



Draft Policy ARIN-2024-7: Addition of Definitions for General and Special Purpose IP Addresses

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Problem Statement

Current Text (13 December 2024)

The Number Resource Policy Manual (NRPM) often treats general purpose and special purpose IP addresses differently. Unfortunately, we don't have a convenient to use term to describe these categories, so policy often becomes either excessively wordy or does not correctly capture the intent. Examples of this can be found in section 4.1.8 of the NRPM, and in (currently pending) Draft Policies ARIN-2023-8 (where the fact that 4.4 and 4.10 space isn't counted against an organization is repeated numerous times) and ARIN-2022-12 (where the text does not exclude 4.4 and 4.10 allocations from being counted against an organization, but it is the intent that those allocations should be ignored). Additionally, temporary allocations under section 11 are rarely carved out, even when 4.4 and 4.10 are, even though it is likely the policy's intent that these too should be ignored.

Policy Statement

Policy Statement:

Add the following definition to Section 2

2.18 Reserved IPv4 and IPv6 Addresses

Addresses that are reserved by ARIN for specific purposes including, but not limited to; maintaining critical infrastructure, facilitating IPv6 deployment, or temporary experimental purposes as approved by ARIN.

Timetable for Implementation: Immediate.



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| Action | Date |
|--------------|------------------|
| Proposal | 19 April 2024 |
| Draft Policy | 25 June 2024 |
| Revised | 13 December 2024 |



History



Community Feedback

"Adding that definition alone, without anything referencing it, seems pretty pointless to me. Getting active consensus for a definition (by anything other than apathetic acceptance) seems difficult without any context for how the definition will be used."

IMO anyone with a use for a new definition should propose their new policy text, along with the supporting definition, as a new proposal, and we should abandon this one."

One community member expressed additional support for this suggestion.

Another community member states:

"wordsmithing appears not to solve any current or potential issues, but it also would create some complications."

Points to Consider

Current feedback on this policy has trended towards abandonment and re-submitting with actual textual updates where the new definition would be used.

If the policy were to be passed as written, additional policies would be necessary to change the text of the NRPM to reflect the definition.



Policy Impact

Impact from this policy would include follow-up policies where language to the NRPM would need to be updated to reflect the new definition of IP addresses allocated for a specific purpose.

Such follow up policies could require quite lengthy updates to text in the NRPM and would necessitate careful consideration of how each of those changes would impact the practical application of each section of the NRPM. Implementing such changes could become a complicated and time-consuming processes.

Questions for the Community



Is this a policy that the community feels the AC should continue to devote their time and energy to shepherding?