

Prop-107:  
**AS number transfer policy  
proposal**

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# Introduction

- This proposal is to allow transfer of AS numbers between organizations in the APNIC region, as well as with members of other RIRs, if a counterpart RIR has adopted an equivalent transfer policy for AS numbers.

# Current problem

- IPv4 transfer policy has been implemented since February 2010 in APIC region.
- On the other hand, there is no transfer policy for AS numbers, while some demands for transfers of AS numbers between AS number holders are have been observed through individual feedback to the proposal author.

# Needs for AS number transfer

- A few requests to transfer the AS number with IPv4 address at the same time.
  - Currently, AS numbers are not able transfer under the transfer policy and only under M&A.
- No policy for transfers of AS numbers between RIRs.
  - M&A policy allows transfers of AS number only within the same RIR region. However, there are expected to be some cases where organizations wish to transfer both IPv4 address and AS number at the same time to an LIR in other RIR region.
- AS number is also limited resource, and it is meaningful to promote efficient use with transfer policy.

# Proposed policy solution

- AS numbers may be transferred if recipient of the transfer will meet the criteria under the current APNIC policy for an assignment of AS numbers.
  - Current policy:
    - <http://www.apnic.net/policy/asn-policy/text>
- Inter-regional AS number transfers may take place only via RIRs who agree to the transfer and share reciprocal, compatible, needs-based policies.

# Situation in other regions 1/2

## Intra-region transfer policy:

- ARIN:

  - There is a AS number transfer policy in the ARIN region.

- No other RIRs implement AS number transfer policy.

# Situation in other regions 2/2

## Inter-RIR transfer policy:

- ARIN:
  - There was a Recommended Draft Policy ARIN-2013-1 which allows Inter-RIR ASN transfers, but it was abandoned by ARIN AC in June 2013. (see [https://www.arin.net/policy/proposals/2013\\_1.html](https://www.arin.net/policy/proposals/2013_1.html))
- ARIN AC said the reason in their statements;
  - "Based on the feedback received at the ARIN 31 Public Policy Meeting, and at the Public Policy Consultation at NANOG 58, the ARIN AC voted to abandon ARIN-2013-1 "Section 8.4 Inter-RIR Transfers of ASNs". The feedback from the community indicated that many people felt the policy was unnecessary as it would have no effect until/unless another RIR expresses interest in allowing Inter-RIR ASN transfers as well.

# Advantages/disadvantages of the proposal

- Advantages
  - Just like IPv4 addresses, AS numbers are finite resource. This proposal promotes efficient use of AS numbers by allowing transfers of AS numbers, which is no longer needed by the existing holders.
- Disadvantages
  - None



# Discussion on sig-policy ML 1/2

- AS number transfer status in ARIN
  - There have been 8 ASN transfers within the ARIN region since ARIN-2012-3 was implemented, July 31, 2012.

## SPECIFIED TRANSFERS

Below is a listing of IPv4 address blocks and Autonomous System Numbers (ASNs) transferred per the requirements of Section 8.3 Transfers to Specified Recipients of the Number Resource Policy Manual. This listing is updated monthly.

AUTONOMOUS SYSTEM NUMBERS - SPECIFIED TRANSFERS	
Autonomous System Number	Effective Date
AS3943	August 2012
AS62	September 2012
AS19996	December 2012
AS 4557	February 2013
AS4555	March 2013
AS12189	March 2013
AS22557	March 2013
AS393216	May 2013

<https://www.arin.net/knowledge/statistics/transfers.html>

# Discussion on sig-policy ML 2/2

Possible use cases:

- Organization wants a low numbered 2, 3, or 4 digit ASN and is willing to buy unused ASN from someone else.
  - This seems to be a unique pathology to the ARIN region. Other regions don't seem to have any difficulty with 4-byte ASNs.
    - In JP, there are some cases that up-stream transit providers do not accept 4-byte ASNs (this is not a technical problem, but service spec.)
- ASN has been loaned out to a project or customer, maybe for a long time, want/need to update registry info to reflect reality of the situation, M&A Transfer doesn't necessarily fit the reality of the situation.

# Summary

- I proposed AS number transfer policy:
  - AS numbers may be transferred if recipient of the transfer will meet the criteria under the current APNIC policy for an assignment of AS numbers.
  - Inter-regional AS number transfers may take place only via RIRs who agree to the transfer and share reciprocal, compatible, needs-based policies.