Resource Transfer Policy

Authors: Anthony Ubah & Taiwo Oyewande

Submission date: 21/09/2020

Version: 2.0

Amends: CPM 5.7

1. Summary of the problem being addressed by this proposal

The current policy fails to support a two-way Inter-RIR policy, there by hindering smooth business operation, development, and growth in the region. This proposal aims to establish an efficient and business-friendly mechanism to allow number resources to be transferred from/to other regions. This proposal outlines a model in which AFRINIC can freely transfer number resources to/from other regions, i.e. RIPE NCC, APNIC, ARIN and LACNIC. This includes both IPv4 addresses and AS numbers.

2. Summary of how this proposal addresses the problem

With the exhaustion of IPv4, several regions have adopted transfer policy to accommodate the shortage of resources. Number resources are allowed to transfer within the region itself, as well as with other regions.

Such practice is effective and necessary when we are facing a shortage of resources. This helps facilitate business operation while reducing prices.

Such Inter-RIR transfer, however, is not yet established in AFRINIC. This hinders business operation and development within the African region. The current proposal aims to establish an efficient and business-friendly mechanism to allow number resources to be transferred from/to other regions. Before moving to illustrate how this new mechanism works, let’s take a quick look at the situation of the current Consolidated Policy Manual:

In Consolidated Policy Manual updated in 22 Feb 2019, only “IPv4 resources transfer within the AFRINIC region” is mentioned.

Regarding resource transfer to other regions, only the following is mentioned:

5.5.1.1.3 If an LIR plans to exchange or transfer address space, it needs to contact AFRINIC so that the changes are properly registered.

The LIR remains responsible for all the allocations registered in the AFRINIC database until they have been transferred to another LIR or returned to AFRINIC. LIR's must ensure that all policies are applied.

The lack of a clear guideline of resources transfer is detrimental to the continent’s development. It makes business operation difficult and it also hinders new business from establishing in the region.

Also, as Inter RIR policy is enforced in other regions, it is important that AFRINIC keeps up with other RIRs to ensure smooth operation and coordination.

3. Proposal

CPM 5.7 will be modified by this proposal as follows:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Current** | **Updated Version (October 2020)** |
| 5.7  IPv4 Resources transfer within the AFRINIC RegionLike the other Regional Internet Registries, AFRINIC will soon exhaust its IPv4 pool. In order to meet the needs of late resource requestors, a transfer policy for IPv4 resources within the region is needed. The goal of this policy is to define conditions under which transfers must occur. The policy solves the issue of an African organization needing IPv4 number resources after the exhaustion of the AFRINIC IPv4 pool or when AFRINIC can no longer satisfy the needs of such an organization. | 5.7 IPv4 Resources resource transferLike the other Regional Internet Registries, AFRINIC will soon exhaust its IPv4 pool. In order to meet the needs of late resource requestors, a transfer policy for IPv4 resources within and outside the region is needed. The goal of this policy is to define conditions under which transfers must occur. The policy solves the issue of an African organization needing IPv4 number resources after the exhaustion of the AFRINIC IPv4 pool or when AFRINIC can no longer satisfy the needs of such an organization. .  |
| 5.7.1 Summary of the policyThis policy applies to an organization with justified need for IPv4 resources that cannot be satisfied by AFRINIC. | 5.7.1 Summary of the policyThis policy applies to any transfer request raised by a resource holder for resource transfer to and from the AFRINIC region. |
| 5.7.2 IPv4 resources to be transferred - must be from an existing AFRINIC member's account or from a Legacy Resource Holder in the AFRINIC service region. 5.7.3. Conditions on the source of the transfer5.7.3.1 The source must be the current rightful holder of the IPv4 address resources recognized by AFRINIC, and not be involved in any dispute as to the status of those resources. | 5.7.2 IPv4 resources to be transferred - must be from an existing AFRINIC or any RIR member's account or from a Legacy Resource Holder.5.7.3. Conditions on the source of the transfer**5.7.3.1** The source must be the current and rightful holder of the IPv4 address resources registered with any RIR , and shall not be involved in any disputes as to those resources' status. |
| 5.7.3.2 Source entities will not be eligible to receive any further IPv4 address allocations or assignments from AFRINIC for a period of 12 months after a transfer approval. | 5.7.3.2  Source entities are not eligible to receive any further IPv4 allocations or assignments from AFRINIC for a period of twelve (12) months after a transfer is approved. Transferred resource cannot be transferred again for a period of twelve(12) months. |
| 5.7.3.3 Source entities must not have received a transfer, allocation, or assignment of IPv4 number resources from AFRINIC for the 12 months prior to the approval of transfer request. This restriction excludes mergers and acquisitions transfers. | 5.7.3.3 There is no upper limit regarding the amount of transfer, allocation and assignment of IPv4 number resources a source entity can receive as long as the transfer request is carried out under a mutual agreement between the sender and the recipient. |
| 5.7.4. Conditions on the recipient of the transfer5.7.4.1 AFRINIC must approve the recipient's need for the IPv4 number resources. In order for an organization to qualify for receiving a transfer, it must first go through the process of justifying its IPv4 resource needs before AFRINIC. That is to say, the organization must justify and demonstrate before AFRINIC its initial/additional allocation/assignment usage, as applicable, according to the policies in force. | 5.7.4. Conditions on the recipient of the transfer**5.7.4.1** A transfer from another RIR to AFRINIC requires a need-based evaluation. AFRINIC must approve the recipient's need for the IPv4 number resources. In order for an organization to qualify for receiving a transfer, it must first go through the process of justifying its IPv4 resource needs before AFRINIC. That is to say, the organization must justify and demonstrate before AFRINIC its initial/additional allocation/assignment usage, as applicable, according to the policies in force. A transfer from AFRINIC to another RIR must follow the relevant policies. |
| 5.7.4.2 The recipient must be an AFRINIC member, subject to current AFRINIC policies and must sign the Registration Services Agreement for resources being received. | 5.7.4.2  The recipient must be an AFRINIC or any RIR member, legacy holders in any region |
| 5.7.4.3 Transferred IPv4 legacy resources will no longer be regarded as legacy resources. | 5.7.4.3 Transferred legacy resources will still be regarded as legacy resources. |

4. References

Inter RIR-policies are adopted in RIPE, APNIC, LACNIC and ARIN. The record of these regions shows that Inter RIR facilitates smooth coordination and operation between RIRs.

The current proposal’s model is based on RIPE’s Inter RIR policy at:

<https://www.ripe.net/manage-ips-and-asns/resource-transfers-and-mergers/inter-rir-transfers>

5. Revision History

Date: 30 Oct 2019

Submitted for discussion: Version 1: AFPUB-2019-V4-003-DRAFT01

Date: 3 October, 2020

Section 5.7.3.1, 5.7.3.2, 5.7.4.1 and 5.7.5 have been updated.

Version 3: AFPUB-2019-V4-003-DRAFT04