Single Upstream

When an entity decides that it is going to set up to be a network operator (usually an Access Provider), they will purchase an Internet connection from a local network operator.

While this has nothing much to do with peering as such, it is included for completeness, to describe the sequence of events a typical newcomer network operator would navigate.

The configuration of this link is very simple and is designed by the upstream provider to get their customer up and running quickly.

There are two possible cases here:

1. Using Upstream's Address space
2. Using our own Address space

Upstream Addressing

Newcomers as network operators are unlikely to have their own address space. More likely than not they will get a small amount of address space from their upstream provider.

The configuration is straight forward:

1. The upstream provider delegates the address space to their customer
2. The customer numbers their network using this address space
3. The upstream announces the address space to the global Internet as part of their larger address block

On the routers, the upstream point a static route for the delegated address space to their customer.

And the customer points a static default route to their upstream on its router.

And that's all that is needed.

This major disadvantage of this is that the newcomer network operator is tied to their upstream. If they want to change upstream providers, they have to renumber their entire network, including all their customers. This can be a tiresome, frustrating, and often lengthy process (even with DHCP and IPv6's automatic address assignment capabilities).

General recommendation to newcomer network operators is to get their own Internet Resources directly from their Regional Internet Registry. This avoids major pain in the future if and when they

need to change their upstream provider.

Own Addressing

If the newcomer network operator has already obtained its own address space and ASN for the network (usually from the Regional Internet Registry) they can deploy that, rather than using address space from their upstream provider.

The advantage of doing this is that we are independent of our upstream. We can change transit providers very easily, simply by getting our new transit provider to announce our address space to the world.

(Technically this is a bit more challenging than it may seem!)

To use your own address space, the steps are:

1. Deploy your address block across your network as appropriate
2. Create a Route Object for your address space using your upstream provider's ASN
3. Create a ROA for your address space using your upstream provider's ASN
4. Provide a Letter of Authority (LOA) to your upstream provider requesting their peers and transits accept and propagate your address space (some providers request this, so it is good to be prepared)
5. Organise with the upstream (transit provider) for the address space to be announced globally and routed to you

Back to 'Establishing Peering' page

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