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Managing the RIPE Database

Is it time for a change?

- Lots of frustration in recent years over (lack of) community involvement in database management

- Is the real problem our expectation from the community?

RIPE NCC services

- The RIPE NCC manages many services for the membership, resource holders and wider community

- RIPEstat, LIR portal, RPKI, Web interfaces, SSO, ...

- None of these *DEMAND* high levels of community involvement over the fine detail of every small technical change

- So why should we demand/expect this for the RIPE Database?

- RIPE database was one of the foundations of the RIPE NCC

- It's still a unique service, but it has matured

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Time management

- Everyone is busy these days, lots of demands on your time

- In a business sense, people will only invest time in things that give them a return

- What is your return on a small technical or operational change to the RIPE DB?

- You may see a comment and think 'that could be useful'…

- IF ONLY SOMEONE ELSE WOULD SORT IT OUT!!

- To expect you to get heavily involved in discussions on analysis/design/implementation details is unrealistic

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What is important to you?

- Lets create two categories of changes to the Database:

  ▪ Changes involving registry and policy issues

  ▪ Changes of a technical or operational nature

- These two categories can be managed in different ways

- Over time we can fine tune what change fits which category

Registry and Policy changes

- These are often critical changes

- They need wide discussion and consensus

- They may need the full PDP

- Examples - Privacy, Legal addresses, Changing the database purposes

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Technical and Operational changes

- Even with NWIs we still require community discussion and consensus

- Community often indifferent on detail and/or outcome

- No discussion or comment – no consensus - no change

- Even though no one has any objections

- Database technically frozen in time

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Technical and Operational changes (contd)

- The chairs propose a new way to manage these changes

- Announce each issue/problem as we do now with NWIs

- Anyone in the community can comment or not as you wish

- Allow the RIPE NCC to propose solutions and implementations

- Give the RIPE NCC a mandate to make these changes, overseen by the chairs

- Examples - assigning an allocation, historical queries beyond deletion, NRTMv4

Effect of this change

- If community comments and discusses the issue, this is taken into account for decision

- If community is indifferent on detail/outcome, the chairs instruct the NCC to get on with it

- Everything done openly and transparently

- Community can (re)start discussion at any time and change decisions

- Changes are rarely irreversible

- Database evolves and improves as a service

- Community is still in control

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RIPE Database policy

- Many issues involving/surrounding database that could be considered as policy, outside of existing policy (eg Address Policy)

- Chairs propose creating a basic RIPE Database Policy using the PDP

- Policy to be developed/extended over time

- Eg RIPE Database purposes

  ▪ Terms & Conditions (OF USE) is not the right place to define it's purposes

  ▪ Put there in 2010 as a convenience

- Eg This process for managing change

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What next?

- This presentation is the bare bones of an idea

- If we move on with it we can expand on the detail

- The goals are:

  - To keep the RIPE Database moving forward as the industry and society changes and keep up with those changes

  - Improve it over time as a product and a service

  - Avoid any technical freeze due to indifference

  - Make changes efficiently and conclusively

Discuss...

Questions?