



RIPE NCC Guidelines for Law Enforcement Authorities

About These Guidelines

The following guidelines are intended to help law enforcement authorities with information requests concerning RIPE NCC members. Requests that are consistent with these guidelines can help ensure a prompt and accurate response.

What is the RIPE NCC?

RIPE NCC (Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre)

The RIPE NCC (Réseaux IP Européens Network Coordination Centre) is a not-for-profit organisation that serves as the Regional Internet Registry (RIR) for Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia.

RIPE NCC Key Functions

1. Distribution and Registration of IP Addresses and ASNs

- The RIPE NCC is responsible for distributing and registering Internet number resources - IP addresses and Autonomous System Numbers (ASNs) - to Internet service providers (ISPs), businesses, and other network operators in its service region.
- Maintains an [internal] registry of Internet resources.

2. Policy Development Support

- Facilitates the policy-making process of the RIPE community, which collaboratively develops policies to regulate the distribution, registration and use of IP addresses and AS Numbers.
- The RIPE NCC itself does not make policies but implements community-driven decisions.

3. Internet Infrastructure and Security Support

- Supports routing security services like Resource Public Key Infrastructure (RPKI) to prevent IP hijacking and misdirections in Internet traffic.
- Provides DNS services and supports activities such as reverse DNS support for registered Internet number resources and secondary services to some ccTLDs.
- Conducts research and provides data on Internet measurements, traffic patterns, and global connectivity.



4. Training and Outreach

- Provides training, workshops, and online courses to help organisations and network operators understand and implement best practices in Internet routing and security.
- Engages with governments, law enforcement authorities, and regulators to promote best practices in routing security and Internet resilience.

5. Measurement Tools Provision

- RIPE Atlas: A global Internet measurement network that helps monitor connectivity and performance.
- RIPEstat: A tool providing real-time data on IP addresses, ASNs, and routing information.

6. Internet Resource Certification (RPKI)

- Issues Resource Public Key Infrastructure (RPKI) certificates to verify the authenticity of IP address announcements and prevent Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) incidents such as BGP hijacking.

What is RIPE?

RIPE (Réseaux IP Européens) is a collaborative forum open to all parties interested in the operation, development, and management of the Internet within Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia. It is not an organisation itself, but rather a community of Internet service providers (ISPs), network operators, regulators, and other stakeholders who work together to develop policies and best practices for Internet operations.

Key Aspects of RIPE

Community and Working Groups

- RIPE consists of various working groups that focus on topics like IP address policy, routing security, anti-abuse measures, and Internet governance.
- Decisions and policies are developed through open discussion and consensus.

RIPE Meetings

- Regular RIPE Meetings are held to discuss technical and policy issues affecting the Internet.
- These meetings bring together engineers, policymakers, researchers, businesses and LEAs to exchange knowledge and shape the future of Internet infrastructure.

Policy Development

- RIPE is responsible for developing policies related to IP address distribution, Internet routing security, and network coordination.
- Policies are proposed, discussed, and agreed upon by the community using a bottom-up, consensus-driven approach.



RIPE and the RIPE NCC

While RIPE is a community, it is supported by the RIPE NCC (RIPE Network Coordination Centre), which is a separate, formal membership organisation that serves as the Regional Internet Registry (RIR) for Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia.

Not a Regulatory or Enforcement Body

RIPE does not enforce laws or control the Internet; instead, it serves as an open forum for discussions and consensus-building on Internet-related matters.

The RIPE Registry and RIPE Database

What is the RIPE Registry?

The RIPE Registry, which is mostly not publicly accessible due to privacy, security, and contractual obligations, is the authoritative database maintained by the RIPE NCC.

It serves as the official record of which entities hold these resources and ensures they are traceable and uniquely assigned in compliance with RIPE policies.

Key Functions of the RIPE Registry

1. Internet Number Resource Distribution

- Maintains accurate records of who holds which Internet resources to prevent duplication and help detect RIPE policy violations.

2. Ensuring Uniqueness & Accountability

- Ensures that all assigned IP addresses and ASNs are globally unique.
- Provides an official registry for resource management.

3. Supporting Policy Development & Compliance

- Conforms to the policies set by the RIPE community.

What is the RIPE Database?

The RIPE Database is a publicly accessible directory that contains information about IP addresses (IPv4 and IPv6) and ASNs registered by the RIPE NCC to network-operating organisations. This registration ensures that IP addresses and ASNs are not allocated to more than one party at the same time.



Key Functionalities of the RIPE Database

1. Network Coordination and Troubleshooting

- Helps network administrators and engineers find technical contact information for routing, peering, and network troubleshooting.
- Supports Internet routing stability by providing accurate information about who holds and operates IP resources.

2. Internet Security Support

- Helps cybersecurity experts and law enforcement authorities to investigate cybercrime, fraud, and network abuse.
- Facilitates incident response by providing contact details for affected network operators.

3. RIPE Database Lookup for Internet Resources

- Provides an Internet resource lookup WHOIS service through which users can query IP addresses, ASNs, and associated organisational details.
- Searching for an IP address in the RIPE Database can show the organisation it is allocated to and that organisation's contact details.

4. Routing and Peering Information

- Supports routing and network infrastructure planning by offering insights into autonomous systems, route objects, and network interconnections.

5. RIPE Community Policies

- The RIPE Database operates under policies developed and agreed upon by the RIPE community.

Information Law Enforcement Authorities Can Obtain from the RIPE NCC

Law Enforcement Authorities (LEAs) can access various types of information from the RIPE NCC to support cybercrime investigations, fraud detection, and law enforcement.

The RIPE NCC maintains records related to the Internet number resources it distributes and RIPE NCC member-related information.

The RIPE NCC further cooperates with LEAs wherein if the RIPE NCC has been presented with fraudulent documentation, either before or after the registration of Internet number resources, this will be reported to the relevant authorities in the Netherlands.



1. Publicly Accessible Information (RIPE Database)

Most of the information that LEAs can use is publicly available via the RIPE Database. These include:

IP Address Allocations & Assignments

- Details on who holds IPv4 and IPv6 address blocks.
- Information about sub-allocated address space and downstream users that is provided by network operators.
- Historical changes in IP address distribution.
- Direct allocations and assignments and their recorded geographical locations (not exact physical locations, but country/region-based data).

Autonomous System Numbers (ASNs)

- Who holds an ASN.

Contact Information for Abuse Reporting

- Abuse contacts (abuse-c) linked to an IP address or ASN for reporting illegal activities (e.g. cyber fraud, hacking, child exploitation materials, DDoS attacks).
- Contact details of network operators, ISPs, and hosting providers responsible for a given IP address.

RIPEstat, RIPE Atlas and Routing Information Service (RIS) Data

- RIPEstat: Provides relevant IP and ASN data, helping to trace past distribution and routing.
- RIPE Atlas: Internet measurement data.
- RIS: Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) routing data.

2. Restricted Information (Available to LEAs on request)

Some non-public information may be provided to LEAs upon provision of a court order or other legally enforceable order or request under Dutch law, in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements.

RIPE NCC Member Data

- RIPE NCC member-related administration and Internet number resource request-related (supporting) information and documentation, including billing history, transfer documents, End User agreements/standard service agreements/corporate documents (including Chamber of Commerce documents).
- Historical records/documentation as it relates to allocations, assignments, or transfers of Internet number resources.



Resource Certification (RPKI) Details

- The RIPE NCC's Resource Public Key Infrastructure (RPKI) records can help validate or track changes in network announcements.
- Confirmation of the legitimacy of routing announcements.

3. What the RIPE NCC Does Not Have

The RIPE NCC **does not have access** to the following types of data:

- **Information about who is using an Internet resource on a certain date, time or place.**
- Information on how Internet resources are used.
- Content of communications with parties other than the RIPE NCC (emails, chats, web activity).
- Physical location of users.
- Financial information for any entities other than members of the RIPE NCC.

4. How LEAs Can Request Data from the RIPE NCC

LEAs seeking non-public information must:

1. Submit a formal request with legal justification (e.g. provision of a court order or other legally enforceable order or request under Dutch law).
2. Follow the RIPE NCC's procedures for handling law enforcement inquiries.
3. **All requests** can be submitted via the dedicated LEA email address - LEA@ripe.net.

5. Does the RIPE NCC Provide Notice to its Members about Law Enforcement Requests?

It is the RIPE NCC's policy to notify members of requests (or other orders) for their data unless it is prohibited from doing so by statute or court order.

We may challenge law enforcement requests that do not comply with due process, are overly broad in scope or that unduly restrict our ability to notify our members of the request. We report on our responses to LEA requests in our [transparency reports](#).