

AFIX Decision-Makers Workshop: Overview

This document gives a brief overview of the content and timing of all the sessions during the half-day AFIX Decision-makers' Workshop.

The workshop is aimed at business managers from existing or would-be ISPs, officials from regulatory agencies, officials responsible for communications policy and any others who want to develop and extend their understanding of Internet Exchange Points (IXPs).

Session 1: Introduction

8:30-9:30

This session provides a brief look at the history and current status of the Internet and its architecture, and introduces (or refreshes) some key concepts, as well as giving background information on the impacts and potential of IXPs.

Content outline

- High-level Internet architecture
- Relevant Internet history
- Peering vs transit
- Rationale for an exchange point (IXP)
- Benefits of IXPs

Objectives

After the session, participants should:

- Understand the current underlying structure of the Internet and the technical, social, political and economic forces that have shaped it.
 - Understand the role that IXPs play in the Internet.
 - Understand how IXPs can create opportunities for new revenue streams
 - Understand how IXPs provide a platform for new types of services, applications and relationships within the sector.
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Session 2: Case Studies

9:30-10:45

This session reviews case studies of IXP implementations in three different countries: Mozambique, Kenya and South Africa.

Session 3: Snap Survey

11:00-11:15

During this very short session participants are asked to complete a short questionnaire, the results of which will be discussed during the final session.

Session 4: IXP Economics

11:15-12:00

This session explores the cost-savings dynamics associated with participation in an IXP by an ISP, including the dynamics for the overall ISP market.

Content Outline

- What operating costs can change and why, when ISPs have the option to participate in an IXP.
- How interrelationships among ISPs in a market can affect cost.

- How different sizes of ISPs and levels of participation in and IXP affect cost for individual ISPs.
- Using a modelling tool (provided in the session) to compare and test different scenarios for ISP participation in an IXP, and what cost-savings implications result.

Objectives

After the session, participants should:

- Understand what factors drive cost and savings for an ISP participating in an IXP.
- How other ISPs in a market are likely to be affected by the creation of an IXP.
- How to use a modelling tool to test various scenarios pertaining to the establishment of an IXP and understand the likely cost-savings implications.

Session 5: Conclusion and Discussion

12:00-13:00

Presentation of the survey results and discussion of the way forward.
