A proposal to prevent the routing of "dark" space addresses

Gordon W. Bader

APNIC Open Policy Meeting

1 September 2004 – Nadi, Fiji

Introduction

- Scofflaws are utilizing unallocated IP address space (i.e., "dark" space) for a variety of unsavory activities.

  – Originating & sending of SPAM,

  – Servicing SPAM & hosting websites

- Technology to date has had little impact as SPAM has increased to consume over 70% of email traffic and is continuing to increase.

- Internet Community must consider a combination of Business, Technology and Policy responses.

Current Problems

- APNIC currently contracts out IP space.
- APNIC rescinds IP space upon nonpayment of fees.
- APNIC currently has no policy for misuse or misapplication of it's unallocated IP "dark" space.
- Routing of "dark" space conveys illegal ownership of the IP address, i.e.,"squatter's rights".

Current Problems
(continued)

- Routing tables of legal carriers are being modified/updated to route to "dark" space.

- Servicing SPAM is being viewed as a "cost of doing business".

- Removing routing of "dark" address space can take days and weeks, thus providing an extended "safe haven" to the scofflaws.

Position in other regions

- Unknown
- However, SPAM continues to increase.

Proposal

- Carriers and ISPs who continue to route to & service "dark" address space, will loose their own IP address space if they:
  - Refuse to maintain their routing tables
  - Take too long to maintain their routing tables
  - Continue to route to "dark" space
- Essentially the "Internet Death Penalty"

Benefits - Disadvantages

- Reduction in SPAM traffic (bandwidth).
- Reduction in capital expenditures due to bandwidth growth.
- Reduction in where SPAMMERS are able to hide.

- Continuous routing table maintenance.
- Possible loss of ability to perform business.

Implementation Schedule

- Prior to implementation this proposal needs to be:
  - Accepted by APNIC community and
  - Accepted by other RIR communities.

Summary

- If you continue to route "dark" address space you will loose your own IP address space.

Questions?

Thank you for making it possible for me to present.