

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:

Last update:
2022/05/06
04:49

peering-toolbox:the_peering_database https://bgp4all.com.au/pfs/peering-toolbox/the_peering_database?rev=1651812554

The screenshot shows the PeeringDB interface for LINX LON1. It includes a search bar, organization details (LINX, London Internet Exchange Ltd.), contact information (website, email, phone), and a table of peers at the exchange point. The table lists peer names, ASNs, speeds, and policies.

Peer Name	ASN	Speed	Policy
(as) networks	33920	2G	Selective
195.66.225.115	2001:7f8:4::8400:1		
01 Telecom (01.T)	201933	10G	Open
195.66.227.214			
2001:7f8:4::3:14cd:1			
012 Smile Telecom	9116	10G	Open
195.66.225.114	2001:7f8:4::239c:1		
012 Smile Telecom	9116	10G	Open
195.66.226.60	2001:7f8:4::239c:2		
1&1 Versatel Deutschland GmbH	8881	100G	Selective
195.66.224.245			
2001:7f8:4::22b1:1			
100 Prozent IT	20915	1G	Open
195.66.225.213	2001:7f8:4::51b3:1		
23M GmbH	47447	10G	Open
195.66.227.70			
2001:7f8:4::b957:1			
24Shellia Inc	55061	10G	Open
195.66.227.116			
2001:7f8:4::d729:1			
31173 Services AB	38351	10G	Open
195.66.226.62			
2001:7f8:4::99b7:1			
4D Data Centres Ltd	31463	10G	Selective

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

[Back to "What I need to Peer" page](#)

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Last update: 2022/05/06 04:49

