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## Requiring DNS IN-ADDR Mapping

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## **1. Introduction**

The Domain Name Service has provision for providing mapping of IP addresses to host names. It is common practice to ensure both name to address, and address to name mappings are provided for networks. This practice, while documented, has never been documented as a requirement placed upon those who control address blocks. This document fills this gap.

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [RFC 2119](#).

## **2. Discussion**

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From the early days of the Domain Name Service [[RFC 883](#)] a special domain has been set aside for resolving mappings of IP addresses to domain names. This was refined in [[RFC1035](#)], describing the .IN-ADDR.ARPA in use today.

The assignment of blocks of IP Address space was delegated to three regional registries. Guidelines for the registries are specified in [[RFC2050](#)], which requires regional registries to maintain IN-ADDR records on the large blocks of space issued to ISPs and others.

ARIN's policy only requires ISPs to maintain IN-ADDR if they have a /16 or larger allocation [[ARIN](#)]. APNIC indicates in their policy document [[APNIC](#)] that those to whom they allocate blocks, and those further downstream SHOULD maintain IN-ADDR records. RIPE appears to have the strongest policy in this area [[ripe-185](#)] indicating Local Internet Registries are required to perform IN-ADDR services, and delegate those as appropriate when address blocks are delegated.

As we can see, the regional registries have their own policies for requirements for IN-ADDR maintenance. It should be noted, however, that many address blocks were allocated before the creation of the regional registries, and thus it is unclear whether any of the policies of the registries are binding on those who hold blocks from that era.

Many applications use DNS lookups for security checks. To ensure validity of claimed names, some applications will look up IN-ADDR records to get names, and then look up the resultant name to see if it maps back to the address originally known. Failure to resolve matching names is seen as a potential security concern.

### **3. Requirements**

All IP address space which is assigned and in use SHOULD be resolved by IN-ADDR records. Internet providers and other users to whom a block of addresses are delegated SHOULD provide for lookup of host names from IP addresses. This may be provided directly or by delegation to the user of the address block. The ISP is responsible for one or the other. In the event of delegation, the user is responsible for resolution.

Only IP addresses not presently in use within a block, or which are not valid for use (zeros or ones broadcast addresses) are permitted to have no mapping. It should be noted that due to CIDR [[RFC1519](#)], many addresses which appear to be otherwise valid host addresses may actually be zeroes or ones broadcast addresses. As such, attempting to audit a site's degree of compliance can only be done with a knowledge of the internal routing structure of the site. However, any



host which originates an IP packet necessarily will have a valid host address, and must therefore have an IN-ADDR mapping.

Regional Registries and any Local Registries to whom they delegate SHOULD establish and convey a policy to those to whom they delegate blocks that IN-ADDR mappings are required. Internet providers and end users with address blocks must verify their own internal networks are properly represented in IN-ADDR records, either by providing that service themselves, or delegating it to others.

Those to whom blocks have been delegated SHOULD convey a policy to deegatees requiring that they too provide IN-ADDR records and require and delegations below to do the same. ISPs may wish to provide IN-ADDR records for their clients if the customers are unable to provide this for themselves.

#### **4. Security Considerations**

This document has no negative impact on security. While it could be argued that lack of PTR record capabilities provides a degree of anonymity, this is really not valid. Trace routes, whois lookups and other sources will still provide methods for discovering identity.

#### **5. References**

[RFC883] P.V. Mockapetris, "Domain names: Implementation specification," [RFC883](#), November 1983.

[RFC1519] V. Fuller, et. al., "Classless Inter-Domain Routing (CIDR): an Address Assignment and Aggregation Strategy," [RFC 1519](#), September 1993.

[RFC2050] K. Hubbard, et. al., "Internet Registry IP Allocation Guidelines", [RFC2050](#), [BCP 12](#), Novebmer 1996.

[ARIN] "ISP Guidelines for Requesting Initial IP Address Space," date unknown, <http://www.arin.net/regserv/initial-isp.html>

[APNIC] "Policies for address space management in the Asia Pacific Region," Approved October 1999, effective January 2000, <http://www.apnic.net/drafts/add-manage-policy.html>

[RIPE185] "European Internet Registry Policies and Procedures," ripe-185, October 26, 1998. <http://www.ripe.net/docs/ripe-185.html>

#### **6. Acknowledgements**



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