RIRs have no formal common policy for making a 32-bit ASN allocation exclusively for documentation

Details of the Proposal

1. APNIC set aside a common block of 32-bit ASNs to be used solely for the purpose of documentation

2. The 32-bit ASN block for documentation should include minimum four ASNs

   – This is sufficient for a small network topology to include either exclusive 32-bit ASN or a mixture of 16-bit or 32-bit ASNs for purposes of documenting relationships between ASNs.

Advantages

- Authors of documentation and Internet books no longer have to use
  - 32-bit ASNs which belong to their employer (and risk causing disruption to their employer's business)
  - 32-bit ASNs allocated to other organisations around the Internet (and risk causing disruption to a multitude of organisations)

Disadvantages

- Will mean that four 32-bit ASNs will be added to the non-routable ASN space of the Internet

- Might make some people believe that this ASN block is effectively private ASN space as it is not routable

Other considerations

- Rejection of this proposal:
  - Means that authors will have to carry on with the practice highlighted in the Background section of this proposal, with the associated risks to the integrity of the commercial Internet
  - APNIC and other training documentation will have to use ad-hoc representations, specially at the time when education and training are important
  - Even with prop-64 approved, during transition it will be essential for 4 byte ASNs for documentation/training.

Impact on APNIC members and NIRs

- This proposal has no impact on APNIC members or NIRs

Questions?