Minutes of the DBWG session sunday 16th June 2019

The agenda of the session was as follows:-

- RPKI IRR integration
- WHOIS new features and updates
- RDAP
- Database business rules / policy compliance
- Abuse contacts and IRT
- BCRYPT authentication and auto-protection of person and role objects
- Gather ideas of the community regarding improvements to current DB-related services
- Discuss choice of a community co-chair

The session started with introductory remarks about the role of the DBWG.
The first presentation was by done remotely by Amreesh

RPKI IRR Integration

DBWG Members requested staff to offer users the option to have ROAs auto-created for them.
They also suggested that we give people the option to auto-generate their BPKI certificate during new member setup. Avail the certificate in myafrinic for the member to download it.
It was pointed out that it's great to say we are doing auto-generation of keys, roas, etc, but we have failed if we have not provided a unified interface for members to manage their IRR and RPKI objects. This needs to be what we work towards. Everything else should be incidental.
They would like to have a single interface to manage route(6) objects
It was also suggested that In automation of route(6) creation at resource issuance, we should offer as few options to the end user as possible. The option to enter their origin aut-num for example. Then we would offer an option for advanced users to add other fields if necessary.

It was pointed out that there will be inaccurate data, over time as origin aut-nums could have changed or prefixes become bigger.
They expect AFRINIC to provide consistency reports on the status of the database. e.g percentage of route(6) objects not in BGP, This report could also include no reverse dns, no route objects, no roas, lame dns, inetnum overlaps, expiring ROAs, incorrect route objects, etc
AFRINIC could also publish the overall consistency report to the members as well.

They would also like staff to devote more time in keeping the data accurate as opposed to development of AFRINIC meeting apps.

Staff should communicate to the members about the fact the DBWG members have asked for push button ROAs and creation of route(6) objects and then share the plan to implement these in myafrinic and RPKI system.

It was mentioned that we should have loose coupling between IRR objects and ROAs. 1 ROA can have multiple route(6) objects

If the member has a big prefix and multiple /24s, we should only create a route object for the bigger prefix.

If a member has multiple AS numbers, they should be allowed to indicate which AS should be used as origin for the route(6) object

For ROAs with multiple prefixes, each of the prefixes in the ROA should have a corresponding route(6) object.

On how to deal with max-length ROAs, for auto generated ROAs, we have to implement loose coupling not minimal.

On how to deal with expiry dates for ROAs, it was suggested to allow for the maximum amount of time for the ROAs which is 10 years.

It was also suggested to provide the auto-renew checkbox during ROA creation for member to specify if they would like the ROA renewed automatically upon expiry.

On how and where to handle as-set,route-set,asn-import/export

It was mentioned that the important objects to have in the myafrinic IRR interface are as-set, ASN, route(6).

DBWG members proposed the inclusion of ASN 0 in ROA creation.

They also indicated that internet exchange providers would like to have this feature

Staff committed 1 month for implementation timeline.

DBWG members also expressed the need for RPKI APIs

WHOIS new features and updates

DBWG members stressed the need for staff to communicate incoming changes and enhancements to the database (WHOIS,myafrinic,IRR,RDAP). They want to know what is happening on the database.

Everytime we send out a maintenance downtime to the community we should communicate to the members what the fix or feature or enhancement is we are deploying.

DDOS for minority redirection

DBWG members suggested having a local mirror of the database of other RIRs and we redirect OOR queries there.

The other alternative suggested was to use DNS to port to the right WHOIS

As staff we need to do an assessment of both and let the members decide.

DBWG members asked the question of what we are doing about WHOIS availability during times of outages such as the data center shutdown in JNB.

The infrastructure team is looking into setting up multiple AA records pointing to machines in different locations.

RDAP

DBWG members asked if there has been a drive to make RDAP preferred to regular WHOIS?
The answer is No

Regarding rdap extensions, we could put it to members to decide which proposed extensions could be useful to implement in our RDAP.
But first we need to deliver on the already existing requests .

Database business rules / policy compliance

What should AFRINIC do about Inetnum Overlaps?

As staff, we have been asking members to fix them when they come for services.
DBWG Members expressed a clear desire for accuracy of the database as opposed to new features. This could be through the following:-
   ● Sending repeated notifications over time to members
   ● Sending email to the dbwg and members regarding this.

No reverse unless assigned (domain objects without any assignments)

The policy does not say what should be done to non-compliant members
DBWG members proposed to put more pressure on members to fix these issues. They would like to have a report of organisations that are non-compliant.
We advised member to send an RT request for this.

Unprotected RDNS objects
It was suggested that
       ● We reach out to members to fix these objects
       ● Bring this to the dbwg
       ● Have it in the consistency report
       ● Track some historical data over time
       ● We should not auto-generate maintainers for now

RDNS overlaps
       ● Do nothing

IRT & abuse contact

It was suggested that
   ● Members are probably doing this to avoid being spammed.
   ● Maybe create IRT object at member creation

- Wait for abuse policy under discussion

Member adoption of BCRYPT

It was suggested that
- Staff create a cheat sheet to help members to fix their objects
- Add these to the consistency dashboard for members

Unreferenced person/role
It was proposed that
- If some objects have been created and are older than 5 years should be deleted.

DBWG community co-chair

Frank Habicht was nominated to be the DBWG co-chair and seconded
It was suggested to take the choosing of the second co-chair to the dbwg list to decide.

Future DBWG sessions
Similar session to be organized at the next afrinic meeting

Action items for staff

- Work on a Myafrinic dashboard showing all inconsistencies for each member
- Provide an overall consistency report on the status of the database
- Provide a unified interface for members to manage their IRR objects and RPKI ROAs
- Communicate future WHOIS updates and deployments to the dbwg and members
- Include ASN 0 in ROA creation
- Automate the creation of route(6) after resource issuance.
- Give users the option to auto-generate their BPKI certificate and ROAs after resource issuance
- Create a cheat sheet for members still using MD5 and crypt to help them fix their objects
- Devote more time on keeping WHOIS data accurate
- Set up infrastructure to ensure WHOIS availability during data center outages