

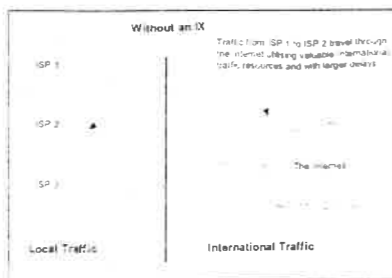
**Launch of the
Domestic
Internet Exchange**

June 18, 2001



The Sri Lanka Internet Exchange Point

An Internet Exchange Point (IX) is very important for the improvement of the Internet infrastructure of a country. Many countries that have got connected to the Internet recently through multiple ISPs face a problem of interconnectivity between the local ISPs. This is something which most of the ISPs forget about when they compete against each other for a larger customer base.



In a situation where there are several ISPs in a country, the initial situation would be that all of them are getting Internet services from some other larger ISP outside the country. Any connectivity from one ISP to any other ISP would be through the Internet, which is the only interconnectivity between the ISPs.

This means that even if there are two machines located physically close by, but connected through different ISPs, the actual data transfers between these two machines will need to go through the Internet and travel possibly millions of miles. This involves

huge costs as well as very large delays.

When the Internet usage in the country improves such data transfers will make up the majority of the traffic.

This means that valuable international bandwidth is being wasted for just transferring data that is meant to be sent locally.

An introduction of a local Internet Exchange point (IX) will help this situation by routing all the local traffic through the IX rather than through the Internet.

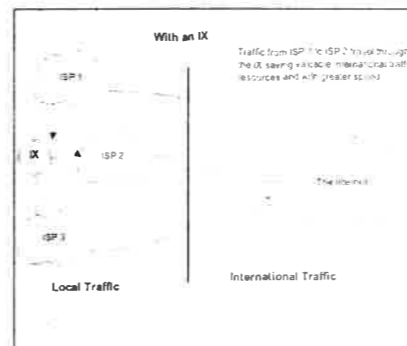
This will make the International links less clogged up leaving more bandwidth for non-local Internet traffic on the respective ISPs.

The connectivity within the local sites will also improve, as there will be less distance to travel.

Many countries have adopted this as a solution to the increased Internet bandwidth requirements. The ISPs connected to the IX have several advantages.

- They can save a considerable amount of money on International bandwidth.
- They can hire bandwidth at short notice from other ISPs connected to the IX.
- The ISPs can collectively get international bandwidth to the IX and share it as a pool.
- They can offer services at a cheaper rate, as more bandwidth is available.
- Special arrangements can be

made with other ISPs in the IX to handle the international traffic through them automatically in a situation where the international link of the ISP goes down so that its customers don't feel a down time.



The users of the ISPs connected to the IX also get benefited in several ways.

- They get much better services especially with local traffic.
- They get services at a lesser price.
- Requirements of higher bandwidth requirements can be arranged quickly if the local link to the ISP has capacity to carry it.
- More reliable connectivity is obtained.

Internet has become the most important tool

We are delighted to be associated with the launch of the National Internet Exchange and the "web.lk" domain. In today's global economy, the Internet has become the most important tool in reducing the digital divide between the developed and developing countries. Countries are forced to be part of the Information revolution thus enhancing their knowledge capital. A closer look at the Sri Lankan scenario leaves much to be desired. Though we have about one million telephone connections, there

are only 50,000-60,000 Internet connections.

In view of this situation, it is a timely intervention by the Council for Information Technology through its Internet Committee to have initiated the process for public and private sector cooperation by facilitating the establishment of this National Exchange. We consider this to be of crucial importance for the development of the Internet infrastructure, which will result in the overall development of the information industry of this country.

We take this opportunity to thank Lanka Communication Services (Pvt.) Ltd., for having made available the necessary equipment at no cost to the members of our Association.

We believe that quality Internet access is the right of every Sri Lankan and this is a definite step taken in the right direction.

Vijit Ratnarajah, Chairman
Licensed Internet Service Providers Association (LISPA)

Activities of the CINTEC Internet Committee

□ Domain name registry for Sri Lanka (.lk - ccTLD)

The Network Information Center for the .lk (Country Code Top Level Domain) registry, is under the purview of the CINTEC Internet Committee. Organizations in Sri Lanka using the Internet, for email, hosting web portals and web servers, etc. are encouraged by CINTEC to register themselves with the .lk (Sri Lanka) Internet domain. Details are available at www.nic.lk All Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in Sri Lanka can support subscribers who have their own domain names. Over 1300 domain names have been registered under the .lk domain.

Allocation of the second level domains "com.lk", "gov.lk", and "sch.lk" are also undertaken.

The allocation of "com.lk" domains is automatically done when registering .lk domains. "gov.lk" domains are only allocated to organizations of the Sri Lankan government and "sch.lk" domains are for registered schools in Sri Lanka. A new second level domain "web.lk" is also in progress, which will be used to promote more local Internet traffic.

The policy for the administration of the second level domain names is currently being reviewed by the Internet Committee, and would be available for public comment shortly. The Committee has also set up a panel of experts comprising four persons who review domain name applications whenever there is a doubt as to whether the name sought conforms to the prescribed guidelines.

□ Internet.lk:

The website www.internet.lk, is cur-

rently being created by the Internet Committee, and would be the focal point for the Internet in Sri Lanka. The site would contain information about the Committee, information on what the Internet is, press releases, information about ISPs, FAQs, etc. The site will also contain content in local languages.

□ Multilingual web content:

The Committee is planning to popularize web content in local languages, particularly in Sinhala.

□ Setting up LISPA and the domestic Internet Exchange:

The Internet Committee was instrumental in setting up the Licensed Internet Service Providers Association. (LISPA). The LISPA has now established the Internet Exchange (IX) in Sri Lanka, to route local traffic in Sri Lanka; thus, saving bandwidth on the international circuit. The latter was initiated jointly by CINTEC and the Telecom Regulatory Commission of Sri Lanka in 1999.

CINTEC Internet Committee

Members

Mr Vijit Ratnarajah - Chair, of the Committee
Chair, LISPA

Ms. Sadhna Jayatunge
General Manager in-1.com

Mr Laxman Perera

Director, Ministry of Urban Development, Construction & Public Utilities

Dr Gihan Dias
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Mr D.M.R. Sirisena
Representative, Computer Society of Sri Lanka

Mr Mohan Jayasekera,
Deputy Director,
Telecommunications Regulatory Commission

Mr Jayantha Fernando
Attorney-at-Law

Mr Sisira Senarathne
Network Systems Officer,
Council for Information Technology

Mr Rasika Amarasiri
(Hostmaster, LKNIC)
Dept. of Computer Science and Engineering
University of Moratuwa

web.lk: The New Second Level Domain of LKNIC

The Sri Lankan Domain Registry (LKNIC) is announcing the launch of a new second level domain, web.lk, which will lay the path to several other second level domain names in the future. This new domain will handle registrations

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The new second level domain will pave the way to several improvements in the registration process and is also expected to create more local Internet traffic to promote the usage of the new local Internet Exchange (IX) implemented by the Lanka Internet Service Providers Association (LISPA). The new second level domain will be available for registration only through registered ISPs who will need to have several pre-requisites before they can provide the registration service. The main requirement is to have a direct connection to the local IX for the web server with a minimum ping response of 50ms. This will ensure that the content on a web server hosted under the web.lk domain will have a very fast connectivity within Sri Lanka. The domain can also be used for email and ftp services, which will not have the restrictions of direct connectivity to the IX. The domains under web.lk will also be registered on a monthly basis where the client can register the domains for blocks of months. The billing will also be handled by the ISPs and LKNIC will bill the ISP on a monthly billing cycle for all the domains registered. There will be no restriction as for generic terms for the registration of the domain names. But the restrictions on offensive domain names will still apply.

LICENSED INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION

LISPA
Licensed Internet Service Providers Association is registered as an Association under the Companies Act of Sri Lanka.

Members
Celltel Lanka Ltd
Ceycom Global Communications (Pvt) Ltd
DPMC Electronics (Pvt) Ltd
Eureka Online (Pvt) Ltd
ITMIN Ltd
Lanka Communication Services (Pvt) Ltd
Lanka Internet Services (Pvt) Ltd
MTN Networks (Pvt) Ltd
Sri Lanka Telecom Ltd

Objectives

1. To promote, uplift, develop the standard of the Internet industry in Sri Lanka.
2. To protect, safeguard, represent and further the interest, and to assist and support the interests of licensed Providers of Internet services in Sri Lanka
3. To encourage cooperation and coordination between licensed Providers of Internet services, the public, the government or other authorities.
4. To create a forum, at which licensed Providers of Internet services could voice, comment, communicate, discuss and resolve problems.
5. To establish, implement, operate, maintain and monitor the interconnect points and related facilities between licensed Internet providers to exchange traffic for their customers.
6. To liaise with other national and international bodies, entities and institutions which have common or similar interests to that of the association.

Council of Management

Viji Ratnarajah - Chairman
Dumindra Ratnayake - Vice Chairman
Ranil Perera - Secretary
Rohith, Udagama - Treasurer
Rohan Sirisena - Director
Clehan Pulle - Director
Ms Deepa Liyanagama - Director