Cooperation between Asian ISPs

An overview of practical issues in international cooperation among ISPs in the asia pacific region

Suresh Ramasubramanian
suresh@outblaze.com

Massive Communication Gap

- ISPs in several parts of the asia pacific region lack well defined channels of communication.
- Whois and Reverse DNS records often inaccurate or not properly updated
  - Contact information for domains and IPs not available.
- Abuse and Postmaster Desks may not exist
  - If they do exist, they may be understaffed.
- Language problems a barrier to communication?
  - Mitigated as several college educated asians are reasonably fluent in written if not spoken English

International Cooperation

- Network Operator Meetings
  - APRICOT, SANOG and APNIC
  - Cover the entire asia pacific region
  - Expert speakers on networking, security and antispam
  - Attended by administrators from around the region
  - Facilitates social networking and interaction between ISP administrators with their peers from the region
- APCAUCE Antispam Workshops
  - Bring together ISP administrators with public policy experts, regulators and antispam technologists to discuss spam issues focused on the asia pacific region
- INOC-DBA ISP to ISP VOIP phone system

Initiatives to improve cooperation

- ISPs encouraged to maintain detailed and up to date whois and reverse DNS records
  - APNIC has considerably simplified their system that lets administrators do this, and conducts regular training
- Block Lists now have a presence in Asia
  - Spamhaus has a presence in Beijing since a year now.
- ISPs encouraged to set up Feedback Loops with large ISPs like AOL and Outblaze
  - Provides near real time reporting of spam issues to ISPs
  - Initiatives underway to standardize and automate reporting and handling of feedback loops

Outreach - a broader perspective

- OECD Antispam Toolkit's outreach component
  - Document on spam issues in developing economies
  - Developing economies benefit from the OECD toolkit
  - Facilitates International cooperation at several levels
- Industry outreach from developed economies
  - MAAWG – Messaging Anti Abuse Working Group has significant outreach and public policy initiatives that may benefit ISPs in the Asia Pacific region
  - International cooperation in areas such as phishing and software piracy are being pursued by organizations like the BSA and APWG (Anti Phishing Working Group) in association with ISP associations