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**Redesignation of 240/4 from "Future Use" to "Limited Use for Large
Private Internets"
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Abstract

This document directs the IANA to designate the block of IPv4 addresses from 240.0.0.0 to 255.255.255.255 (240.0.0.0/4) as unicast address space for limited use in large private Internets.

1. Redesignation of 240.0.0.0/4

The address block spanning 240.0.0.0 to 255.255.255.255 (240.0.0.0/4), formerly designated as "Class E", and noted as being "Reserved" in the IANA IPv4 address registry, is no longer to be held in reserve by IANA for the IETF.

IANA is directed to redesignate the address block 240.0.0.0/4 as unicast address space intended for private use in large private Internets that require more address space than is available in the private use address space designated by [[RFC1918](#)].

Potential users of this address space need to ensure that their envisaged deployment can satisfy the use caveats noted here.

2. Caveats of Use

Many implementations of the TCP/IP protocol stack have the 240.0.0.0/4 address block marked as experimental, and prevent the host from forwarding IP packets with addresses drawn from this address block.

For this reason, it is strongly suggested that private network addressing requirements which can be fulfilled from the private use address space designated by [[RFC1918](#)] should continue to use that space. Network administrators with very large scale requirements for private use address space who wish to use addresses drawn from 240.0.0.0/4 are advised to conduct appropriate tests to ensure that such addresses can be used in their envisaged private use context.

[Note: not for publication. It is suggested that in order to assist with verification of equipment compatibility, a separate informational RFC or other mechanism be developed to assist with the recording of specific test results, upgrade status, etc.]

3. Security Considerations

Equipment deployed on the public Internet is configured by default to treat addresses in the block 240.0.0.0/4 as experimental addresses that cannot be forwarded. This implies that accidental leakage of packets destined to such addresses would conventionally be discarded.

4. IANA Considerations

The IANA is directed to redesignate the block of IPv4 addresses from

240.0.0.0 to 255.255.255.255 as unicast address space reserved for "Limited Use for Large Private Internets".

5. Acknowledgements

The authors would like to acknowledge the thoughtful assistance of David Conrad, Andy Davidson and Robert Seastrom in the preparation of this document.

6. Normative References

[RFC1918] Rekhter, Y., Moskowitz, R., Karrenberg, D., Groot, G., and E. Lear, "Address Allocation for Private Internets", [BCP 5](#), [RFC 1918](#), February 1996.

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