

# 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 stop 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:

PeeringDB

Search here for a network, IX, or facility.

Advanced Search

Peers

Connections

Open Peers

Total Speed

% with IPv6

Organization

Also Known As

Long Name

City

Country

Continental Region

Media Type

Service Level

Tier

Last Updated

Notes

Contact Information

Company Website

Traffic Stats Website

Technical Email

Technical Phone

Policy Email

Policy Phone

Sales Email

Sales Phone

Health Check

LAN

MTU

IX-F Member Export URL

Visibility

Peers at this Exchange Point

Peer Name

ASN

Speed

Policy

LINX LON1

Silver Sponsor

Peers

Connections

Open Peers

Total Speed

% with IPv6

Organization

Also Known As

Long Name

City

Country

Continental Region

Media Type

Service Level

Tier

Last Updated

Notes

Contact Information

Company Website

Traffic Stats Website

Technical Email

Technical Phone

Policy Email

Policy Phone

Sales Email

Sales Phone

Health Check

LAN

MTU

IX-F Member Export URL

Visibility

Peers at this Exchange Point

Peer Name

ASN

Speed

Policy

which shows a screen capture of what is available at their LON1 site, a scrollable list of the participants, how to contact LINX, etc.

The second example below shows that of a AWS (Amazon Web Services), one of the major content networks on the Internet:

PeeringDB

Search here for a network, IX, or facility.

Advanced Search

Peers

Connections

Open Peers

Total Speed

% with IPv6

Organization

Also Known As

Long Name

City

Country

Continental Region

Media Type

Service Level

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Technical Phone

Policy Email

Policy Phone

Sales Email

Sales Phone

Health Check

LAN

MTU

IX-F Member Export URL

Visibility

Public Peering Exchange Points

Exchange

ASN

Speed

RS Peer

Amazon.com

Diamond Sponsor

Peers

Connections

Open Peers

Total Speed

% with IPv6

Organization

Also Known As

Long Name

City

Country

Continental Region

Media Type

Service Level

Tier

Last Updated

Notes

Contact Information

Company Website

Traffic Stats Website

Technical Email

Technical Phone

Policy Email

Policy Phone

Sales Email

Sales Phone

Health Check

LAN

MTU

IX-F Member Export URL

Visibility

Public Peering Exchange Points

Exchange

ASN

Speed

RS Peer

This one shows the Public peering and Private peering facilities AWS is present at. So a potential peer

can check which locations they share with AWS, and then contact them about peering. The page for AWS contains data about number of prefixes, traffic ratios, etc, plus the IP addressing used at the various public Internet connect points. All this is designed to make it easier for prospective peers to assess and reach out to AWS for peering.

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<https://bgp4all.com/pfs/> - **Philip Smith's Internet Development Site**

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