**APNIC Policy Proposal**

**Title:** Experimental Allocations – no reservation for IPv4 (prop-?)

**Version:** 1

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**Problem Statement:**

Section 5.7 was introduced at a time where IPv4 was available and development of different IPv4 technologies was needed even in order to influence in standardization. However, this is no longer the situation today, as IPv4 has not continuity in the medium-long term and even if experiments that require public IPv4 addresses were successful, they can’t change the trends of the global transition to IPv6.

It is much useful to ensure that every single IPv4 address available can directly contribute to more ISPs or organizations having at least a small set of IPv4 addresses in order to complete the IPv6 transition. Every single /24 count.

It has to be noted that other policies already got rid of reservations for future uses, as 5.1, once the pool is exhausted. So reserving IPv4 space for experiments will contradict this community decision.

Even in extreme cases, the NRENs could provide such prefixes, however they are not needed because RFC3330 already defines some specific reserved blocks, which could be used for experiments.

Finally, it should be noted that experimental RFCs aren’t for production networks, so as such, they must not be connected to the public Internet, and consequently they don’t necessarily require public IPv4 prefixes.

The IETF and the community have already decided that the way to go, and all the efforts should be devoted to the global deployment of IPv6.

**Objective of policy change:**

Ensuring that no IPv4 reservations are done from the last /8 for experimental allocations.

**Situation in other regions:**

Other RIRs (except RIPE) have not special reservations for experimental IPv4 allocations. They have such policies, but no used for many years.

**Proposed policy solution:**

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| --- | --- |
| **Actual text:** | **Proposed text:** |
| 5.7.2. Allocations for experimental purposes | 5.7.2. Allocations for experimental purposes |
| APNIC will allocate public Internet resources to be used for experimental purposes. These experimental allocations are subject to the eligibility criteria, conditions, and restrictions described below. An experiment is eligible for an allocation if it meets the criteria described in either 5.7.2.1 or Section 5.7.2.2 below. | APNIC will allocate public Internet resources to be used for experimental purposes. These experimental allocations are subject to the eligibility criteria, conditions, and restrictions described below. An experiment is eligible for an allocation if it meets the criteria described in either 5.7.2.1 or Section 5.7.2.2 below.  In the case of IPv4, no experimental allocations will be provided from the last /8. |

**Advantages of the proposal:**

Fulfilling the objective above indicated and avoiding an unnecessary waste of resources by means of a reservation.

**Disadvantages of the proposal:**

In the very far hypothetical case that there is no other way than doing a real experiment with public IPv4 addresses, connected to Internet, it could only be done by means of a prefix obtained from an ISP (such as an NREN), which in any case, will be the normal path for the connectivity.

**Impact on resource holders:**

None. It frees resources for operational needs.

**References:**

AFRINIC:

* <https://www.afrinic.net/policy/manual#Assignments-Internet-Experiments>

ARIN:

* <https://www.arin.net/participate/policy/nrpm/#11-experimental-internet-resource-allocations>

LACNIC:

* <https://www.lacnic.net/690/2/lacnic/10-policy-for-the-allocation-of-internet-resources-for-research-and-experimental-needs>