

“country:” attribute

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Introduction

- “**country:**” in INETNUM / INET6NUMs
- What is it useful for?
- Problem 1
- Problem 2
- Proposed solution 1
- Proposed solution 2
- Proposed solution 3
- Our preferred proposal
- Acknowledgements



“country:” in INETNUM/INET6NUMs

```
inetnum:          193.0.0.0 - 193.0.7.255
netname:          RIPE-NCC
descr:           RIPE Network Coordination Centre
remarks:         Used for RIPE NCC infrastructure.
country:       NL
admin-c:         AMR68-RIPE
[ . . . ]
source:          RIPE
```

What is it useful for?

- Statistics
- Filtering
 - Inappropriate? There is no check on the value!
- Detecting locale
- Unreliable
 - Not a problem if people take this into account

Problem 1

```
inetnum:      82.0.0.0 - 82.255.255.255
netname:      EU-ZZ-82
descr:        RIPE NCC
country:    EU
status:       ALLOCATED UNSPECIFIED
[ . . . ]
source:       RIPE
```

Problem 1

- Using EU is not correct
- Meaning is not clear
 - Europe as a geographical region?
 - European Union?
 - Both are incorrect! NCC service region is meant in the specific object shown

Problem 2

- There is no (pseudo-)code to mean 'not applicable'

```
inetnum:          0.0.0.0 - 255.255.255.255
country:          EU # Country is really
                  # world wide
status:          ALLOCATED UNSPECIFIED
[ . . . ]
source:          RIPE
```

Proposed solution 1

- Remove “country:” all together
 - Because its meaning is not clear
 - and it is not reliable
- Disadvantages
 - Having non-reliable data is better than not having it at all

Proposed solution 2

- Make “**country:**” optional
 - it won’t appear when it is not applicable
- Disadvantages
 - Will break scripts
 - There won’t be enough incentive to fill in an optional attribute

Proposed solution 3

- Define pseudo-codes per case
 - use ISO 3166 reserved codes

For example

- **XA**: I do not want to make it public
- **XB**: Not known
- [. . .]
- **XV**: Europe
- **XY**: Asia
- **XZ**: World wide

Proposed solution 3

- Disadvantages
 - It is too complex
 - Query users will not know what they mean

Our preferred proposal

- Add a pseudo-code, **ZZ**
- Use it in all cases where
 - data is not available
 - not applicable
 - user does not want to publish

A simple proposal

- Solution for EU problem
- Solution for the user who does not want to publish this data
- Solution for
“NL # it is actually the whole world”
problem
- It is simple!

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Questions

