

The Peering Database

The <https://www.peeringdb.com/> is a freely available, user-maintained database of networks which take part in the global Internet. It is considered the authoritative source of all information relating to network operators who participate in peering around the world.

The database facilitates the global interconnection of networks at Internet Exchange Points (IXPs), data centres, and other interconnection facilities, and is the first step in making interconnection decisions.

Background

In the early Internet (of the 1990s) there were few network operators and interconnect points around the world that interconnections were relatively straightforward to seek out and implement (in the author's experience anyway). In March 1999 there were 4640 ASNs in the Internet with only 800 providing transit. This compares with today's total exceeding 73000 ASNs and over 10000 ASNs providing transit, never mind that almost every country in the world now has at least one Internet Exchange Point if not a datacentre facilitating commercial interconnects.

In the 1990s establishing new interconnects by attending in major Internet operations meetings (NANOG, RIPE, AfNOG, APRICOT and so on), with network information passed on by word of mouth or email or even by letter!

With the rapid growth of the Internet in the late 1990s and early 2000s, there needed to be a more scalable way for a Network Operator to get their "peering information" out to the global Internet operations community. And hence the PeeringDB was born.

What is the Peering DB

The Peering DB is a repository of the important information that network operators need to determine whether an interconnection is feasible, makes commercial sense, makes technical sense, and is even technically feasible. While the Peering DB website has much more detailed information, the Peering Toolbox is highlighting the key points.

Here are some example entries to show what is possible. The first example (publicly accessible) is of LINX, the London Internet Exchange:

The screenshot shows the PeeringDB interface for LINX LON1. It includes a search bar at the top, a summary table with columns for Peers (811), Connections (913), Open Peers (688), Total Speed (33.2T), and % with IPv6 (85). Below this is a detailed profile for LINX, including organization name, location (London), and contact information. A 'Peers at this Exchange Point' table lists various peer organizations with their IPv4 addresses, ASNs, speeds, and policies.

Peer Name [I]	IPv4	ASN	IPv6	Speed	Policy
ispd_netherlands	195.68.225.115	33820	2001:78b4:8482:1	20G	Selective
01_Telecom.IT	207033	195.85.227.214		19G	Open
2001:78b4:0:14a6:1					
02_Scilla_Telecom	9116	2001:78b4:239c:1		19G	Open
195.68.225.114					
02_Scilla_Telecom	9116	2001:78b4:239c:2		19G	Open
195.68.225.66					
1&1_Vietnam	8881	195.85.224.245		100G	Selective
DeutschePost_Domini	2001:78b4:0:22a1:1				
190.Parcen.IT	20815	2001:78b4:81b3:1		1G	Open
195.68.225.213					
23M_Garrafel	47447	195.85.227.70		19G	Open
2001:78b4:0:897:1					
24Shells_Inc	55251	195.85.227.118		19G	Open
2001:78b4:0:729:1					
31173.Services.AB	38351	195.85.228.62		19G	Open
2001:78b4:0:997:1					
80.Data_Centers.LM	31403			19G	Selective

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