

RIPE



Purposes of the RIPE Database in the 2020s and Beyond



Reason For Asking

- Building on the work by the RIPE Database Task Force (DBTF)
- Need to identify existing, possibly undocumented and potential purposes
- Need input from **ALL** stakeholder groups:
 - Those who enter & maintain data
 - Those who use the data for many different reasons
- At DBTF BoF in May, many references to new/changed purposes, stakeholders, requirements, environment, conflicts
- Not all reflected in final document
- Let's take a step back and review



Historical Purposes

- Providing authoritative and accurate registration of Internet number resources
- Provisioning of the Reverse Domain Name System (rDNS)
- Publishing routing policies by network operators (RIPE IRR)
- Facilitating Internet operations and coordination
- Enabling scientific research into network operations and topology"
- Defined in the 1990s
- Chosen by the DBTF as still current purposes



Terms & Conditions Purposes

- › Ensuring the uniqueness of Internet number resource usage through registration of information related to the resources and Registrants
- › Publishing routing policies by network operators (IRR)
- › Facilitating coordination between network operators
- › Provisioning of Reverse Domain Name System (DNS) and ENUM delegations
- › Scientific research into network operations and topology
- › Providing information about the Registrant and Maintainer of Internet number resources when the resources are suspected of being used for unlawful activities, to parties who are authorised under the law to receive such information
- › Providing information to parties involved in disputes over Internet number resource registrations to parties who are authorised under the law to receive such information



Terms & Conditions Purposes

- Derived from work of the Data Protection Task Force
- Finalised in 2011
- Consent given by community

Community Suggested Purposes

- IPAM (54% of respondents to DBTF survey use DB for this)
- LEA/public access to data that doesn't compromise privacy
- Facilitate reporting of abuse incidents
- External services that use, require or rely on data in the RIPE Database.
 - Eg Geolocation, CSIRT/IRT, RIPE Atlas contacts, ENUM
- Public Registry of users of blocks of IP addresses
 - Independent investigators and abuse handlers need access to data, that doesn't prejudice privacy, without having the resources of LEAs to get court orders across national jurisdictions and language barriers
- What else do you use the DB for?



Which set of DB Purposes?

- We have 3 sets of past, current and suggested purposes
- Last community consensus was in 2011
- Defining the purposes in the 2020s is an **ABSOLUTE PRIORITY**
- Cannot move forward on many DB issues without community consensus on purposes
- **ABSOLUTELY VITAL** that we get community input and discussion on the current purposes
- Input needed from **as many diverse stakeholders as possible** to get balanced view



Conflicts

- DBTF acknowledged conflicts between different stakeholder groups
- Conflicts exist because of undocumented purposes of DB assumed necessary by some, not recognised by others
- So many policy discussions include the arguments:
 - "It's not the purpose of the RIPE DB to do 'ABC'"
 - "It's not the function of the RIPE NCC to do 'XYZ'"
- Without serious discussion now and a new consensus on the purposes of the DB, these arguments and conflicts around the DB will never go away

DBTF Recommendations

- Decisions on some recommendations need consensus on:
 - Purposes first
 - Identifying stakeholders and their needs second
- Everything else follows from these two steps



RIPE Database Policy?

- RIPE Database doesn't need to be tied to Address Policy on 1:1 basis
- Do we now need a separate RIPE Database Policy?
- Such a policy could:
 - Define acknowledged purposes
 - List acknowledged stakeholders with principle needs
 - Align with Address Policy where necessary
 - Maybe go further than Address Policy to define needs of a Public Registry
 - Identify where personal data is really needed
 - Include a statement on historical data
 - Identify what parts of the data can be in UTF8
 - Clearly identify responsible parties for different parts of data
- What else?



Conclusion

- We don't have a clear understanding of what we want the RIPE Database to do and who for in the 2020s and beyond
- Is a use a purpose?
 - Yes, if the community agrees and no legal objections
- Do we have primary/secondary purposes/stakeholders?
 - How do these fit together smoothly?
- DBTF acknowledged the RIPE Database is a community resource
 - The community now needs to clearly define it's purposes



- Last couple of years it's been hard to get discussion on some DB issues
- Some very important & difficult issues to address now...we **REALLY** need your input
- We need to hear as many voices as possible
- Questions will be taken live during the DB-WG session at RIPE 83
- Wednesday morning 24 November 2021

Questions?

