RIPE Taskforce on Enhanced Cooperation

Progress report at RIPE 56

Malcolm Hutty
malcolm@linx.net

Background

- Increased interest from governments (etc) in Internet institutions, including RIRs
- Our desire to demonstrate resilience and good governance processes, legitimacy of bottom-up model
- Continuing cooperation from RIPE NCC
- Need for demonstrable community support for RIPE NCC's position in Internet governance debates

Taskforce mandate

- Limited role: to write a report
  - No mandate to *conduct* relations with govts
  - No authority to *take decisions* or instruct NCC
- Report is formally to plenary…
- …but actually has wide appeal
  - Opportunity to act as a valuable communications tool

Slow start

- Taskforce
  - Authorised RIPE 54
  - Members volunteered RIPE 55
- Work outside the usual run of RIPE community business
- Bootstrapping issues
  - First, need to generate interest in involvement
  - Balance need for project leadership with transparency, bottom-up lead

Gathering pace

- Open or limited Taskforce membership?
  - Chose: Open Taskforce (transparency) supported by limited drafting group (efficiency)
- Outline draft December 2007
- Drafting Group discussions and RIPE NCC support Jan-April 2008
- First public draft issued May 2008
- Full Taskforce meeting RIPE 56

Core argument

- Internet community need drives functional requirements
- Policies and processes exist to meet the requirement
- Systems and institutions exist to implement, support and enforce policies and processes

Sidebar: About this argument

- *Inherently* bottom-up model
  - Need ➔ Function ➔ Form
- *Opposite* of top-down model
  - Institution ➔ Powers ➔ Assess need for action

- What's good
  - Our core argument justifies our model by explaining our role from simple first principles
  - We had a strong consensus of support for this approach

Enhancing cooperation

- Explain changing background…
  - Criticality creates demands for proof of resilience
  - Social value leads to demands for provably good governance models
- … and what we're doing about it
  - RIPE NCC/governmental bilaterals
  - Roundtable events
  - IGF, OECD participation
  - Etc.

Sidebar: About this section

- Much of the specifics are known best to the RIPE NCC, who discharge these functions, rather than to the RIPE community itself

- What's not so good
  - More qualitative assessment needed
  - Recommendations on activities incomplete
  - Working Group proposal is malformed

Key recommendations

- Report should
  - be used both to explain, and to demonstrate our good governance in action
  - become a RIPE document
    - Needs maintainer
- A forum is needed to link community review to these co-operation activities
- ➢ A Working Group could do both

Working Group

- We will recommend a Working Group soon…
- …but not until we have a title, charter and a finished report
- Strong value in statement

  "The RIPE community accepted the report and followed its recommendation to establish a working group"

Next steps

- Expect final report well before RIPE 57
- Expect fully formed recommendation for a new WG as early business at next plenary
- Please schedule time for WG at RIPE 57 in anticipation, to avoid delay