

Creating national and regional IXPs

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The starting point

- **The starting point: AfrISPA's policy statement - the Halfway Proposition**
- **US\$400m a year in foreign exchange exported from Africa to foreign carriers to carry internet traffic from one African country to another**



Crude cost comparisons

Local (single city)	US\$60 pm per 64 kbps
National (long distance)	US\$300 pm per 64 kbps
International (equivalent distance)	US\$1000 pm per 64 kbps

- Cost of transporting local traffic is 17 times lower than international traffic.
- Impact of monopoly pricing structure

The growth of local IXPs

- Arguments: reduction in operating costs; reduction in end-user costs; increase in local hosting and service.
- Mantra: Keep local traffic local
- Currently ten IXPs: .SA, .MZ, .ZW, .EG, .KE, .NG (Ibadan), .RW .TZ, .UG & .CD
- Coming soon: .GH AfrISPA road map for 10+ IXPs over next 2-3 years



The next step: Regional Exchange Points

- Connecting up the IXPs to exchange inter-continental traffic and creating regional traffic to be peered internationally
- Background to the debates: earlier proposal for PAVIX
- IDRC study: Two options - PAVIX revisited and regional carrier/s
- Regulatory issues (VSAT in SA) now overcome: competition framework



African internet exchange - the birth of regional carriers?

- Meeting at iWeek in Jo'burg in September 2003. Decision to issue a Request For Service from IXPs from six countries (Kenya, Nigeria, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda) through AfrISPA
- Considerable interest from potential regional carriers: Three bidders (UK/Israeli, American and South African) Two apptd. Announcement v shortly
- Likely to be meshed VSAT network. Little or no inter-country fibre: beginning to change

