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Future of NIR SIG

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Introduction

- The purpose of the presentation is to have discussions on whether;
 - NIR SIG should continue under the current SIG format OR
 - Considering other format of the session may match with the realities

Let's reconsider how to run the session for NIRs

SIGs at the APNIC Forum

- In the past, NIR SIG was one of the various SIGs organized at APNIC conferences
 - Database, IPv6 technical, DNS, IX, etc
 - Initially started as a closed meeting for APNIC and NIR staff but changed to an open session based on community feedback
- Operational SIGs abolished its format as a SIG and had incorporated into other sessions
 - APOPS, IPv6 Plenary, IXP session, etc
- Today, Policy SIG and NIR SIG are the only SIGs

Major function of the SIGs

- Handling of proposals
 - Facilitate discussions, seek consensus, request APNIC for implementation
 - Following the SIG guidelines, and having elected Chair/Co-Chairs are important for fair and transparent operations

NIR SIG Today

- No proposal over past five years
 - An NIR Updates session in reality, similar to RIR Updates
 - Fee Schedule, Voting rights are discussed at dedicated sessions organized per needs basis
- Similar to other APNIC sessions which do not take SIG format
 - Global Reports, IX session?
- Is SIG the best format to run the session for such contents?
 - SIGs are designed to best accommodate and handle proposals: additional formalities, restricts flexibilities

Possible Alternative

- Reformat as "NIR Community Session" or "NIR Reports session" for example
 - Continue to be a regular session with a dedicated mailing list
- Give chance to all NIRs to give updates as a default – more comprehensive information sharing
 - No need to submit request for presentation each time
 - Submit a request only when presenting a topic other than updates
- Allow Chairing the session from wider participants
 - NIRs can take turns to Chair the session for experience
 - small session, many people know each other
 - no need for elected Chair/Co-Chair if no proposal

Other consideration: May be have volunteers to consider contents and proactively seek speakers?

- Opportunity open to all, not just Chair/Co-Chair

Other Ideas
are welcome!

Discussions so far

- Introduction of the idea at NIR SIG in APNIC35
 - No comments at NIR SIG
 - A concern expressed at AMM from an NIR about losing a forum for NIRs
 - A concern expressed privately from an NIR about whether it would be easy to bring it back to a SIG when needed

The issue may not just be for NIR SIG

- Policy SIG currently have proposals at every session, but may change
 - IPv4 pool exhaustion, and transfer policy in place
 - e.g. No proposal at Open Policy Forum in JP Jul 2013
- Worth defining what to do when there will no proposals for consecutive SIGs in advance

What We Can See from This

- SIGs should review from time to time whether "SIG" is the best format of running a session
- There is no described process to reconsider the continuing the SIG and how to shift to an alternative format, or hibernating the session
- There should be an easy process to reanimate a hibernated SIG, rather than to re-start setting up a SIG from scratch

Possible Way Forward

- There should be a described process to consider continuation of the SIG when there are no proposals submitted for consecutive sessions
- There should be an option to continue the sessions under a non-SIG format, instead of totally dissolving the session
- There should be an easy mechanism to re-activate a SIG, if needs come back in the future to discuss proposals on the SIG topic

Reflect them in the SIG Guidelines Document

Proposal

- Add descriptions in the SIG Guidelines document about the process of:
 - Hibernating a SIG
 - Reanimation a SIG

Process for Hibernating a SIG

- If there are no proposals submitted to the SIG for three consecutive SIG sessions, the SIG can be put to sleep.
- The SIG Chair/Co-Chairs will notify the community to put a SIG into hibernation at the following SIG session and the SIG community will have an option to select (P.13)

Options for SIG Hibernation

- a. Put the SIG into hibernation and continue to hold the session in a different
 - Regular sessions will continue to be organized under a non-SIG format with a dedicated ML
- b. No longer hold the SIG session and hibernate the SIG
 - This option could be considered only situation in “2.2 Dissolving a SIG” in the SIG Guideline document applies
 - Instead of dissolving the SIG completely, hibernation allows the SIG to be re-animated easily when necessary

Reanimating a SIG

- If a proposal is posted to the SIG to discuss and seek consensus from the community, the SIG will be re-animated, without any formal approval from the community, to facilitate the discussion
- The same criteria as today will apply to judge the relevance of the topic to the SIG
 - i.e. The topic must be consistent with the charter of the SIG
- The hibernating SIG Chair/Co-Chair will make the decision to accept or decline a proposal to the SIG

Reanimating a SIG (contd)

- If a proposal is accepted, the hibernating SIG Chair/Co-Chair will be responsible to re-activate the SIG to facilitate the discussions
- If the hibernating SIG Chair/Co-Chair position expired at the time of putting the SIG to sleep, Secretariat will follow the SIG guidelines to elect Chair/Co-Chair

How does this Affect NIR SIG

- If option a for SIG hibernation is supported for NIR SIG, more flexibility in the format of the session as described in P. 6
- Process of reanimating the SIG is clearly defined to ensure it can be put back as a SIG when having a proposal in the future

Next Steps

- Discussions at Policy SIG (Thu 8/29)
 - Seek for further inputs from Policy SIG participants
- Inform about the SIGs discussions at AMM (Fri 8/30)
- If the general support is confirmed at SIGs, APNIC secretariat will post SIG Guidelines Document with changes reflected, for editorial comments
- No ML discussions as this is guidelines document, not policy document, so not a policy proposal in the formal sense

If all goes smooth:
Try the new format from APNIC37 based on the revised SIG Guidelines Document !

Questions to participants

- Do you support the proposed changes to the SIG Guidelines Document?
- If not, what are the concerns you have?
- If yes, which option would you chose for NIR SIG?
 - a. Continue to hold regular session in a different format with a dedicated mailing list
 - b. No longer hold the session and just keep the mailing list

Questions?

