Experimental Objects and attributes for the Routing Registry

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1. Introduction

It should be noted that this document acts as a placeholder for a more complete document to follow. This document is expected to be a living document that is updated as and when new objects and attributes are proposed to be used in an experimental fashion. Two new attributes for the AS object which are proposed and supported by the Merit Routing Registry are as-transit and db-selector.

2. "as-tranit"

as-transit describes the transit preferences of an AS. It allows an AS to describe its path preference in order to reach certain destinations. The AS(s) specified in the path preference may or may not be an immediate neighbor of the AS defined in the AS object. as-transit accommodates policy decisions involving AS path whereas as-in and as-out do not. It is not unusual for ASs to have routing policies which involve path selection based on AS. Emerging protocols like SDRP will allow an AS to choose a path independent of a neighboring ASs path choice. as-transit permits descriptions based on AS path selection.

3. "db-selector"

The DataBase Selector (db-selector) function allows one to take advantage of information registered in other Registries. It permits the selection of networks in a database based on their attributes. It is proposed to be used within the as-in/as-out attribute family to make the description of policy concise. For example, if an AS has the policy of not accepting any routes from country XYZ, the AS can use the db-selector to check a database which has a network and country attribute and relate that information to the information in the routing registry. The advantage of referencing another database is that the routing registry will avoid duplicating the information maintained in other information registries.