Written Section

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Brief overview of project

The aim of the project was the institutional support to the starting up activities of Armenian Internet Traffic Exchange Foundation “ARMIX”. Support was intended to be provided in Capital Equipment and Labor Cost. Up to date cooling and conditioning system, uninterruptable power supply as well as necessary equipment was planned to be acquired.

It was also intended to develop a website for public awareness as well as specialized information provision purposes.

Activities Implemented

During the period of July 2011-January 2012 a number of activities were implemented in the framework of grant, particularly:

- Finalization of cooling/conditioning system, acquisition of appropriate equipment.
- Website development and testing
- BigIron 15000 test traffic exchange
- Advocacy Initiatives to promote Armix role in Armenian Internet Traffic Exchange and Internet Development in Armenia
- PR Coverage

In the end of June 2011 General Meeting of ARMIX took place. Along with registered members other internet providers were invited and participated in the meeting. Issues of strategic development, additional value added services, provision of services to educational and content providers and other parties has been discussed. However, it was claimed that the priority for 2012 should be the proper and successful finalization of establishment of Operation Center itself, ensuring uninterruptable internet traffic exchange services to the internet providers, connected to ARMIX. This was completely in line with ISOC grant agreement and directed us to put more emphasise and efforts to the successful implementation of project.

ARMIX was also represented at ARMTECH Congress 2011 on October 10-11, 2011 - an event which connected Government representatives, major players in the financial and services sectors, and leading academics from Armenia, US, Russia, European Union, CIS countries, the MENA region and South-East Asia.

In October 2011 Director of Armix Mr. Vahan Hovsepyan met with Mr. Henk Steenman, director of AMS-IX and issues of further cooperation were discussed.
Impact of the project

The main impact of the project was the fact of sustainable operation of ARMIX. From March 2011 to September 2011 we have registered the 800 % of increase in the volume of internet traffic exchange through ARMIX. A few internet providers currently considering the option to use collocation service provide by ARMIX. Thus, the Operation Center became a secure and sustainable high level internet traffic exchange center.

In fact, 2 main internet providers are not connected to ARMIX yet-Armenian Data Company and Armentel. Both of them historically have different 22 types of connections to other internet providers, and still discussing the possibility to join ARMIX.

We should also mention the promise of Government of Armenia to provide a space for backup office of ARMIX where second module of BigIron 15000 will be placed. The establishment of backup center will critically increase the effectiveness of ARMIX, and might be the right argument for parties to connect to ARMIX. As it was also told, the possibilities of BigIron 15000 provided to ARMIX by AMS-IX allow to increase the national traffic exchange several times as well as play significant role in regional developments.

Initial agreement about cooperation has been also established with Academic Scientific Network of Armenia (ASNET), and it is planned to connect ASNET to ARMIX in the nearest future.


Issues of cooperation with state bodies were raised at Information Technologies Development Support Council session which was headed by Prime Minister of Armenia.

In 2012 issues of using IPV6 protocol will require additional efforts and experience. Different peering connections that historically have providers can from one side play the role of backup in case of serious problems with ARMIX Operation Center and ARMIX operation center backup, but, at the same time currently affect negatively on the volume of internet traffic that goes through ARMIX. Certain internet traffic regulating procedures should be used by parties connected to ARMIX to prioritize their internet traffic exchange to go through ARMIX, which provides them faster connection. Monopolies should meet a joint vision of common challenges from other internet providers and understand the importance to join ARMIX.

As ARMIX has established minimal connection charges it has limited financial sources. Further development of ARMIX is closely connected with additional value added service that can be designed and provided by ARMIX as well as public-private partnership initiatives that can bring additional financial and organizational resources. Participation in regional projects as well as close cooperation with ISOC, ICANN, ITU and other local and international organizations, working in the field of internet development and regulation can also highly increase the impact and role of ARMIX.