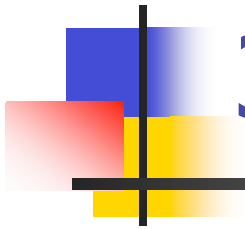
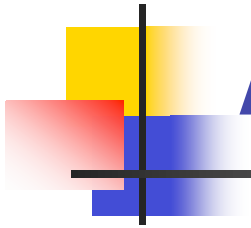


32-bit ASNs

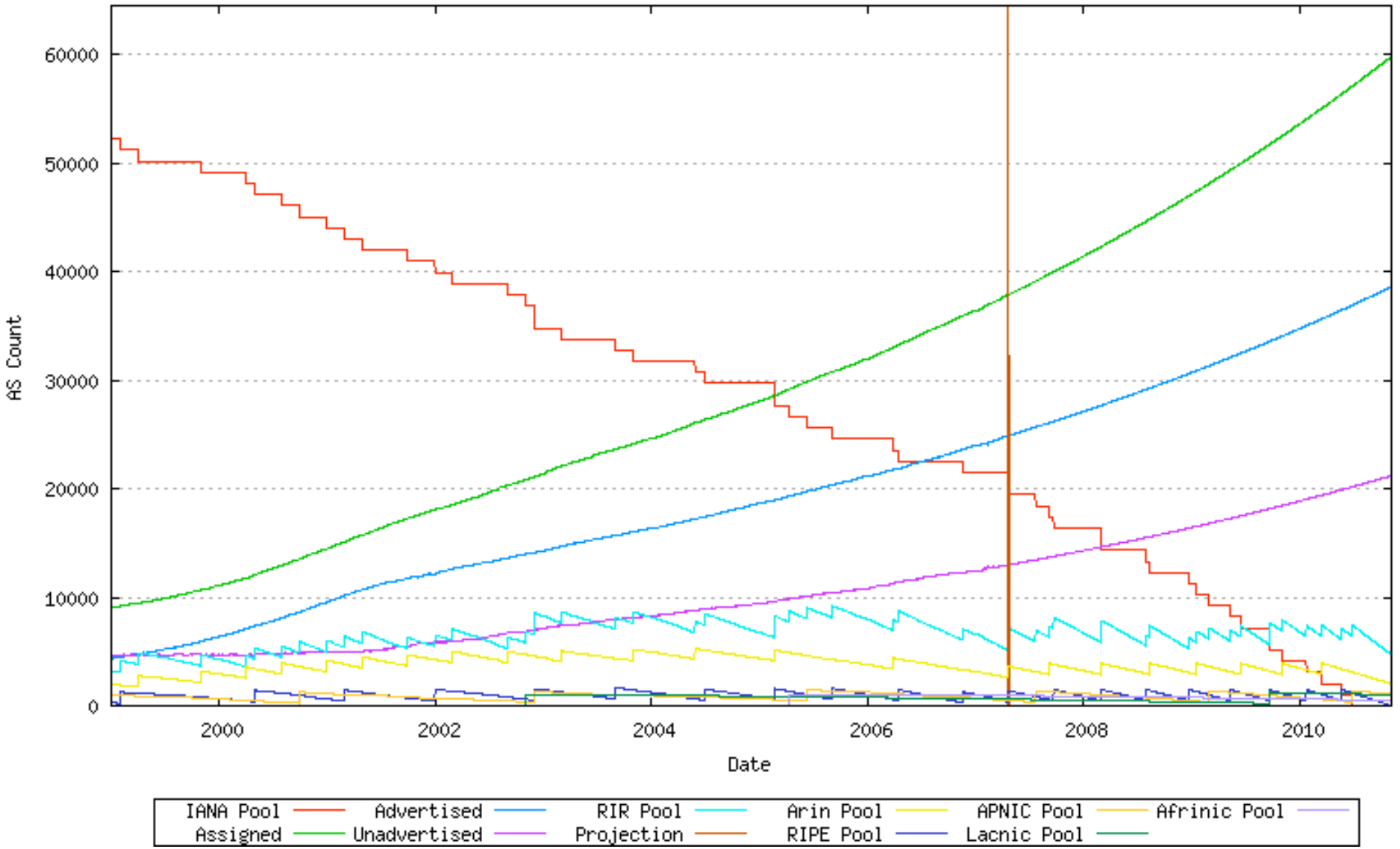
Philip Smith

AfriNIC 7
27th September 2007
Durban, South Africa

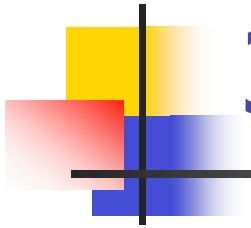


ASN status

- The pool of 16-bit ASNs will soon be exhausted
  - Analysis at http://www.potaroo.net/tools/asns/
  - Estimates are that the 16-bit ASN pool will be exhausted late 2010
- Work started in 2001 to extend the ASN pool to 32-bits

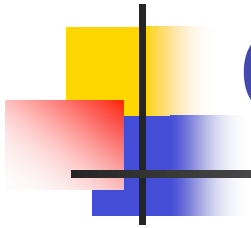


Source: http://www.potaroo.net/tools/asns/fig28.png



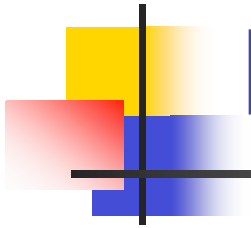
32-bit ASNs

- Standards documents (drafts)
  - Description of 32-bit ASNs
    - www.rfc-editor.org/rfc/rfc4893.txt
  - Proposal for the representation of 32-bit ASNs
    - www.ietf.org/internet-drafts/draft-michaelson-4byte-as-representation-04.txt
  - New extended community
    - www.ietf.org/internet-drafts/draft-rekhter-as4octet-ext-community-02.txt
- AS 23456 is reserved as interface between 16-bit and 32-bit ASN world



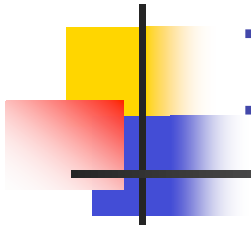
Getting a 32-bit ASN

- Sample RIR policy
  - www.apnic.net/docs/policy/asn-policy.html
- From 1st January 2007
  - 32-bit ASNs available on request
- From 1st January 2009
  - 32-bit ASNs assigned by default
  - 16-bit ASNs only available on request
- From 1st January 2010
  - No distinction – ASNs assigned from 32-bit pool



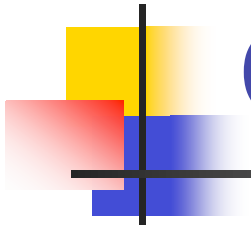
Representation

- 32-bit ASNs extend the pool:
  - 0-65535 extended to 0-4294967295
- Still discussion on representation of 65536-4294967295 range
- Some favour:
  - For 65536-4294967295: X.Y
    - (draft-michaelson-4byte-as-representation-02.txt)
  - But how will regular expressions work?
- Some favour traditional format
  - But gets bulky to handle when numbers get v big



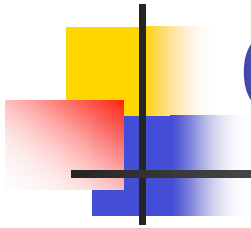
IANA Assignments

- 0.0 - 0.65535 16-bit ASN block
- 2.0 - 2.1023 APNIC
- 3.0 - 3.1023 RIPE NCC
- 4.0 - 4.1023 LACNIC
- 5.0 - 5.1023 AfriNIC
- 6.0 - 6.1023 ARIN
- Remainder are reserved or held by IANA



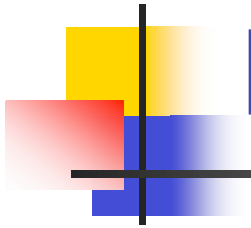
Changes (1)

- 32-bit ASNs are backwardly compatible with 16-bit ASNs
- There is no flag day
- You do NOT need to:
  - Throw out your old routers
  - Replace your 16-bit ASN with a 32-bit ASN



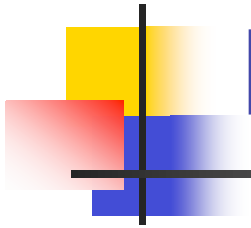
Changes (2)

- You do need to be aware that:
  - Your customers will come with 32-bit ASNs
  - ASN 23456 is not a bogon!
  - You will need a router supporting 32-bit ASNs to use a 32-bit ASN
- If you have a proper BGP implementation, 32-bit ASNs will be transported silently across your network



How does it work (1)?

- Local router only supports 16-bit ASN
- Remote router uses 32-bit ASN
- BGP peering initiated:
  - Remote asks local if 32-bit supported (BGP capability negotiation)
  - When local says “no”, remote then presents AS23456
  - Local needs to be configured to peer with remote using AS23456

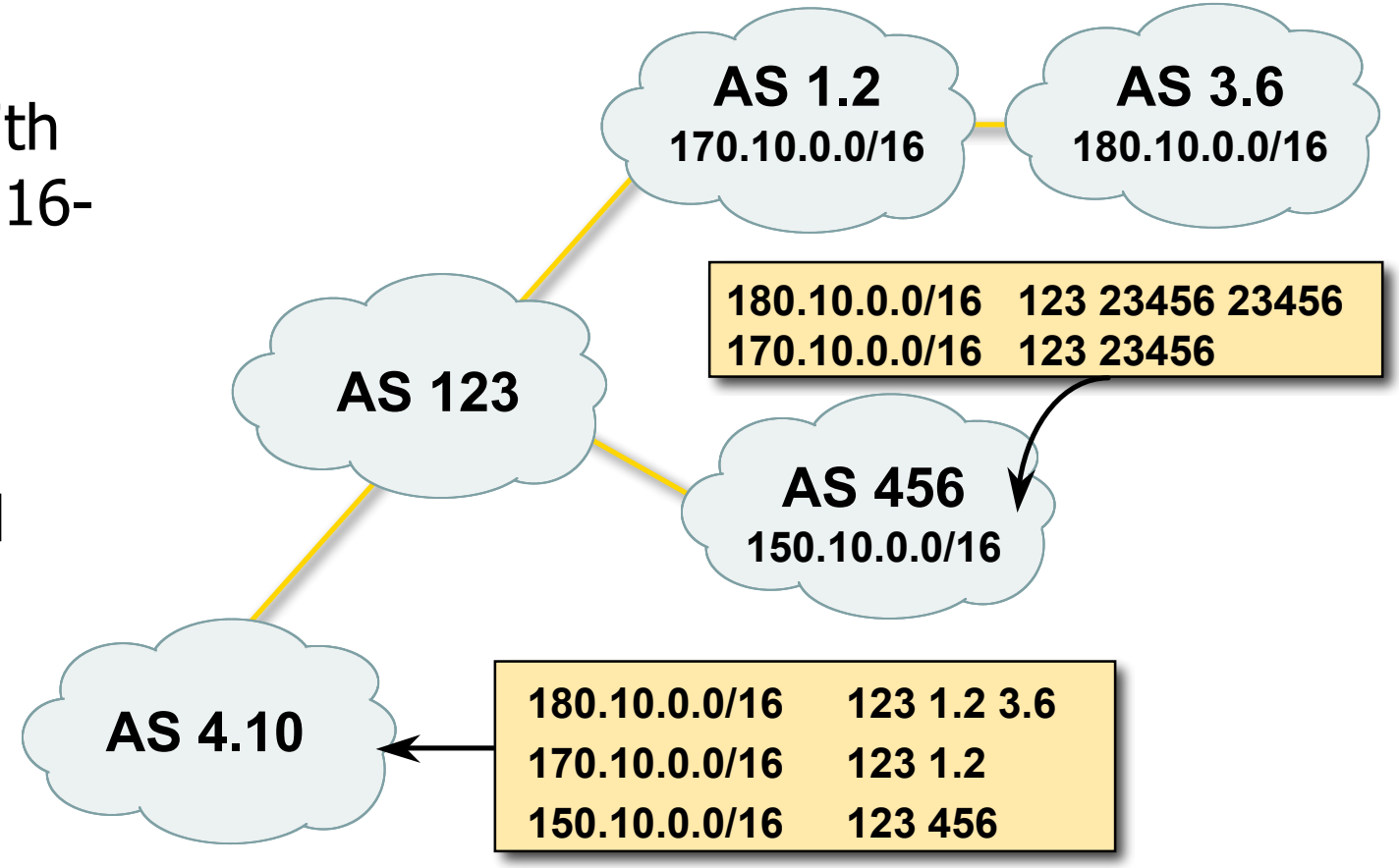


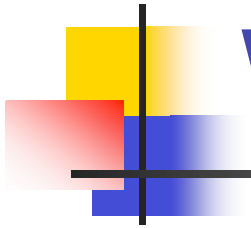
How does it work (2)?

- BGP peering initiated (cont):
  - BGP session established using AS23456
  - 32-bit ASN included in a new BGP attribute called AS4_PATH
    - (as opposed to AS_PATH for 16-bit ASNs)
- Result:
  - 16-bit ASN world sees 16-bit ASNs and 23456 standing in for 32-bit ASNs
  - 32-bit ASN world sees 16 and 32-bit ASNs

Example:

- Internet with 32-bit and 16-bit ASNs
- AS-PATH length maintained





What has changed?

- Two new BGP attributes:
  - AS4_PATH
    - Carries 32-bit ASN path info
  - AS4_AGGREGATOR
    - Carries 32-bit ASN aggregator info
  - Well-behaved BGP implementations will simply pass these along if they don't understand them
- AS23456 (AS_TRANS)

What do they look like?

- Prefix originated by AS 1.202
  - In 32-bit ASN world:

```
# bgpctl show rib 203.10.62.0/24
flags: * = Valid, > = Selected, I = via IBGP, A = Announced
origin: i = IGP, e = EGP, ? = Incomplete

flags destination     gateway   lpref med aspath origin
*>    203.10.62.0/24  147.28.0.1  100    0 0.3130 0.1239 0.4637 0.1221 1.202 i
```

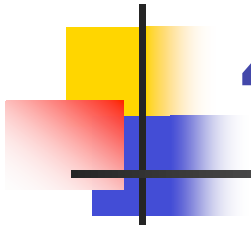
  - In 16-bit ASN world:

```
router# sh ip bgp 203.10.62.0

   Network          Next Hop            Metric LocPrf Weight Path
*> 203.10.62.0      202.249.2.169                0 2497 4637 1221 23456 i
```

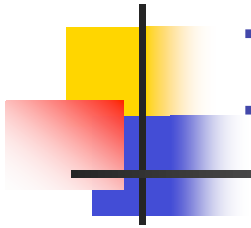
4-byte ASNs – IPv4 BGP Table

Network	Next Hop	Path
*> 62.48.31.0/24	203.119.0.116	2.0 12654 3333 4589 8271 3.10 i
*> 66.117.63.0/24	203.119.0.116	2.0 12654 3549 29748 33437 6.3 i
*> 84.205.88.0/24	203.119.0.116	2.0 65056 4637 6453 12654 3.7 i
*> 145.125.0.0/20	203.119.0.116	2.0 12654 3.5 i
*> 192.26.93.0/24	203.119.0.116	2.0 12654 3257 2914 4697 2.3 i
*> 193.5.68.0/23	203.119.0.116	2.0 12654 3257 13030 3.13 i
*> 193.31.7.0/24	203.119.0.116	2.0 65056 4637 1273 5539 3.3 i
*> 196.1.15.0/24	204.61.214.144	715 7091 701 3741 5.1 i
*> 202.255.47.0/24	203.119.0.116	2.0 65056 4637 2516 7667 2.6 i



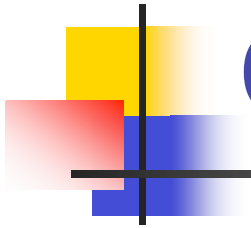
4-byte ASNs – IPv6 BGP Table

```
   Network              Next Hop            Path
*> 2001:7fb:fd00::/48   2001:420:0:8001::1 109 30071 6939 12859 12654 3.7 i
*> 2001:df0:2::/48      2001:420:0:8001::1 109 5511 2914 4697 2.3 i
*> 2001:4810:2000::/35 2001:420:0:8001::1 109 30071 33437 6.3 i
```



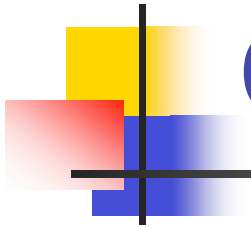
Implementations

- Quagga (patches for 0.99.6)
- OpenBGPd (patches for 3.9 & 4.0)
- JunOSe 4.1.0 (ERX only)
  - M and T series – next year?
- Redback



Cisco

- Support in IOS-XR since 3.4 release last year
- Plan for IOS:
  - 12.2SRD – EFT late this year, release mid 2008
    - For 7600 (and 7200)
  - 12.5T Mid 2008
    - For 18/28/3800, 7200, 7300
  - 12.2SB-Rel6 End 2008
    - For 7200,7300,10000
  - 12.2SX End 2008
    - For 6500



Conclusion

- The Internet will not break
- Your network will not break

- If you have an ASN today:
  - You don’t need to change anything
  - 32-bit ASNs appear as AS 23456
- If you have no ASN today:
  - Your routers will need 32-bit ASN support after 1st January 2010