

Publication of Information

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Summary of the problem

- Recent discussions in the RPD and unprecedented situations in AFRINIC, demonstrated that some of the information provided for the justification of the requests for resources could be used maliciously and not discovered at a first sight when those resources are allocated/assigned.
- This is especially harmful for the community and the AFRINIC region in general, when resources are being exhausted as it is the case now for IPv4 and must be avoided.
- At the same time, it is understandable that the justification of a request for resources can be confidential as it can provide insights of a business plan to competitors. However, it is also obvious that in the Internet business, time passes very quickly and the need for confidentiality is vanished very quickly. It is difficult to believe, for example, that you request for resources for the next 5 years and only in year 5 your business will be public.
- In summary, the problem is that long-term confidentiality of a resource request justification is against the principles of openness, transparency and fairness.

Addressing the problem

- This simple proposal looks for the publication of information about resource request justifications after a community agreed period of time, unless there is a valid demonstration of the need to extend the confidentiality period.
- Note that the information to be published is not the already existing resource registration in whois as per the actual CPM. This proposal looks for publication of the overall resource request justification (justification of the need), which allows to understand if the justified need is sustained at the publication time or not.

Proposed Text

13.0 Publication of Information

Following the principles of openness, transparency and fairness and considering that we are dealing with community resources which aren't a property, after 2 years of every accepted resource request, a short summary of the justification of that request must be published.

The decision of how to publish the information (e.g. link into whois, new web page, etc.), is left to the discretion of AFRINIC.

The resource member will be warned 3 months before the publication with a draft of the summary to be published. In case there are reasons (such as patents or similar ones), that avoid the publication of that summary, and demonstrate the uniqueness nature of the services offered which, if disclosed, could damage the resource member business, it will have up to 1 month, to provide an alternative text to be published or request an extension of 1 year on that publication.

AFRINIC will have 1 month to accept the justification and, in doubt, escalate to the Board that must resolve in a maximum of 1 month after hearing the resource holder.

This policy shall be implemented in such way that all the resources allocated/assigned for over 2 years, will be chronologically warned, allowing the staff to process the possible responses of "non-disclosure" without requiring extra human resources.

IA Inputs

- The proposal as written exposes AFRINIC to a potential breach of section 4d of the Registration Services Agreement ...
 - There is no impact in Data Protection because you don't publish the received data, but a summary and it is accepted by the resource holder.
- Workload
 - The proposal is clear that you will phase the implementation according to your resource availability.