

Quarantined IP Resources Cleanup Procedure

Internal process for sanitising and re-releasing reclaimed IP number resources

Overview

IP resources that are de-registered from the AFRINIC WHOIS database are placed in quarantine. The Quarantine Pool is distinct from the available pool, and the status of these resources in the delegated-extended stats file is “Reserved”.

Since these resources were previously in use, AFRINIC needs to ensure they are “clean”, using a best-effort mechanism. AFRINIC has put in place a daily prefix sanity report that also monitors the health of its available pool.

Term	Definition
Quarantine Period (QP)	Currently tentatively set at 12 months, but may run longer than 12 months (never shorter).
Quarantine End Date (QED)	QED = Reclamation Date + QP

Step 1 — Clean-up Preparation

- Begin within a reasonable timeframe of the resource's reclamation date.
- Run the prefix sanity report to check for the resource's presence in routing tables, routing registries, and DNS/spam blocklists.

Step 2 — Cleaning Hijacked Resources

Use of an unregistered resource is considered a hijack.

Conduct comprehensive visibility checks for IP resources in global routing tables and Internet Registry databases. If hijacking or active advertisements are detected, systematically engage with the originating providers and transit ASNs to cease unauthorised use — maintaining persistence until the resources are confirmed as no longer visible or registered in any routing registry.

Step 3 — Compile the Clean Resource List

Compile the list of clean resources to be made available.

Step 4 — Release to the Available Pool

- Move quarantined resources from “Reserved” to “Available”.
- Review the prefix sanity report beforehand to confirm no recent changes in global routing have occurred.

Step 5 — Inform Members and the Community

Notify AFRINIC members and the broader community once resources are released. Example notification:
lists.afrinic.net/pipermail/announce/2019/002118.html