

# APNIC Training

## Internet Routing Registry

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In conjunction with



**SANDOG**

# Introduction

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# Objectives

- To provide an introduction to the APNIC Routing Registry
  - Explain basic concepts of the global RR
  - Outline the benefits of the APNIC Routing Registry
- NOT to:
  - Teach basic routing
  - Explain Internet resource policy and procedures
  - Provide advise on network configuration

# Internet Routing Registry

Overview

# Overview

- APNIC database recap
- What is IRR?
- Why use an IRR?
- APNIC database and the IRR
- Using the Routing Registry
- Benefit of using IRR
- Using RPSL in practice

# APNIC database recap

# APNIC database

- Public network management database
  - APNIC whois database contains:
    - Internet resource information and contact details
  - APNIC Routing Registry (RR) contains:
    - routing information
- APNIC RR is part of IRR
  - Distributed databases that mirror each other

# Database object

- An object is a set of attributes and values
- Each attribute of an object...
  - Has a value
  - Has a specific syntax
  - Is mandatory or optional
  - Is single- or multi-valued
- Some attributes ...
  - Are primary (unique) keys
  - Are lookup keys for queries
  - Are inverse keys for queries
- Object “templates” illustrate this structure



# Person object example

- Person objects contain contact information

<b>person:</b>	<b>Ky Xander</b>
<b>address:</b>	<b>ExampleNet Service Provider</b>
<b>address:</b>	<b>2 Pandora St Boxville</b>
<b>address:</b>	<b>Wallis and Futuna Islands</b>
<b>country:</b>	<b>WF</b>
<b>phone:</b>	<b>+680-368-0844</b>
<b>fax-no:</b>	<b>+680-367-1797</b>
<b>e-mail:</b>	<b>kxander@example.com</b>
<b>nic-hdl:</b>	<b>KX17-AP</b>
<b>mnt-by:</b>	<b>MAINT-ENET-WF</b>
<b>changed:</b>	<b>kxander@example.com 20020731</b>
<b>source:</b>	<b>APNIC</b>

Values

# Querying whois db

- Unix
  - Whois –h whois.apnic.net <lookup key>
    - E.g. whois –h whois.apnic.net whois AS2000
- Whois web interface
  - <http://www.apnic.net/apnic-bin/whois.pl>
- Keys for querying
  - Primary key, other lookup keys
    - E.g. whois EX91-AP
  - Inverse key “-i {attribute} {value}”
    - E.g. whois -i mnt-by MAINT-EXAMPLE-AP
- APNIC whois db query options:
  - <http://www.apnic.net/db/search/all-options.html>

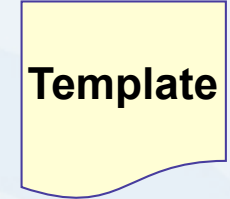
# Advanced database queries

## – Flags used for inetnum queries

- None          find exact match
- l          find one level less specific matches
- L          find all less specific matches
- m          find first level more specific matches
- M          find all More specific matches
- x          find exact match (if no match, nothing)
- d          enables use of flags for reverse domains
- r          turn off recursive lookups

# Database update process

- Update transactions
  - Create a new object
  - Change an object
  - Delete an object
- Updates are submitted by email
  - E-mail to: `<auto-dbm@apnic.net>`
- Email message contains template representing new or updated object



Template

# Database protection



- Authorisation
  - “mnt-by” references a mntner object
    - Can be found in all database objects
    - “mnt-by” should be used with every object!
- Authentication
  - Updates to an object must pass authentication rule specified by its maintainer object



# Authentication methods

- 'auth' attribute
  - Crypt-PW
    - Crypt (Unix) password encryption
    - Use web page to create your maintainer
  - PGP – GNUPG
    - Strong authentication
    - Requires PGP keys
  - MD5
    - Available

# Hierarchical authorisation

- ‘mnt-by’ attribute
  - Can be used to protect any object
  - Changes to protected object must satisfy authentication rules of ‘mntner’ object
- ‘mnt-lower’ attribute
  - Also references mntner object
  - Hierarchical authorisation for inetnum & domain objects
  - Creation of child objects must satisfy this mntner
  - Protects against unauthorised updates to an allocated range - highly recommended!

# Prerequisite for updating objects

- Create person objects for contacts
  - To provide contact info in other objects
- Create a mntner object
  - To provide protection of objects
- Protect your person object



# What is an IRR?

# What is a Routing Registry?

- A repository (database) of Internet routing policy information
  - Autonomous Systems exchanges routing information via BGP
  - Exterior routing decisions are based on policy based rules
  - However BGP does not provides a mechanism to publish/communicate the policies themselves
  - RR provides this functionality
- Routing policy information is expressed in a series of objects

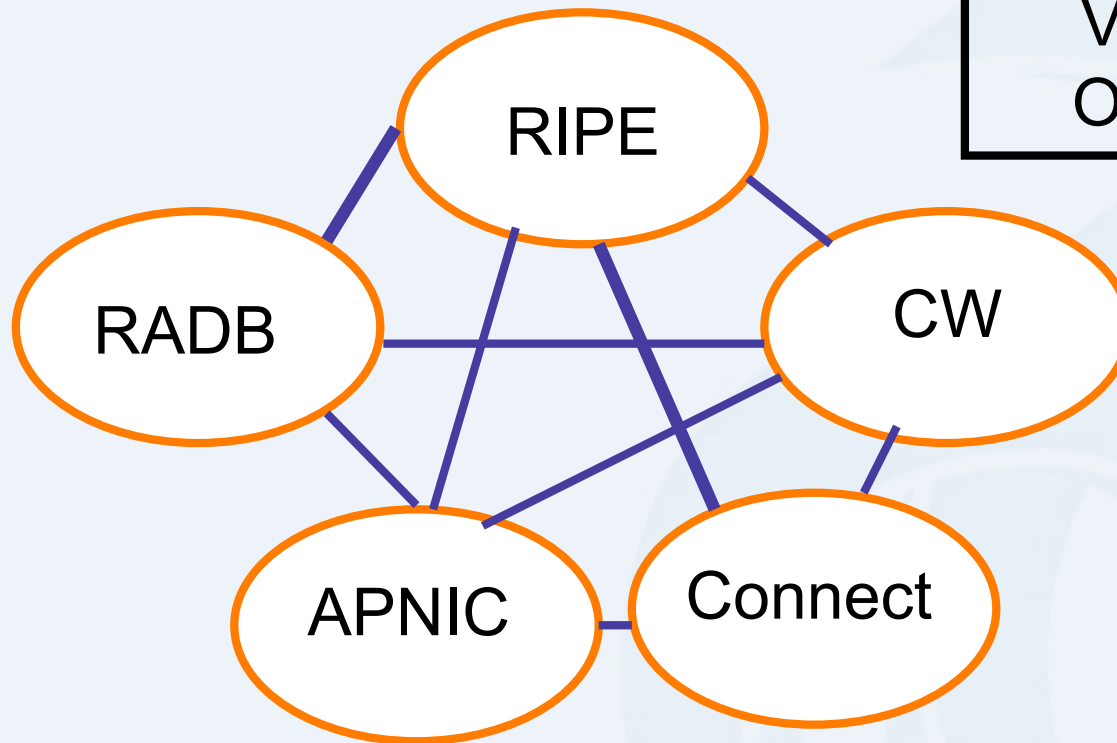
# Routing registry objects

- Route, aut-num, inet-rtr, peering-set, AS-set, rtr-set, filter-set
  - Each object has its own purpose
  - Together express routing policies
- More details covered later

# What is a Routing Registry?

- Global Internet Routing Registry database
  - <http://www.irr.net/>
    - Uses RPSL
- Stability and consistency of routing
  - network operators share information
- Both public and private databases
  - These databases are independent
    - but some exchange data
    - only register your data in one database

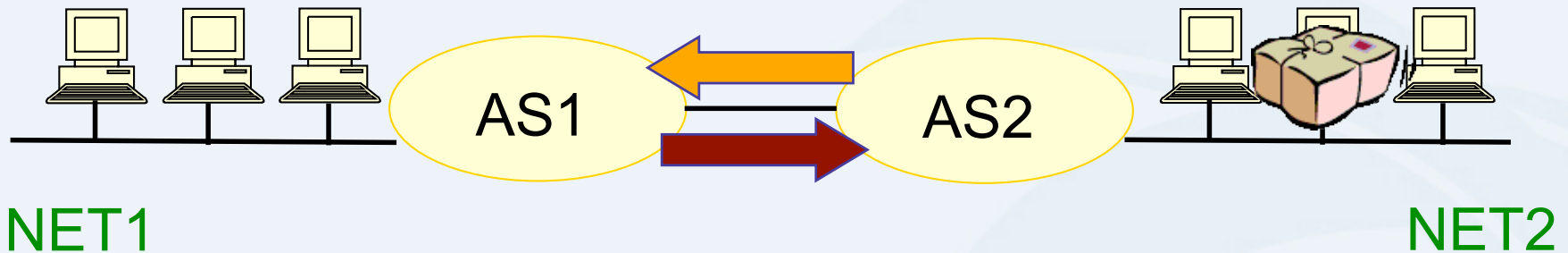
# What is a Routing Registry?



ARIN, ArcStar, FGC,  
Verio, Bconnex,  
Optus, Telstra, ...

IRR = APNIC RR + RIPE DB + RADB + C&W + ARIN + ...

# Representation of routing policy



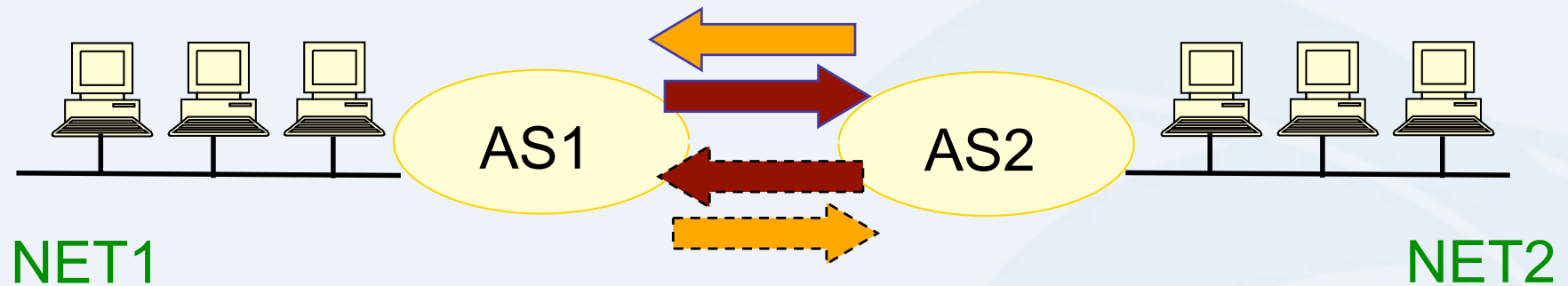
In order for traffic to flow from NET2 to NET1 between AS1 and AS2:

AS1 has to announce NET1 to AS2 via BGP

And AS2 has to accept this information and use it

Resulting in packet flow from NET2 to NET1

# Representation of routing policy (cont.)



In order for traffic to flow towards from NET1 to NET2:

AS2 must announce NET2 to AS1

And AS1 has to accept this information and use it

Resulting in packet flow from NET 1 to NET2

# What is routing policy?

- Description of the routing relationship between autonomous systems
  - Who are my BGP peers?
    - Customer, peers, upstream
  - What routes are:
    - Originated by each neighbour?
    - Imported from each neighbour?
    - Exported to each neighbour?
    - Preferred when multiple routes exist?
  - What to do if no route exists?
  - What routes to aggregate?



# Why use an IRR?

## Information to share

- Routes and AS objects give an abstract specification of the policy of an AS
  - Provides device independent view of routing policy
  - Neighbouring ASes can lookup, verify and understand the other party's policy
  - Provides a clear picture where this AS fits into the Internet

## Information to share (cont.)

- Information – if every AS registers its policy and routes....
  - a global view of routing policy could be mapped
    - This global picture has the ability to improve the integrity of global Internet routing
  - Provides LIR/ISP with a mechanism to find all possible paths between any two points in the Internet
- Provides a high level of abstraction

# Router configuration and network troubleshooting

- Router configuration
  - By using IRRToolSet
    - <https://www.isc.org/software/irrtolset-485>
    - Extract information from IRR to create a router readable configuration file
    - Vendor independent
    - Protect against inaccurate routing info distribution
    - Verification of Internet routing
- Network troubleshooting
  - Easier to locate routing problems outside your network

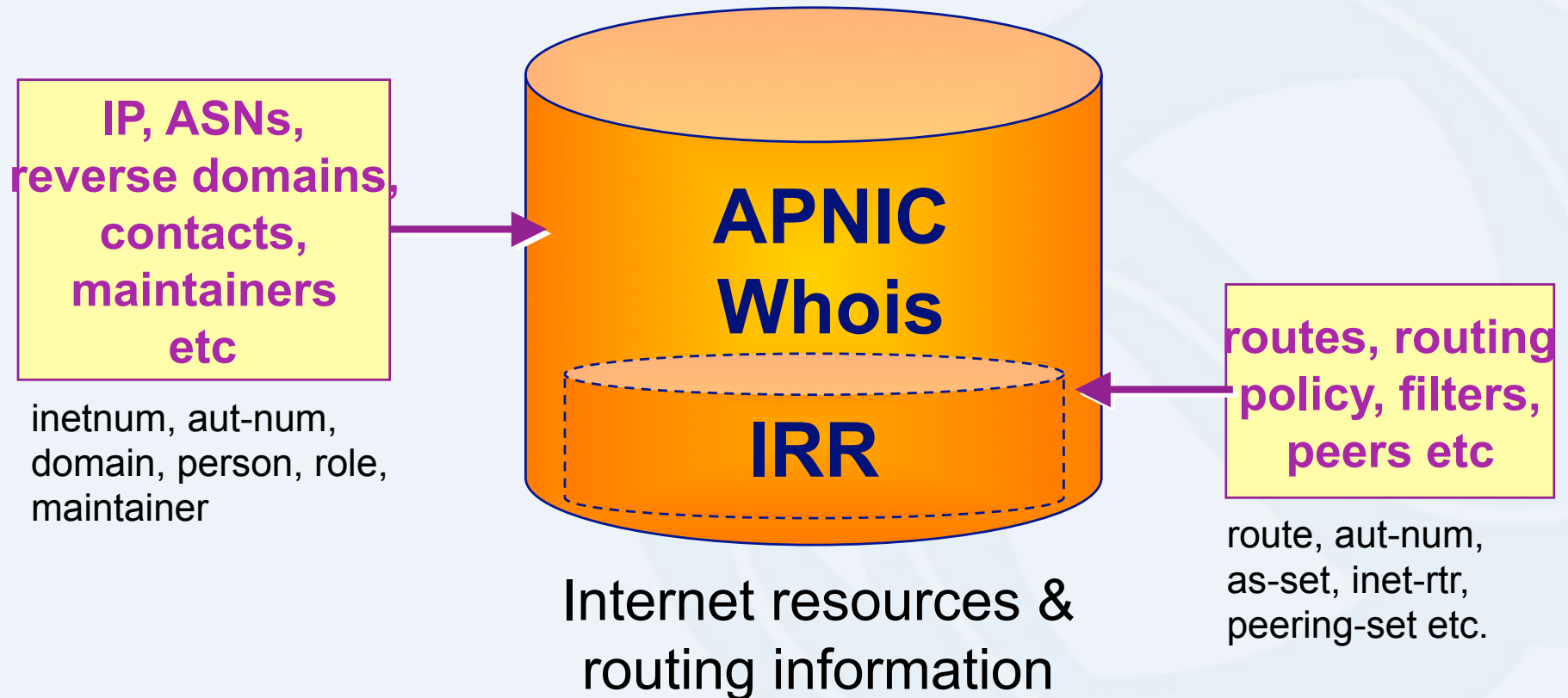
# APNIC database and the IRR

# APNIC Database & the IRR

- APNIC whois Database
  - Two databases in one
- Public Network Management Database
  - “whois” info about networks & contact persons
    - IP addresses, AS numbers etc
- Routing Registry
  - contains routing information
    - routing policy, routes, filters, peers etc.
  - APNIC RR is part of the global IRR

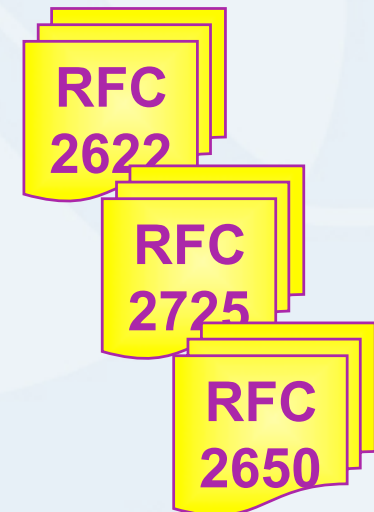
# Integration of Whois and IRR

- Integrated APNIC Whois Database & Internet Routing Registry



# RPSL

- Routing Policy Specification Language
  - Object oriented language
    - Based on RIPE-181
  - Structured whois objects
- Higher level of abstraction than access lists
- Describes things interesting to routing policy:
  - Routes, AS Numbers ...
  - Relationships between BGP peers
  - Management responsibility
- Relevant RFCs
  - Routing Policy Specification Language
  - Routing Policy System Security
  - Using RPSL in Practice



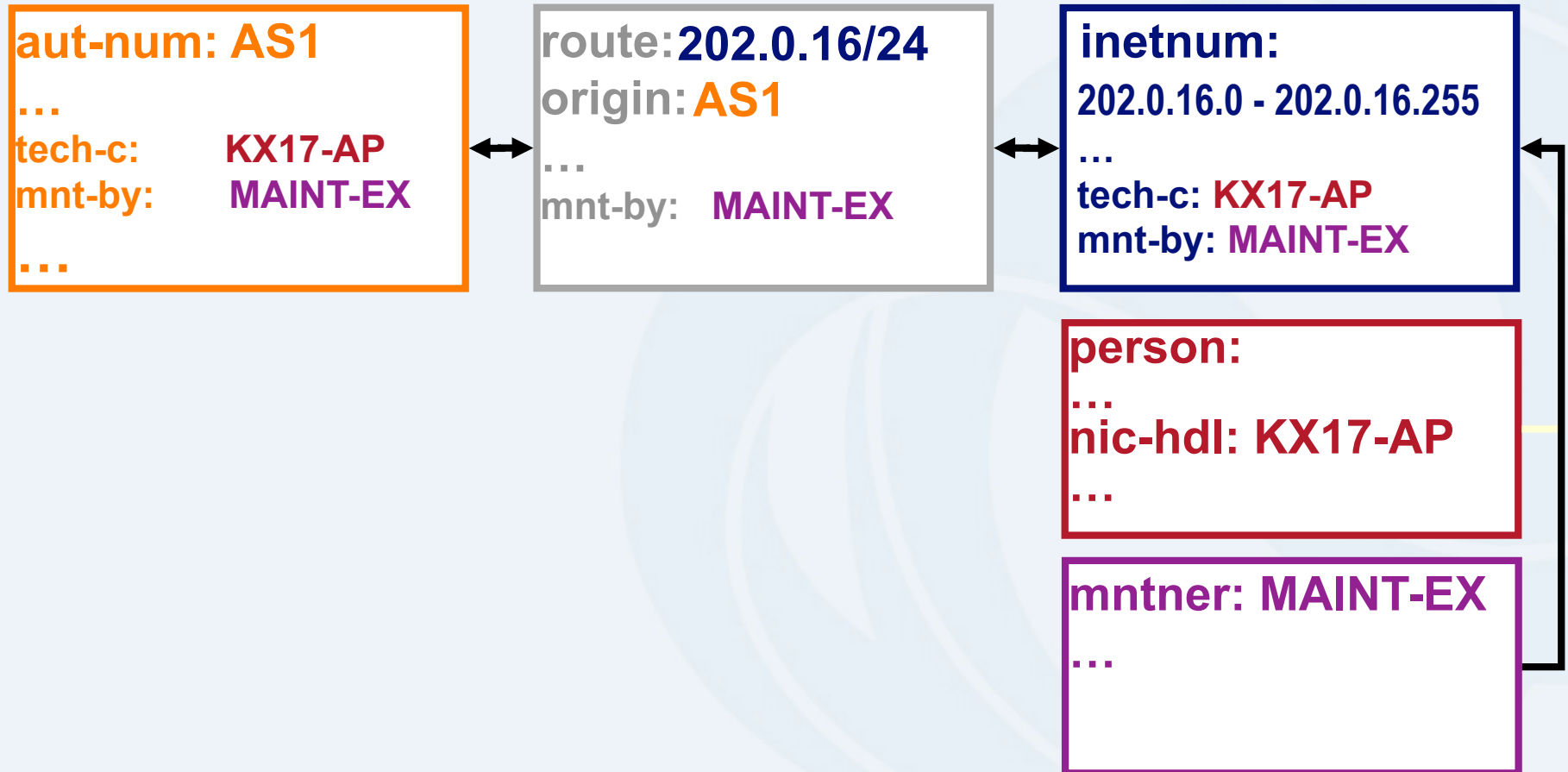


# IRR objects

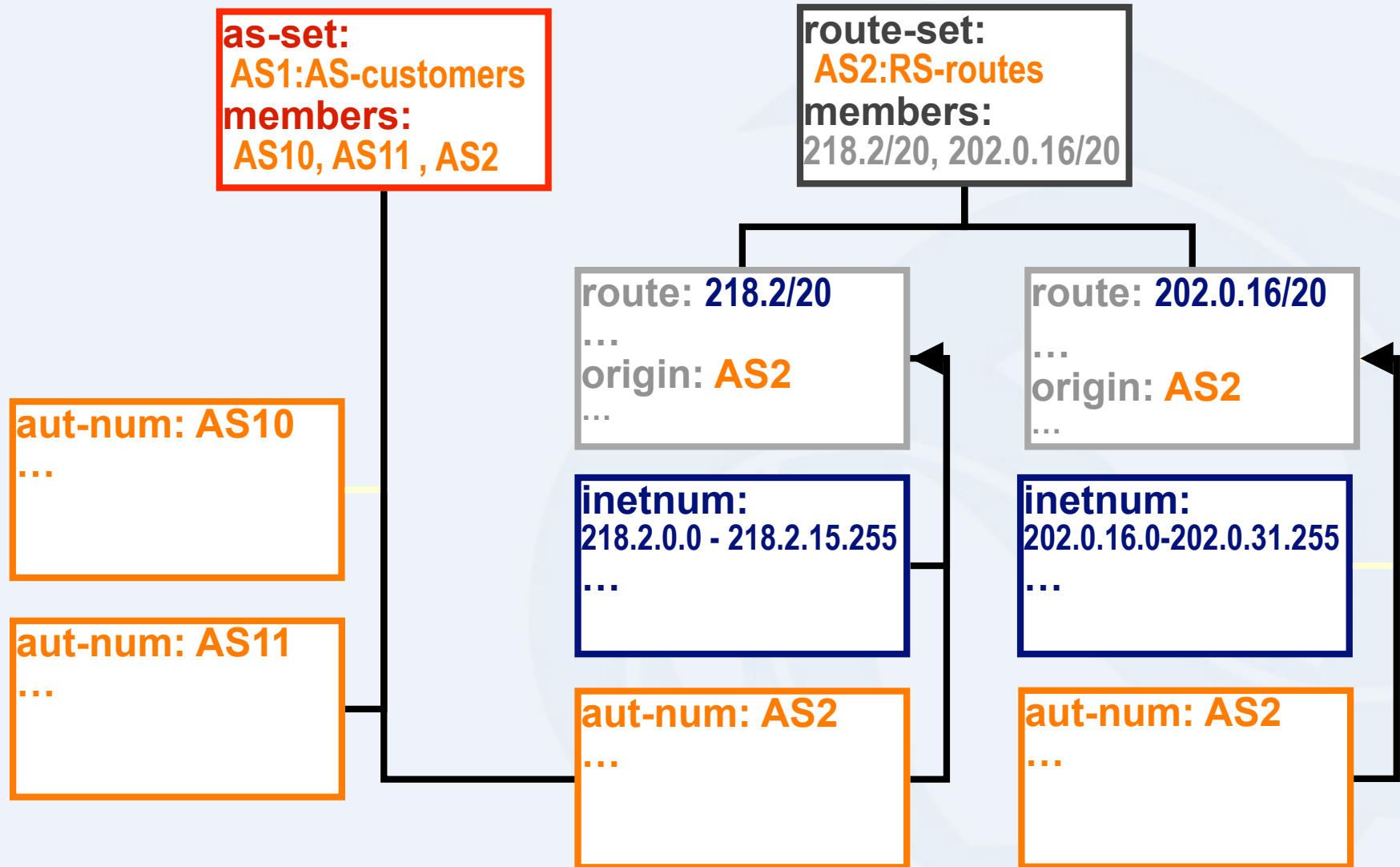
- **route**
  - Specifies interAS routes
- **aut-num**
  - Represents an AS. Used to describe external routing policy
- **inet-rtr**
  - Represents a router
- **peering-set**
  - Defines a set of peerings
- **route-set**
  - Defines a set of routes
- **as-set**
  - Defines a set of **aut-num** objects
- **rtr-set**
  - Defines a set of routers
- **filter-set**
  - Defines a set of routes that are matched by its filter

[www.apnic.net/db/ref/db-objects.html](http://www.apnic.net/db/ref/db-objects.html)

# Inter-related IRR objects



# Inter-related IRR objects



# Hierarchical authorisation

- **mnt-routes**

- authenticates **creation** of route objects

- creation of route objects must pass authentication of mntner referenced in the mnt-routes attribute

- Format:

- `mnt-routes: <mntner>`

In:

`inetnum`

`aut-num`

and

`route`

objects

# Authorisation mechanism

```
inetnum:      202.137.181.0 - 202.137.196.255
netname:      SPARKYNET-WF
descr:        SparkyNet Service Provider
...
mnt-by:       APNIC-HM
mnt-lower:    MAINT-SPARKYNET1-WF
mnt-routes:   MAINT-SPARKYNET2-WF
```

This object can only be modified by APNIC

Creation of more specific objects (assignments) within this range has to pass the authentication of MAINT-SPARKYNET

Creation of route objects matching/within this range has to pass the authentication of MAINT-SPARKYNET-WF

# Creating route objects

- Multiple authentication checks:
  - Originating ASN
    - mntner in the mnt-routes is checked
    - If no mnt-routes, mnt-lower is checked
    - If no mnt-lower, mnt-by is checked
  - AND the address space
    - Exact match & less specific route
      - mnt-routes etc
    - Exact match & less specific inetnum
      - mnt-routes etc
  - AND the route object mntner itself
    - The mntner in the mnt-by attribute

aut-num

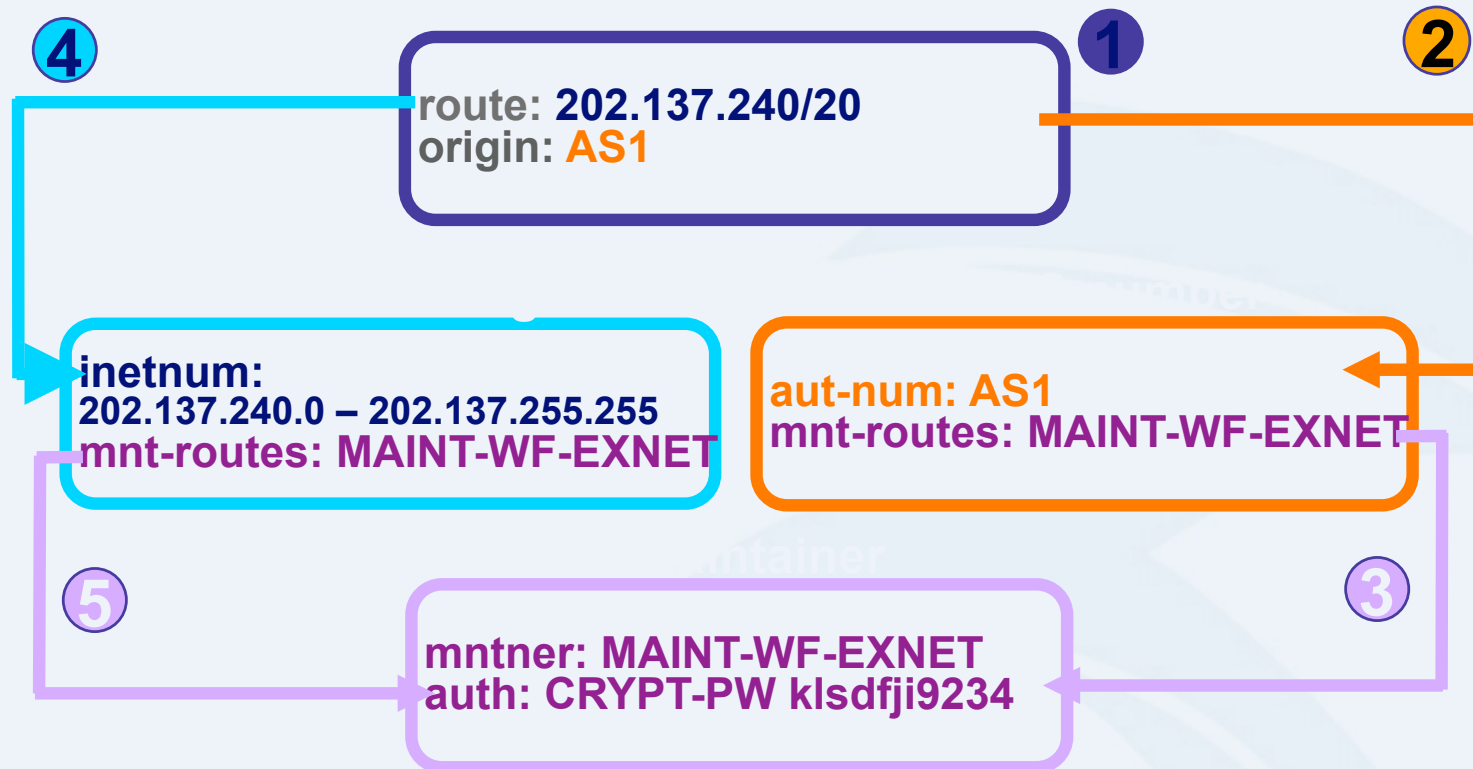
inetnum

route

(encompassing)

route

# Creating route objects



1. Create route object and submit to APNIC RR database
2. DB checks `aut-num` obj corresponding to the ASN in route obj
3. Route obj creation must pass auth of mntner specified in `aut-num` `mnt-routes` attribute.
4. DB checks `inetnum` obj matching/encompassing IP range in route obj
5. Route obj creation must pass auth of mntner specified in `inetnum` `mnt-routes` attribute.

# Benefit of using IRR



# Using the Routing Registry



## Costs

- Requires some initial planning
- Takes some time to define & register policy
- Need to maintain data in RR

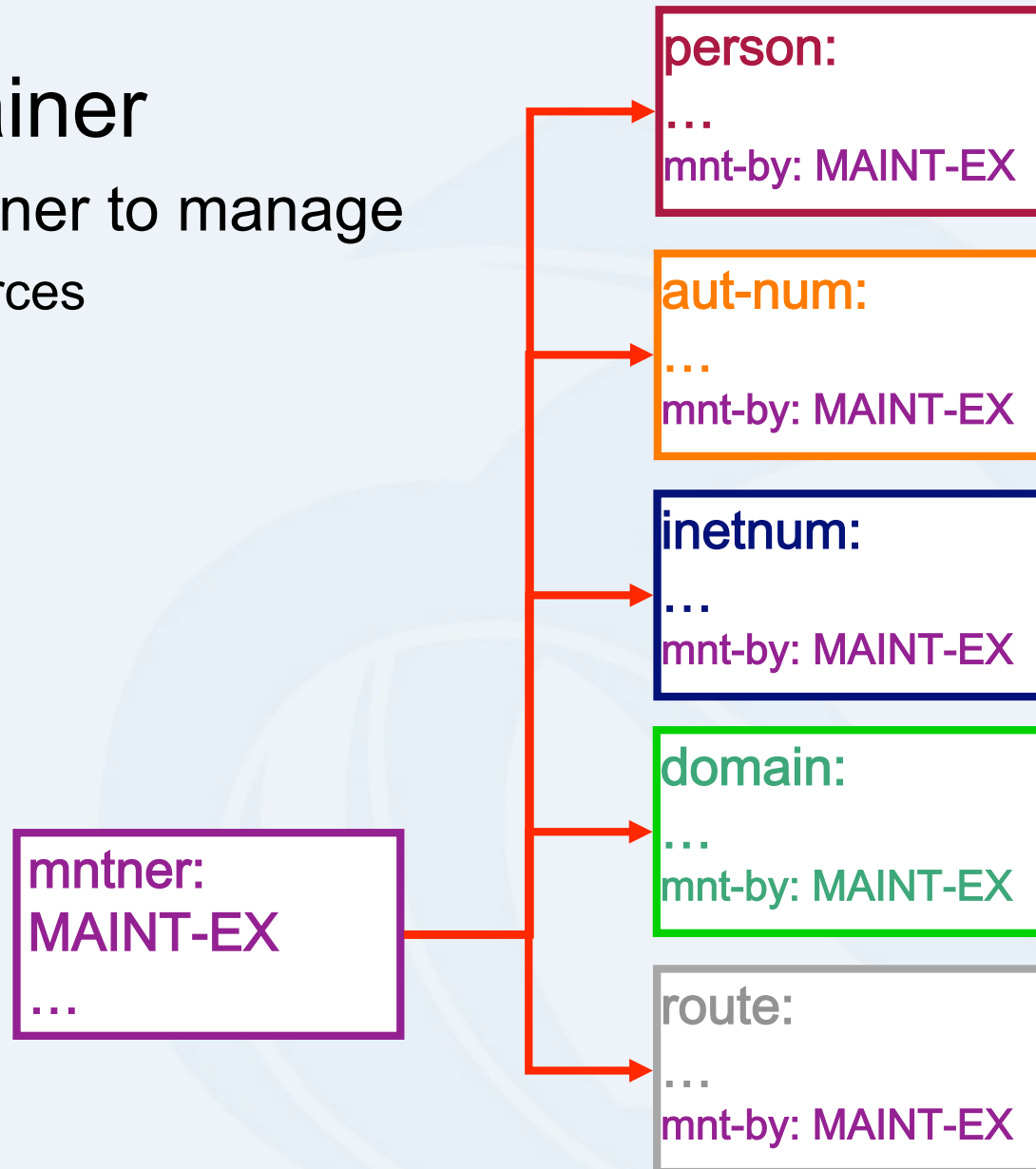
## Benefits

- You have a clear idea of your routing policy
- Consistent config over the whole network
- Less manual maintenance in the long run

# Benefits of APNIC RR

- Single maintainer
  - Use same mntner to manage
    - internet resources
    - reverse DNS
    - routing policy
    - contact info
    - etc

(Single person object can also be used)



# Benefits of APNIC RR

- APNIC able to assert resources for a registered route within APNIC ranges.

```
inetnum:      221.0.0.0 - 221.3.127.255
netname:      CNCGROUP-SD
descr:        CNCGROUP Shandong province network
country:      CN
admin-c:      CH455-AP
tech-c:       XZ14-AP
mnt-by:       APNIC-HM
mnt-lower:    MAINT-CNCGROUP-SD
changed:      hm-chnaged@apnic.net 20021224
status:       ALLOCATED PORTABLE
source:       APNIC
```

Allocation objects  
maintained by APNIC

```
mntner:       APNIC-HM
descr:        APNIC Hostmaster - Maintainer
...
```

# RPSL

Objects, syntax and semantics

# Overview

- Review of some of RR objects
- Useful queries
- Address prefix range operator
- AS-path regular expression
- Syntax of policy actions and filters

# RPSL

- Purpose of RPSL
  - Allows you to specify your routing configuration in the public IRR
    - Allows you to check “Consistency” of policies and announcements
  - Gives the opportunity to consider the policies and configuration of others
  - There are required syntax and semantics which need to be understood before using RPSL

# RR objects review

- Aut-num object

Attribute	Value	Type
aut-num	<as-number>	mandatory, single-valued, class key
as-name	<object-name>	mandatory, single-valued
member-of	List of <as-set-name>	optional, multi-value
import	see next slide	optional, multi-value
export	see next slide	optional, multi-value

# Aut-num object import attribute

- Each import policy expression is specified using an import attribute
- Syntax

```
import: from <peering-1> [action <action-1>]  
      . . .  
      from <peering-N> [action <action-N>]  
      accept <filter>
```

The action specification is optional.

- Semantics
  - the set of routes that are matched by <filter> are imported from all the peers in <peerings>
  - importing routes at <peering-M>, <action-M> is executed



# Aut-num object export attribute

- Each export policy expression is specified using an export attribute
- Syntax

```
export: to <peering-1> [action <action-1>]
      . . .
      to <peering-N> [action <action-N>]
      announce <filter>
```

The action specification is optional

- Semantics
  - the set of routes that are matched by <filter> are exported to all the peers specified in <peerings>
  - exporting routes at <peering-M>, <action-M> is executed

# RR objects review

- route object

Attribute	Value	Type
route	Prefix of the InterAS route	mandatory, single-valued, class key
origin	<AS-number> originates the route	mandatory, single-valued
member-of	List of <route-set-name>	optional, multi-value
mnt-routes	see slide# 40	optional, multi-value

# RR object review

- As-set object

Attribute	Value	Type
as-set	<object-name>	mandatory, single-valued, class key
members	List of <as-numbers> or <as-set-names>	optional, multi-value
Mbrs-by-ref	List of <mntner-names>	optional, multi-value

- As-set attribute starts with “as-”

# RR object review

- Route-set object

Attribute	Value	Type
route-set	<object-name>	mandatory, single-valued, class key
members	List of <address-prefix-range> or <route-set-name><range-operator>	optional, multi-value
Mbrs-by-ref	List of <mntner-names>	optional, multi-value

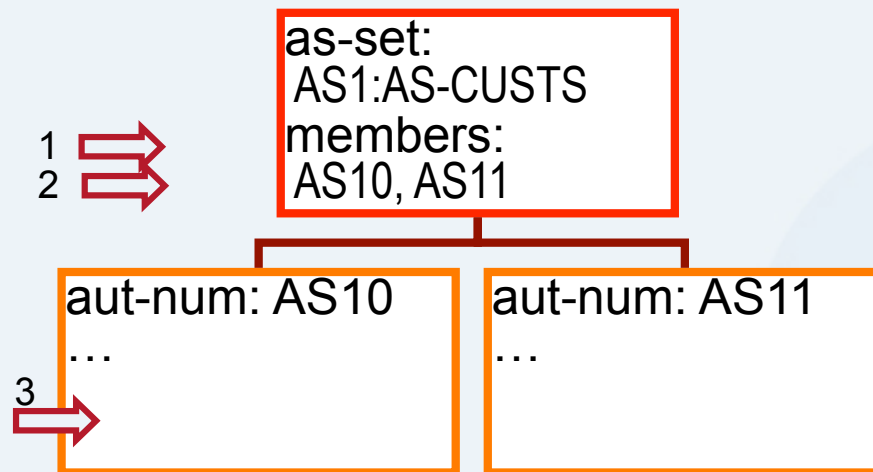
- Route-set attribute starts with “rs-”

# 'Set-' objects and their members

- Two ways of referencing members

## members

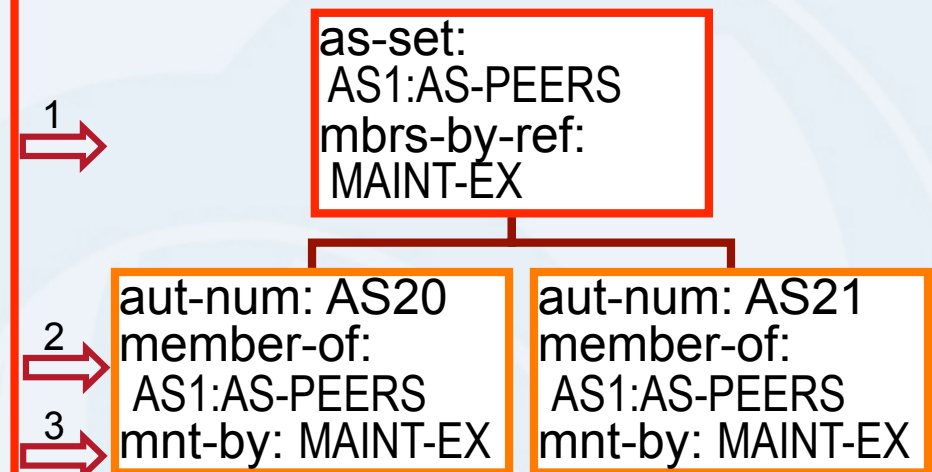
- members specified in the 'set-' object



1. 'members' specifies members of the set
2. Members added in the 'set-' object
3. No need to modify the member object when adding members

## mbrs-by-ref

- 'set' specified in the member objects



1. 'mbrs-by-ref' specifies the maintainer of the members.
2. Members reference the 'set-' object in the 'member-of' attribute
3. Members are maintained by the maintainer specified in the 'set-'

# Useful IRR queries

- *What routes are originating from my AS?*
  - **whois -i origin <ASN>**
    - route objects with matching origin
- *What routers does my AS operate?*
  - **whois -i local-as <ASN>**
    - inet-rtr objects with a matching local-as
- *What objects are protecting “route space” with my maintainer?*
  - **whois -i mnt-routes <mntner>**
    - aut-num, inetnum & route objects with matching mnt-routes

*(always specify host. e.g. 'whois -h whois.apnic.net')*

## Useful IRR queries (cont'd)

- *What '-set objects' are the objects protected by this maintainer a member of?*
  - **whois -i mbrs-by-ref <mntner>**
    - set objects (as-set, route-set and rtr-set) with matching mbrs-by-ref
- *What other objects are members of this '-set object'?*
  - **whois -i member-of <set name>**
    - Objects with a matching member-of
      - provided the membership claim is validated by the mbrs-by-ref of the set.

# Address prefix range operator

Operator	Meanings
$\wedge_-$	Exclusive more specifics of the address prefix: E.g. 128.9.0.0/16 $\wedge_-$ contains all more specifics of 128.9.0.0/16 excluding 128.9.0.0/16
$\wedge_+$	Inclusive more specific of the address prefix: E.g. 5.0.0.0/8 $\wedge_+$ contains all more specifics of 5.0.0.0/8 including 5.0.0.0/8



# Address prefix operator (cont.)

Operator	Meanings
$\wedge n$	<p><math>n</math> = integer, stands for all the length “<math>n</math>” specifics of the address prefix:            E.g. 30.0.0.0/8<math>\wedge</math>16 contains all the more specifics of 30.0.0.0/8 which are length of 16 such as 30.9.0.0/16</p>
$\wedge n-m$	<p><math>m</math> = integer, stands for all the length “<math>n</math>” to length “<math>m</math>” specifics of the address prefix:            E.g. 30.0.0.0/8<math>\wedge</math>24-32 contains all the more specifics of 30.0.0.0/8 which are length of 24 to 32 such as 30.9.9.96/28</p>

# AS-path regular expressions

- Regular expressions
  - A context-independent syntax that can represent a wide variety of character sets and character set orderings
  - These character sets are interpreted according to the current The Open Group Base Specifications (IEEE)
- Can be used as a policy filter by enclosing the expression in “<” and “>”.

# AS-path regular expression

Operator	Meanings
<AS3>	Route whose AS-path contains AS3
<^AS1>	Routes whose AS-path starts with AS1
<AS2\$>	Routes whose AS-path end with AS2
<^AS1 AS2 AS3\$>	Routes whose AS-path is exactly "1 2 3"
<^AS1 . * AS2\$>	AS-path starts with AS1 and ends in AS2 with any number ASN in between
<^AS3+\$>	AS-path starts with AS3 and ends in AS3 and AS3 is the first member of the path and AS3 occurs one or more times in the path and no other AS can be present in the path after AS3

## AS-path regular expression (cont.)

Operator	Meanings
<AS3 AS4>	Routes whose AS-path is with AS3 or AS4
<AS3 AS4>	Routes whose AS-path with AS3 followed by AS4

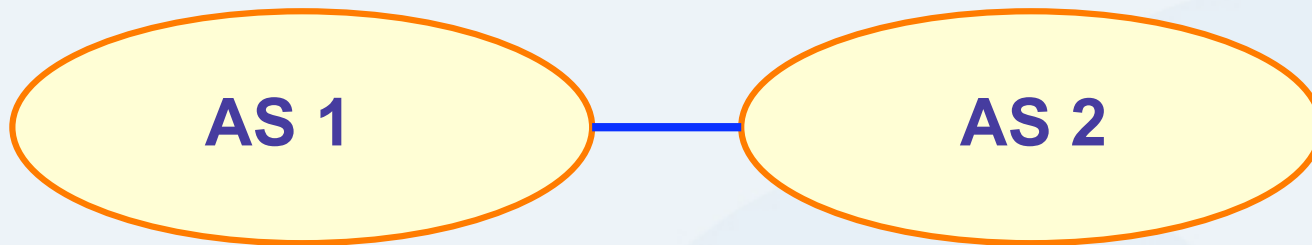
# Using RPSL in practice

# Overview

- Review examples of routing policies expression
  - Peering policies
  - Filtering policies
  - Backup connections

# Representation of routing policy

## Basic concept



*“action pref” - the lower the value,  
the preferred the route*

**aut-num: AS1**

...

**import: from AS2  
action pref=100;  
accept AS2**

**export: to AS2 announce AS1**

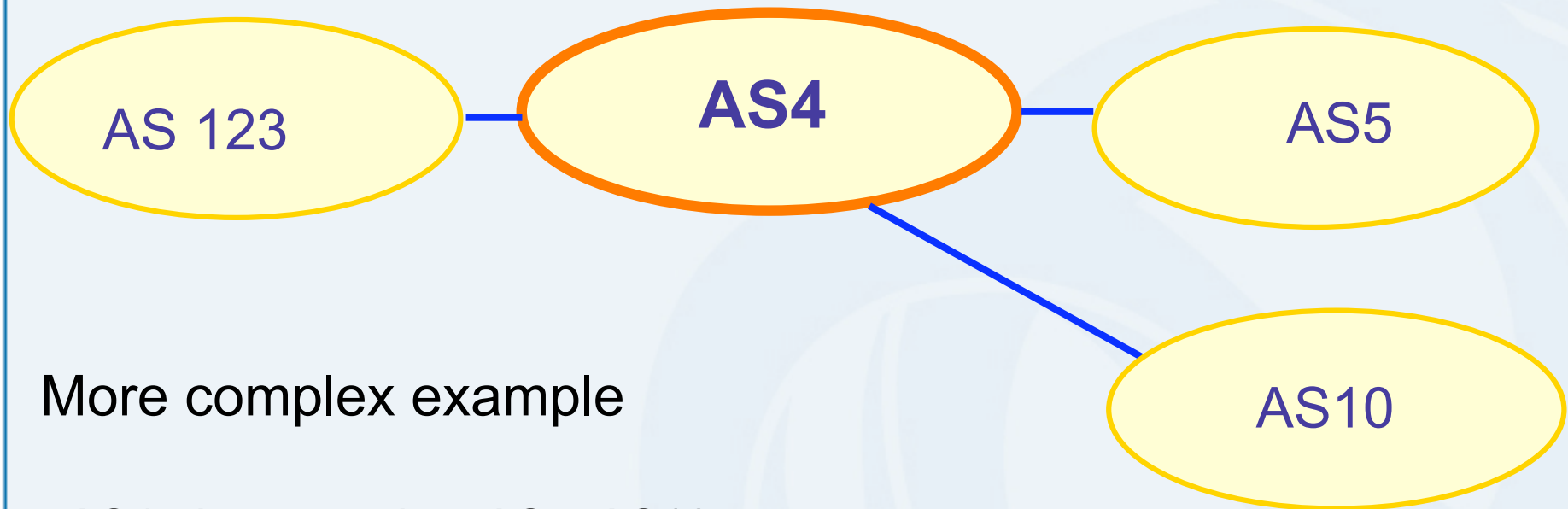
**aut-num: AS2**

...

**import: from AS1  
action pref=100;  
accept AS1**

**export: to AS1 announce AS2**

# Representation of routing policy

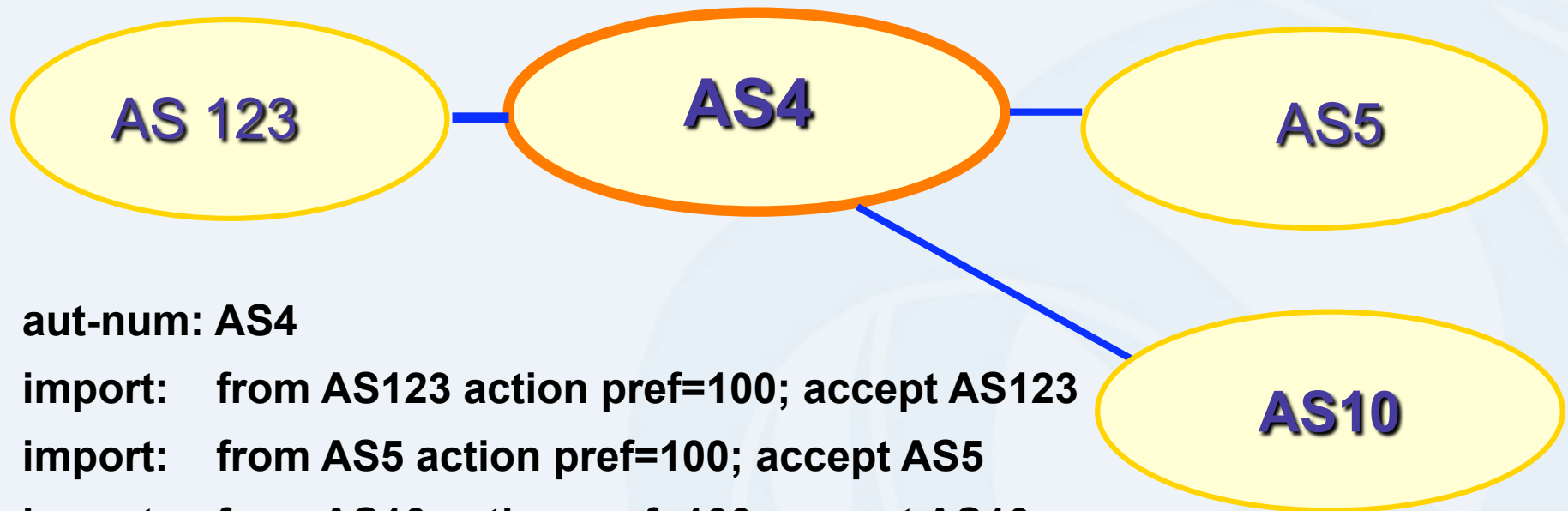


More complex example

- AS4 gives transit to AS5, AS10
- AS4 gives local routes to AS123



# Representation of routing policy



**aut-num: AS4**

**import: from AS123 action pref=100; accept AS123**

**import: from AS5 action pref=100; accept AS5**

**import: from AS10 action pref=100; accept AS10**

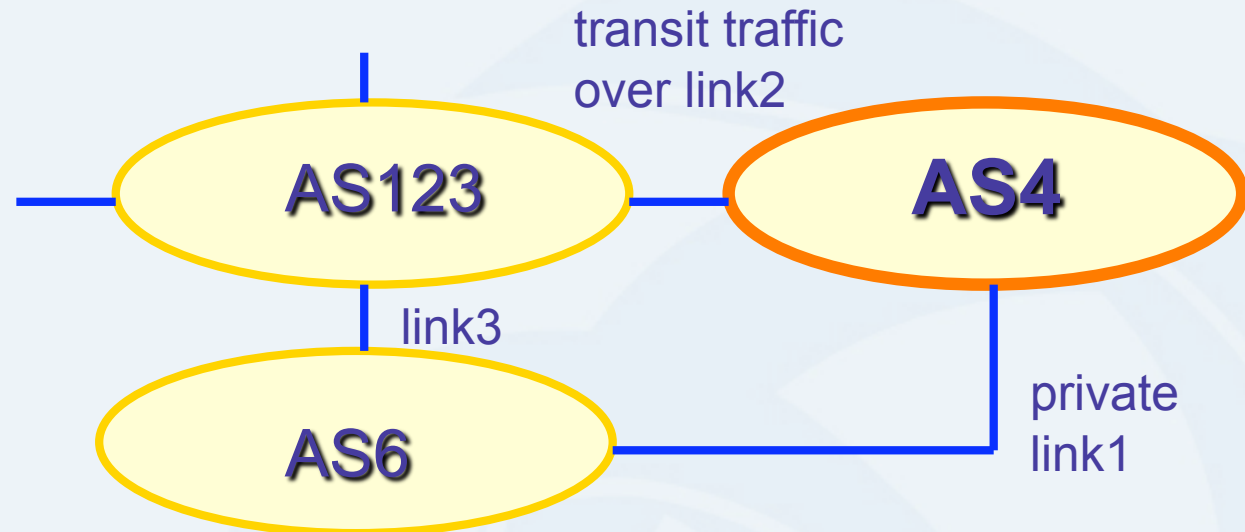
**export: to AS123 announce AS4**

**export: to AS5 announce AS4 AS10**

**export: to AS10 announce AS4 AS5**

*Not a path*

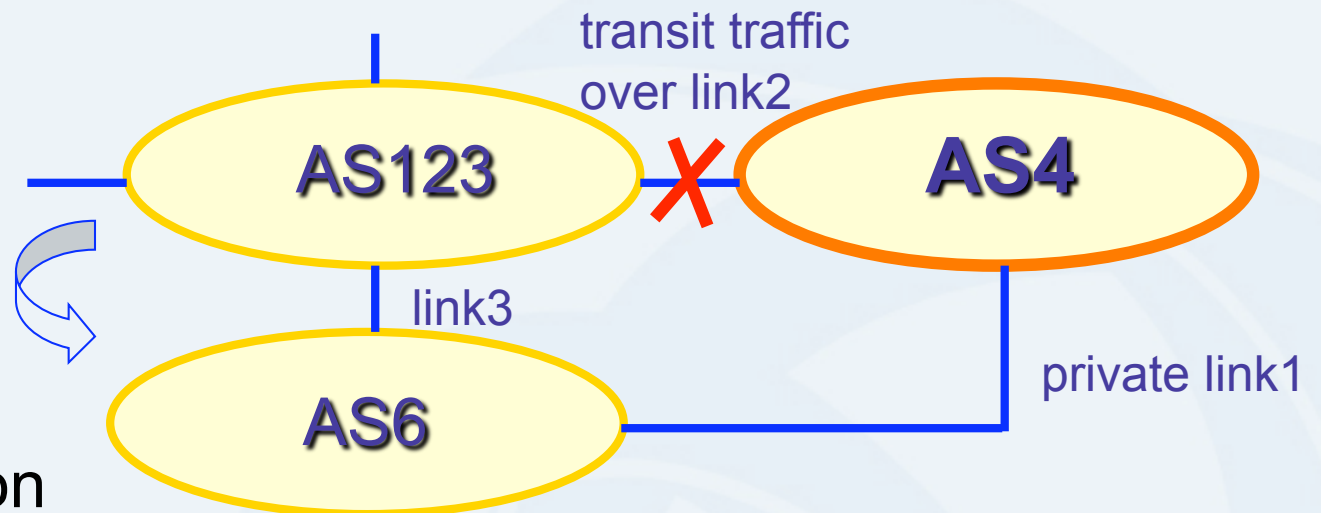
# Representation of routing policy



## More complex example

- AS4 and AS6 private link1
- AS4 and AS123 main transit link2
- backup all traffic over link1 and link3 in event of link2 failure

# Representation of routing policy



## AS representation

aut-num: AS4

import: from AS123 action pref=100; accept ANY *full routing received*

import: from AS6 action pref=50; accept AS6

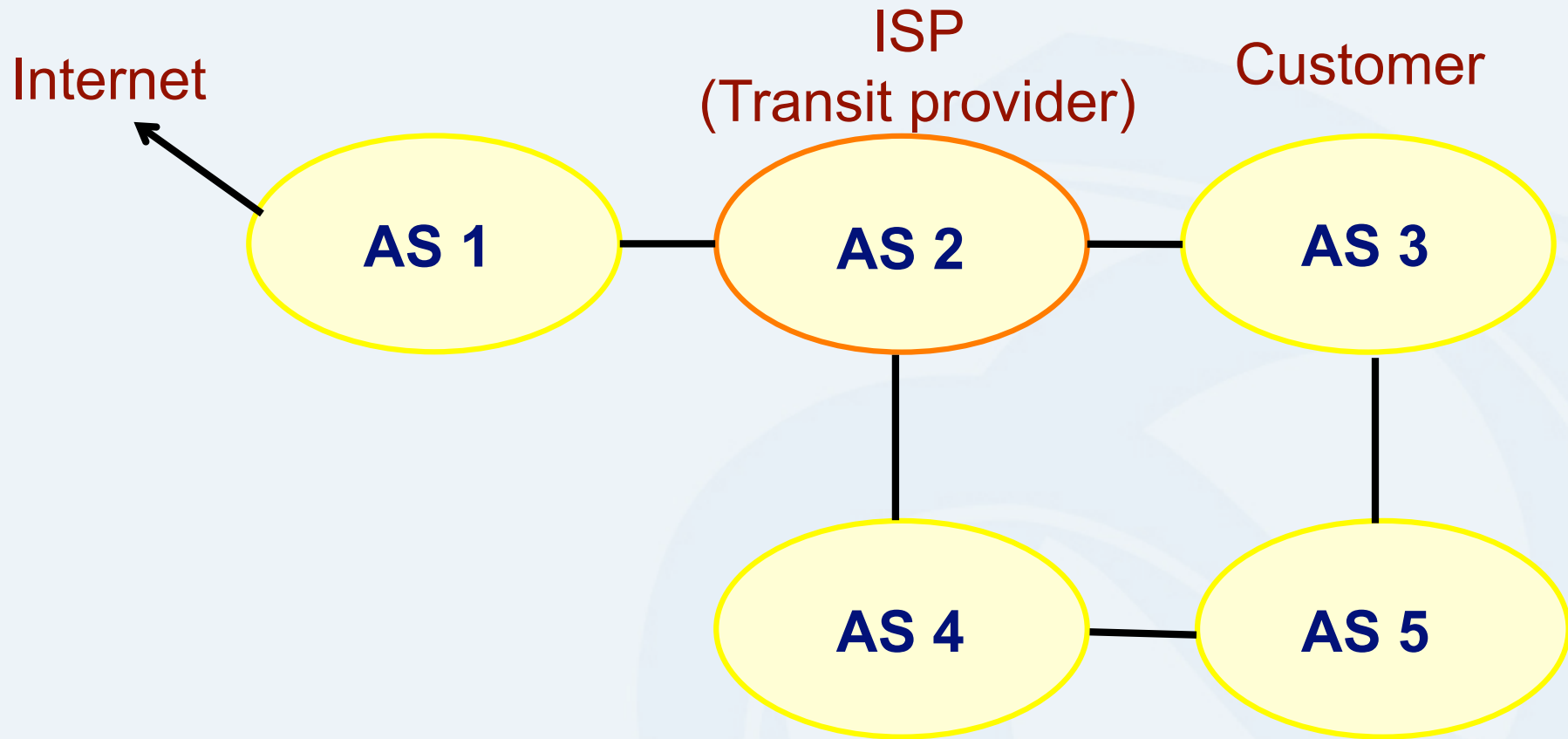
import: from AS6 action pref=200; accept ANY

export: to AS6 announce AS4

export: to AS123 announce AS4

*higher cost for backup route*

# Common peering policies



- Peering policies of an AS
  - Registered in an aut-num object

# Common peering policies

- Policy for AS3 in the AS2 aut-num object

```

aut-num:      AS2
as-name:      SAMPLE-NET
dsescrip:     Sample AS
import:       from AS1 accept ANY
import:       from AS3 accept <^AS3+$>
export:       to AS3 announce ANY
export:       to AS1 announce AS2 AS3
admin-c:      CW89-AP
tech-c:       CW89-AP
mtn-by:       MAINT-SAMPLE-AP
changed:      sample@sample.net
  
```

# ISP customer – transit provider policies

- Policy for AS3 and AS4 in the AS2 aut-num object

```
aut-num:      AS2
import:      from AS1 accept ANY
import:      from AS3 accept <^AS3+$>
import:      from AS4 accept <^AS4+$>
export:      to AS3 announce ANY
export:      to AS4 announce ANY
export:      to AS1 announce AS2 AS3 AS4
```

# AS-set object

- Describe the customers of AS2

```
as-set:      AS2:AS-CUSTOMERS
members:    AS3 AS4
changed:    sample@sample.net
source:     APNIC
```

# Aut-num object referring as-set object

```
aut-num:      AS2
import:       from AS1 accept ANY
import:       from AS2:AS-CUSTOMERS accept
              <^AS2:AS-CUSTOMERS+$>
export:       to AS2:AS-CUSTOMERS announce ANY
export:       to AS1 announce AS2 AS2:AS-
              CUSTOMERS
```

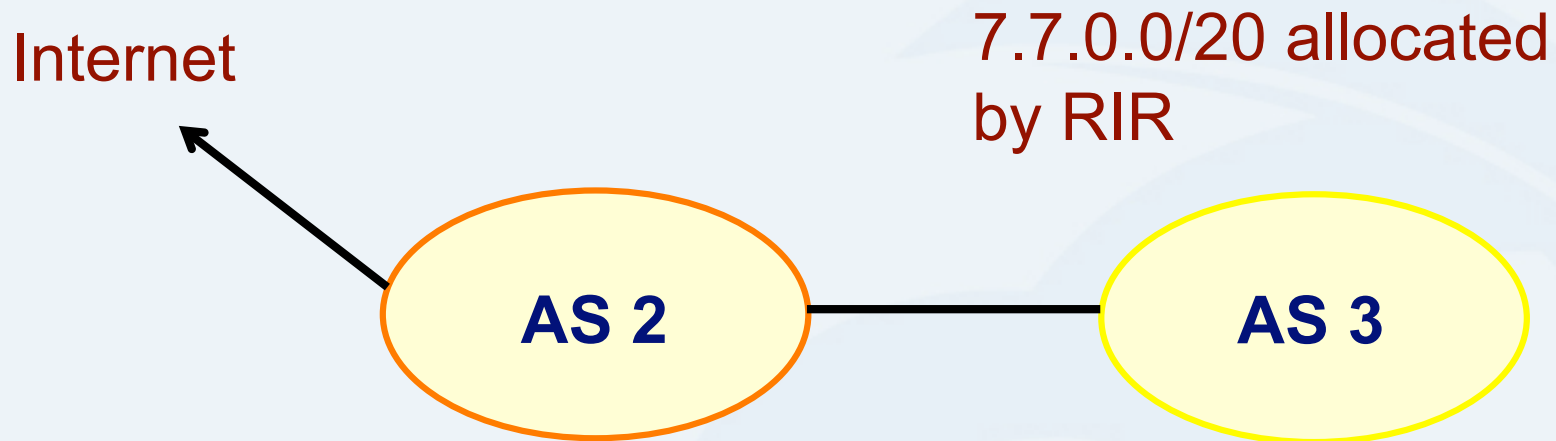
```
aut-num:      AS1
import:       from AS2 accept <^AS2+AS2:AS-
              CUSTOMERS+$>
export:       .....
```



# Express filtering policy

- To limit the routes one accepts from a peer
  - To prevent the improper use of unassigned address space
  - To prevent malicious use of another organisation's address space

# Filtering policy



AS3 wants to announce part or all of 7.7.0.0/20 to the global Internet.

AS2 wants to be certain that it only accepts announcements from AS3 for address space that has been properly allocated to AS3.

# Aut-num object with filtering policy

```
aut-num:      AS2
import:       from AS3 accept { 7.7.0.0/20^20-24 }
.....
```

For an ISP with a growing or changing customer base, this mechanism will not scale well.

Route-set object can be used.

# Route-set

```
route-set:    AS2:RS-ROUTES:AS3
members:     7.7.0.0/20^20-24
changed:     sample@sample.net
source:      APNIC
```

Specifies the set of routes that will be accepted from a given customer

Set names are constructed hierarchically:

**AS2** : RS-ROUTES : **AS3**



indicates whose sets  
these are



indicates peer AS

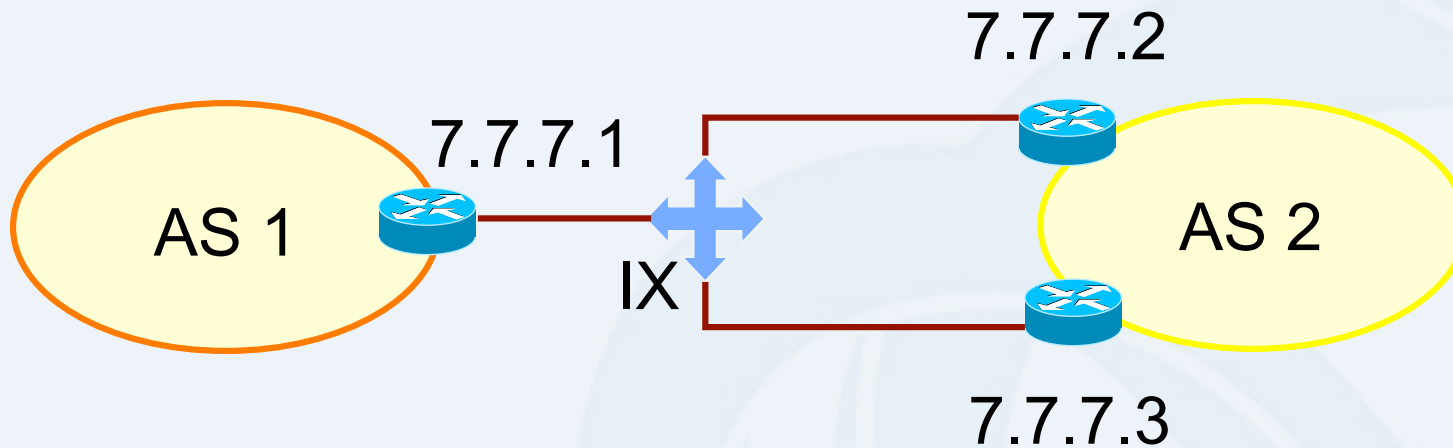
## Filter configuration using route-set – AS2

```
import:    from AS1 accept ANY
import:    from AS3 accept AS2:RS-ROUTES:AS3
import:    from AS4 accept AS2:RS-ROUTES:AS4
export:    to AS2:AS-CUSTOMERS announce ANY
export:    to AS1 announce AS2 AS2:AS-CUSTOMERS
```

RPSL allows the peer's AS number to be replaced by the keyword **PeerAS**

```
import:    from AS2:AS-CUSTOMERS accept
           AS2:RS-ROUTES:PeerAS
```

# Including interfaces in peering definitions: AS1



How to define AS1's routing policy by specifying its boundary router?

## Including interfaces in peering definitions: AS1 (cont.)

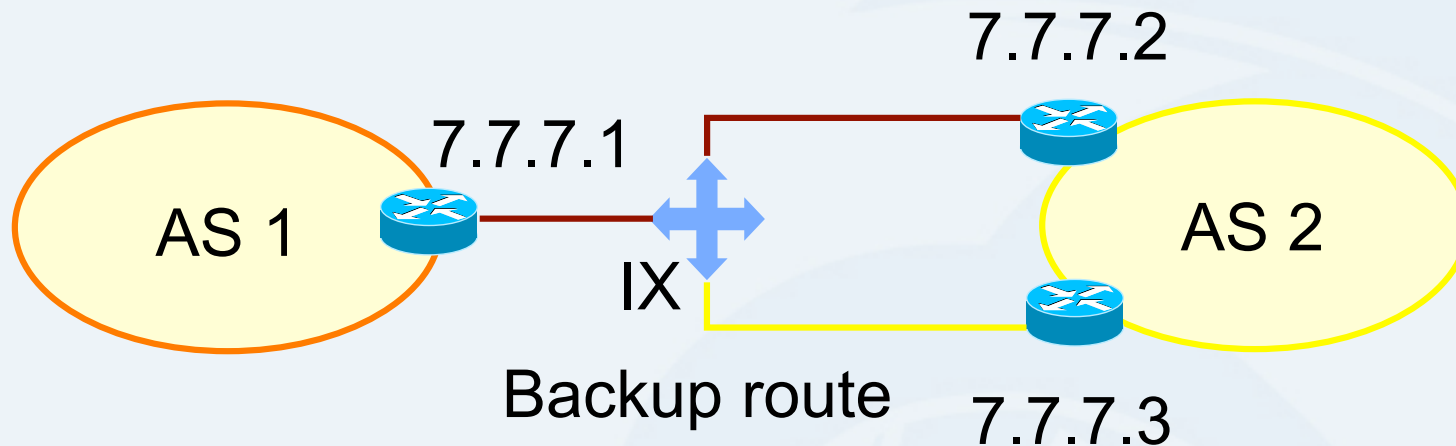
```
aut-num: AS1
import: from AS2 at 7.7.7.1 accept <^AS2+$>
```

AS1 may want to choose to accept:

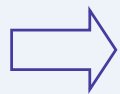
- only those announcements from router 7.7.7.2
- discard those announcements from router 7.7.7.3

```
aut-num: AS1
import: from AS2 7.7.7.2 at 7.7.7.1 accept <^AS2+$>
```

# Describing simple backup connections: AS1



How to define AS1's routing policy of its backup route?



Use preference



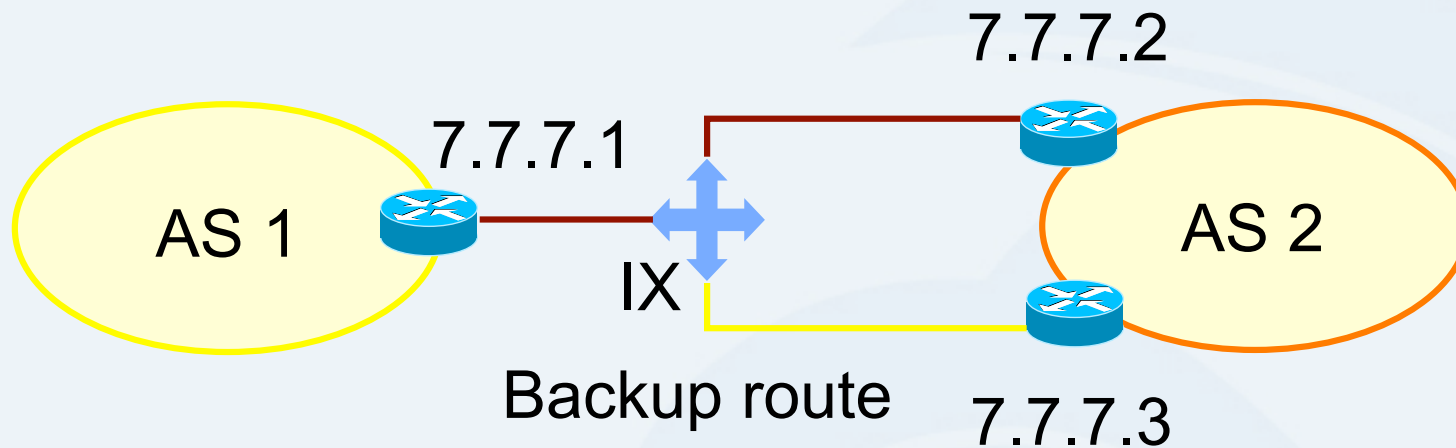
# Describing simple backup connections: AS1 (cont.)

```
aut-num: AS1
import:  from AS2 7.7.7.2 at 7.7.7.1 action pref=10;
        from AS2 7.7.7.3 at 7.7.7.1 action pref=20;
accept <^AS2+$>
```

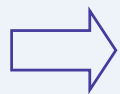
## Use of pref

- pref is opposite to local-pref
- Smaller values are preferred over larger values

# Describing simple backup connections: AS2



How to define AS2's routing policy of AS1's backup route?



multi exit discriminator metric (med) can be used

# Describing simple backup connections: AS2 (cont.)

```
aut-num: AS2
export: to AS1 7.7.7.1 at 7.7.7.2 action med=10;
        to AS1 7.7.7.1 at 7.7.7.3 action med=20;
announce <^AS2+$>
```

## Use of med

- Suitable for load balancing including backups

# Summary

# What we discussed

- APNIC Whois database recap
- What is IRR and Why use it
- How to use the Routing Registry
- Benefit of using IRR
- Using RPSL in practice

# Usage: preliminary work for your AS

- Enter in the APNIC RR
  - Or in your own RR database
- Create **person** and **mntner** objects
- Describe policy in your **aut-num** object
- Identify IP prefixes associated with your AS
  - Create **route** objects in the database
  - Create **route-set** objects
- Create various **as-set** objects, to group different categories of neighbours
- Create RtConfig template files
- Run RtConfig periodically to produce (parts of) router configuration file

# Questions ?



Thank you! 😊