The Number Registry System

RIPE, the RIPE NCC and Global Internet Governance

Chris Buckridge | 19 April 2017 | RIPE NCC Roundtable Meeting

RIPE NCC

- A not-for-profit membership association under Dutch law

- Founded in 1992

- Serves as Regional Internet Registry for 76 countries

- Around 140 staff based in Amsterdam, Dubai, Moscow

Image credit: TUBS, via Wikimedia Commons

RIPE Community

- Open, bottom-up, inclusive, transparent

- The community is responsible for making policy

  - Also sharing information, best practices

- RIPE structures:

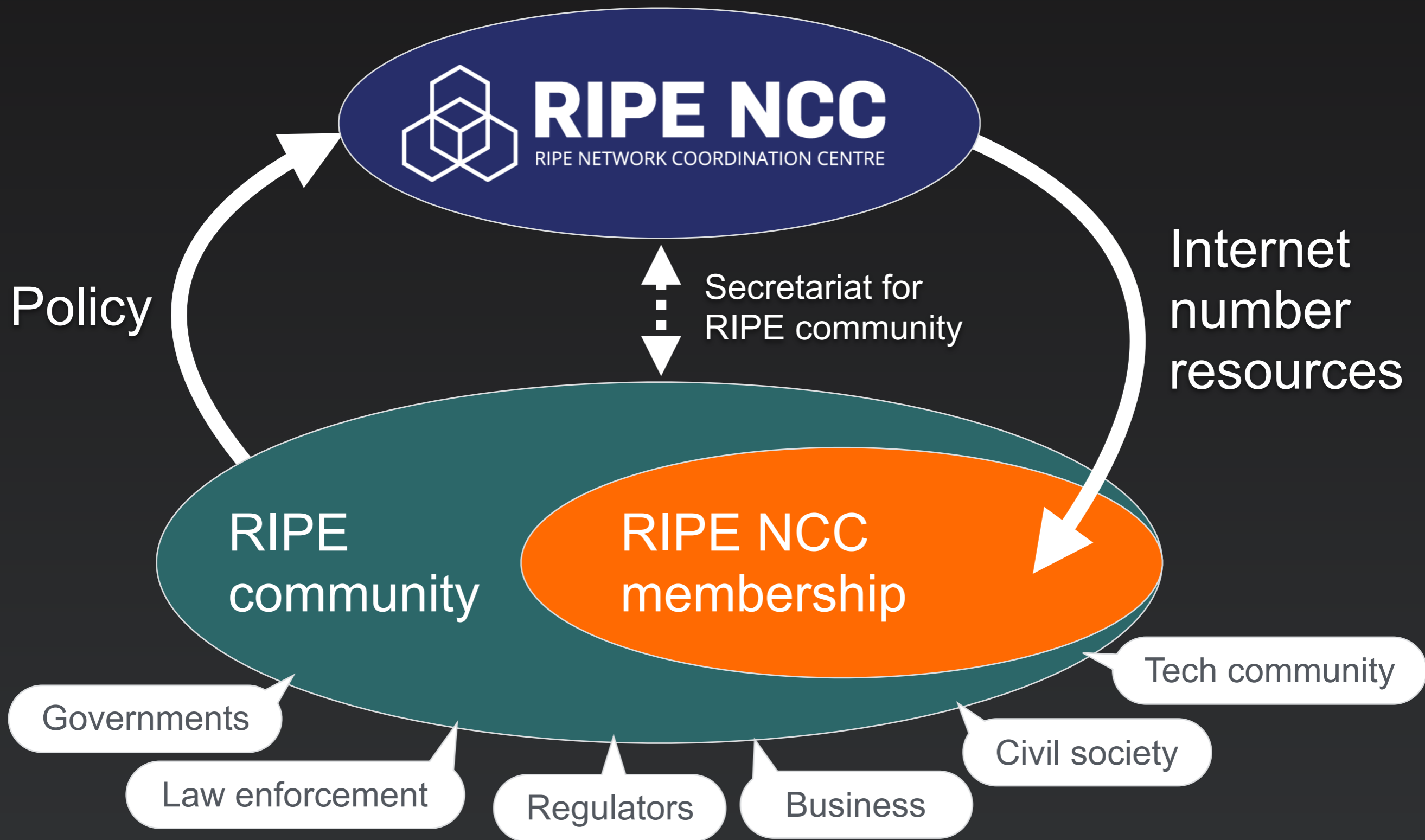 - Working groups

  - Mailing lists

  - RIPE Meetings

Global Internet Administration

- RIPE develops specific policies for distribution of Internet number resources

- Part of a broader administration and standardisation ecosystem that includes:

  - Four other RIR communities
  - IETF
  - ICANN
  - W3C
  - 3GPP
  - ITU
  - Many others…

The RIR Ecosystem

Governments and RIPE Policy

- **Government policy**

  - National regulation can affect the RIPE NCC and our members

  - Exchanging information can lead to better public policy

- **RIPE policy**

  - Governments and regulators are part of the RIPE community

    ➡ And have their own interests in RIPE policy development

Challenges for Government

- Different ways of working can prevent open participation

- Few government staff have background in RIPE

- How to address this:

    - RIPE Cooperation Working Group

    - RIPE NCC outreach to governments, law enforcement, regulators

    - Capacity building about RIPE and the Policy Development Process

The RIPE Community View

From the RIPE NCC Survey 2016:

On Internet governance:

- The RIPE NCC should be a neutral, trusted advisor for governments rather than a lobbying party

- The RIPE NCC should be giving governments insight on the technical environment of the Internet community and explaining related technical issues

- Education is an important function of the RIPE NCC in this area

https://www.ripe.net/participate/member-support/surveys/ripe-ncc-survey-2016

IANA Stewardship Transition

> "The Internet's largest single, global, multistakeholder policy development project"

Nurani Nimpuno, May 2016

- IANA = Internet Assigned Numbers Authority

  - Global pool of Internet number resources (and other top level registries, including the DNS root zone)

  - Managed under contract to U.S. government agency since the early days of the Internet

  - In 2014, U.S. government announced intention to pass stewardship to the global community

IANA Stewardship Transition

- Transition completed on 1 October 2016

- As a result:

  - Five RIRs have a Service Level Agreement (SLA) in place with ICANN, who is responsible for operation of the IANA functions

  - RIR operations have not been affected

  - The RIRs and their communities are now ultimately responsible for the IANA number-related functions

- With greater power comes a greater focus on accountability

What is Accountability?

- Responsibility

  - Who is making the rules?

  - Who is enforcing the rules?

- Transparency

  - Are the rules clear?

  - Are all stakeholders rights and responsibilities clear?

- Processes

  - What are the processes for making/enforcing the rules?

  - Are these processes being followed?

RIPE NCC Accountability

- RIPE NCC is accountable to:

  - RIPE NCC membership

  - RIPE community

  - Other Internet stakeholders

- We believe that our accountability is solid

  - All processes clearly documented and explained

  - Regular reporting to stakeholders

  - A high priority since 2010

    https://www.ripe.net/about-us/legal/corporate-governance-documents

RIPE Accountability

- Focus shifting from legal entities (RIPE NCC) to communities (RIPE)

- RIPE Accountability Task Force established in October 2016 to consider:

  - Scope of RIPE

  - Origins of authority to make policies

  - Participants

  - Decision making process

  - Implementation/enforcement

  https://www.ripe.net/participate/ripe/tf/ripe-accountability-task-force

RIPE NCC Focus Points for 2017 *

- Maintain a strong, secure and accurate registry

- Play an active role in enhancing RIR stability through good governance and accountability

- Increase efficiency and cost-saving through automation and streamlining of processes

- Increased engagement with members, the RIPE community, governments and regulators

*   *RIPE NCC Activity Plan and Budget*
https://www.ripe.net/publications/docs/ripe-671

Current Agreements

Reciprocal Agreements (MoU or LoU)
NRO (Number Resource Organisation)
ICANN ASO (Address Supporting Organization)
APNIC
EuroDIG
CEPT Com-ITU
Euro-IX
Europol
Russian Ministry of Telecom and Mass Communications

Service Level Agreements
IANA (Internet Assigned Numbers Authority)

Membership Agreements
AIOTI (Alliance for Internet of Things Innovation)
ITU-T (ITU Telecommunication Standardisation Sector)
ITU-D (ITU Telecommunication Development Sector)
Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC)

Goals

- Establish more durable institutional relationships

- Develop and identify cooperative activities for the benefit of our community, membership and the organisation

- Provide clarity on the nature of RIPE NCC's institutional relationships for our members and community

- More information:

  https://www.ripe.net/about-us/what-we-do/engagement-external-organisations

Thank you

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