



## Press Backgrounder: India National Internet Registry

As the Regional Internet Registry (RIR) for the Asia Pacific, APNIC is responsible for the allocation and management of Internet resources, including IPv4 and IPv6 addresses, throughout the region. The APNIC service region includes India, and APNIC provides services directly to over 200 Internet Services Providers in this country. So far, some 20 million IPv4 addresses have been allocated by APNIC in India.

In some cases, APNIC provides services through approved National Internet Registry (NIR) organizations that are able to offer services to organizations within their country or economy, effectively as an agent of APNIC. Like APNIC, NIRs may provide other services in support of Internet development in their communities.

The National Internet Exchange of India (NIXI) has applied to the Asia Pacific Network Information Centre (APNIC) for recognition as the National Internet Registry (NIR) for India. If approved, NIXI would provide IP address allocation and related services in India, in accordance with APNIC regional and global policies. Internet Service Providers in India would be able to choose either NIXI, or APNIC, as their preferred registry to obtain IP addresses.

### How do NIRs Operate?

At the global level, the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) allocates resources to RIRs, which in turn allocate them directly to ISPs and other address users. As custodian of these resources, APNIC must ensure they are allocated responsibly and fairly according to address management policies decided by the entire Asia Pacific Internet community.

Where NIRs exist, they may provide services to their own members or customers by receiving and processing allocation requests, in accordance with regional address management policies. NIRs do not receive their own allocations or reservations of Internet number resources. To maximize the aggregation of address space within the Internet's routing system, APNIC makes all address space allocations from a central pool, on request from the NIR.

Internet resources are distributed according to the "demonstrated need" of the requestor. Both NIR Members and APNIC Members must illustrate in detail how they will use their allocation and how they have used any previous allocations.

NIR Members are held to the same level of accountability as direct APNIC Members and the NIR must adopt the same resource allocation policies as those agreed by the wider APNIC community. If an NIR implements local policies, these must not conflict in any way with regional or global policies.

### Asia Pacific Network Information Centre



Importantly, APNIC does not own, or sell, the IPv4/IPv6 address blocks and AS numbers the NIR would manage. There is no pricing (wholesale or retail) involved in address allocation globally. The not-for-profit RIRs and NIRs charge administration fees to recover the cost of service provision, to manage registry functions, and to provide additional services such as training.

To assist applicants, the APNIC Helpdesk is available in eight languages (including Hindi) and all APNIC procedures and policies are well documented in simple language on the APNIC website.

## **NIR Approval**

Establishing an NIR has wide-reaching implications on the local, regional, and global Internet communities. NIRs, therefore, must operate in a way that is consistent with regional and global resource management policies. It is also essential that NIRs remain neutral, open, and transparent in all their operations and do not show preference or act to the exclusive benefit of any individual or group.

Recognition of a new NIR is the responsibility of the APNIC Executive Council (EC) as representatives of the APNIC Membership, in accordance with its responsibilities for the organization, and with the criteria set out in the [Criteria for the recognition of NIRs in the APNIC region](#).

The criteria contained in the policy include requirements that the application has community support (section 2.2) and national endorsement (section 3.1). The prospective NIR must present evidence it has met these criteria or risk delays in the application process.

## **Call for Comments**

The APNIC EC has issued a Call for Comments to determine the level of community support for the NIXI application. The APNIC EC will consider community input from all stakeholders before making a final decision.

Confidential comments may be:

- Emailed to the Executive Secretary of the EC at [exec-sec@apnic.net](mailto:exec-sec@apnic.net)
- Submitted via the web form at [http://www.apnic.net/NIR\\_Comments](http://www.apnic.net/NIR_Comments)

The [APNIC-talk mailing list](#) is available for public comments and discussion of the application.

A copy of the NIXI submission and more information is available on the [NIR page of the APNIC website](#).

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