

AFIX Technical Workshop: Session 8 Trainer's Notes

Policies for Peering and Internet Exchanges

This session will explore the most common issues around peering from an ISP policy point of view, and review some general conditions of and criteria for peering. During the session participants will study three real-world examples of different bilateral and multilateral peering arrangements.

Timing

Two hours.

Prerequisite skills/knowledge

Attendance at the previous sessions.

Resources included

- Powerpoint presentation.
- Three IXP policy documents for the exercise – JINX, Moz-IX and KIXP. Print enough of each of these for a third of the class.
- There is no additional class handout for this session.

Content outline

- Peering criteria and arrangements
- Classification of IXPs
- IXP policies
- Acceptable use policies
- Exercise

Objectives

Participants should understand the reasons for adopting different types of IXP, and their consequences.

During the discussion of real-world examples participants should develop a rough draft of an appropriate policy for their own local context.

Comments: How to run the exercise

The discussion of the three policy examples is an important part of the session, and enough time should be set aside for it. The following timing is suggested:

- Presentation: 45 mins
- Exercise: 30 mins in small groups
Class discussion: 45 mins (allow each group 10 mins to report back and reserve 15 mins for class discussion).

At the start of the exercise, divide the class into three groups and hand out one set of case documents to each. The documents contain the following instructions:

Exercise Instructions

- The class should divide into three groups.
- Before you start the exercise, nominate a spokesperson for your group when the class reconvenes.
- Now read through the IXP policy document below. As a group, discuss the following questions (make sure your spokesperson takes notes for reporting back to the class):
 1. How has this IXP resolved the following issues covered during the presentation:
 - Location
 - Ownership and form
 - Governance
 - Additional services
 - Pricing
 - Interconnection policy
 - Acceptable use
 2. What elements of this policy, if any, would be appropriate for your local conditions?
 3. What would be the most appropriate policy or set of policies for your local conditions?
- Be prepared to report your conclusions back to the class and take part in further discussion.
- You have a maximum of half an hour to complete this exercise.

A summary of the issues to discuss is on the final slide of the presentation and can be left up during the exercises.

Each group will read and discuss its case, then present it to the rest of the class for discussion.

The discussion of the cases should be carefully guided to ensure that participants don't spend too much time on peripheral issues. You may wish to use the following outline for discussion:

- What are the most striking differences in policy between the three cases? What reasons might exist for these differences?
- What elements of these policies should NOT be included in a local policy? Why not?
- What elements of these policies would be essential to include in a local policy? Why?
- Are there any special local conditions that aren't covered in any of the policies under review? How could a local policy take these into account?