# The practical benefit of an IXP

Flavio Luciani – Namex CTO

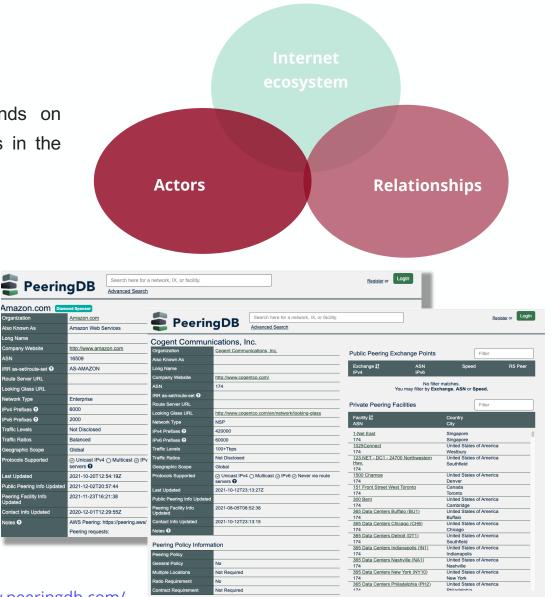
7 April 2022



#### **THE INTERNET**

As a network of networks, the Internet critically depends on adequate interconnection between the different participants in the Internet ecosystem.





https://www.peeringdb.com/

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#### RELATIONSHIPS

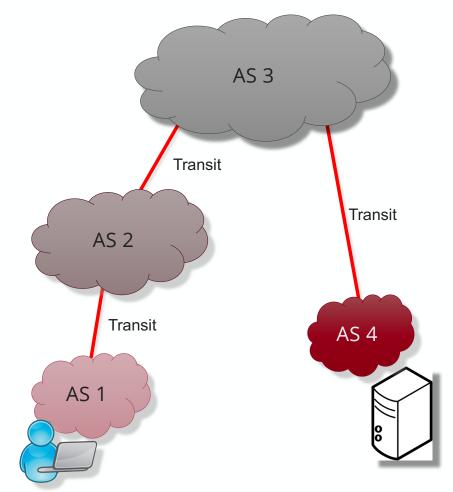
Autonomous Systems need to interconnect in order to mutually share their resources and to enable customers to reach each other



## **TRANSIT RELASHIONSHIP**

Although necessary for global connectivity, transit has its own inconveniences:

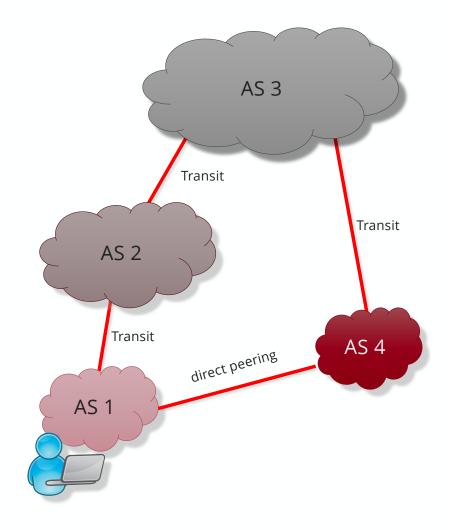
- Transit can have higher economical costs for customer ASes
- Transit can have high performance costs in terms of round-trip time
- Transit gives no way for customer AS to influence the way its traffic goes around the Internet
- Local communications between "close" ASes are penalized by transit



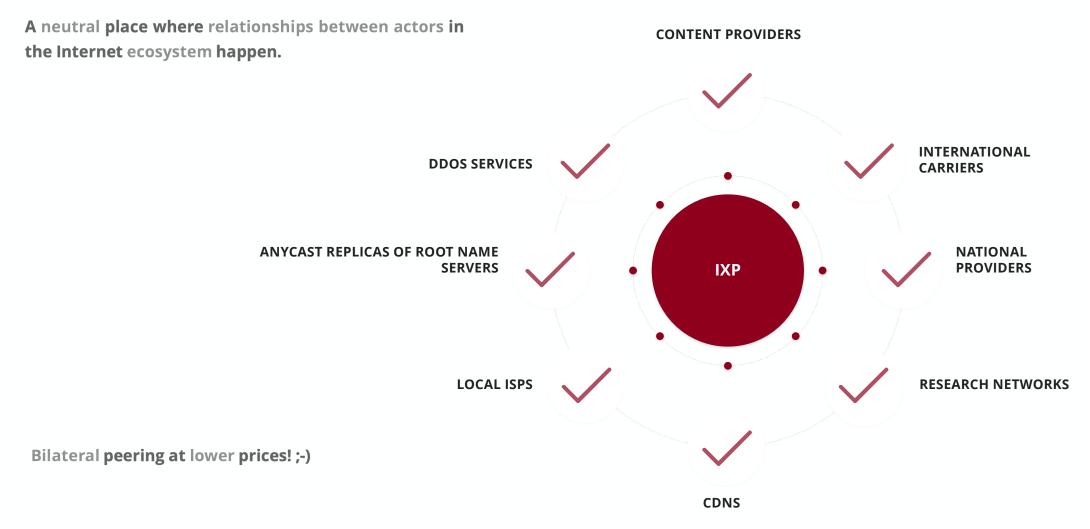
## **PEERING RELASHIONSHIP**

Direct peering introduces some benefits over a hierarchically tiered organization:

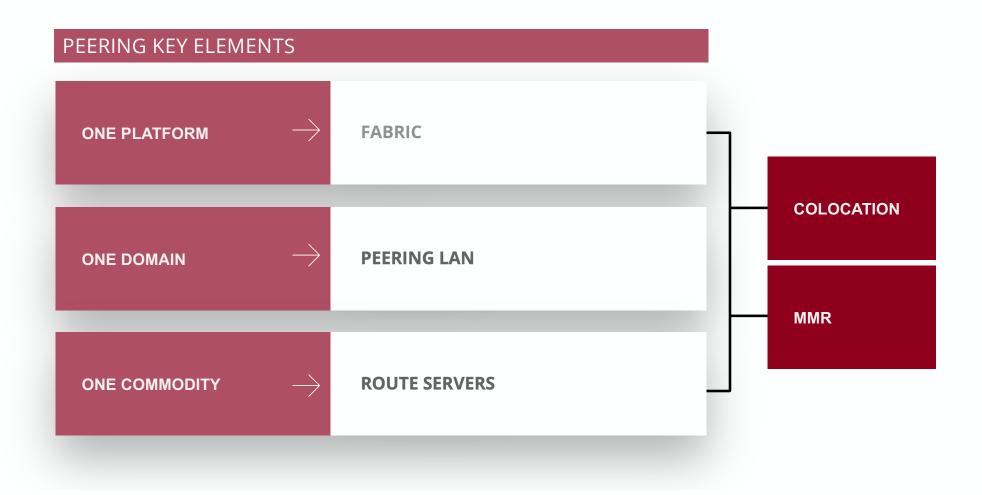
- Peering is a mutual agreement between peers
- · Round-trip times are dramatically reduced
- Local communications, local traffic exchange is improved
- Peering is quite always for free



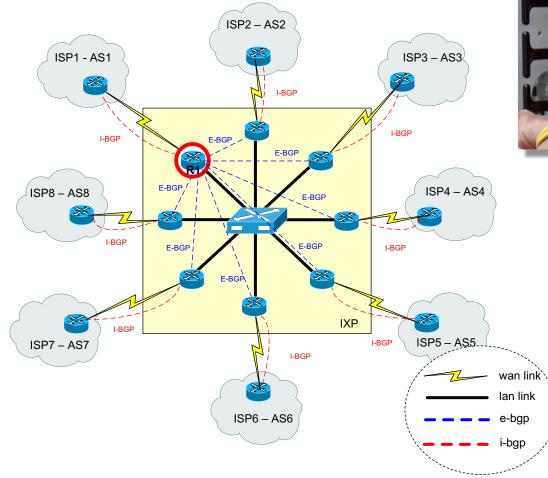
#### **The IXP**



#### **Internet Peering at IXPs**



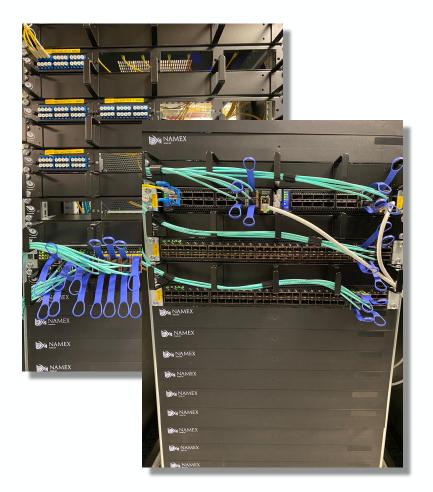
#### **PEERING PLATFORM**

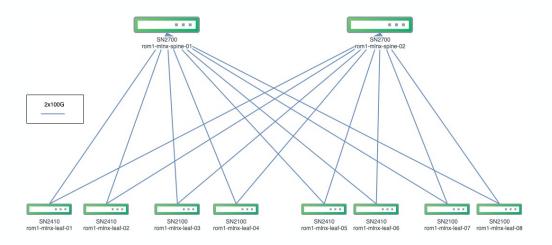






#### **PEERING PLATFORM**





The platform consists of 2 **Mellanox SN2700** (32x 100G ports) spine nodes with 4 **Mellanox SN2100** (16x 100G ports) and 4 **Mellanox SN2410** (48x 10G ports + 8x 100G ports) leaf nodes. Each leaf node is connected with 2x100G links to any spine node, thus achieving a backplane of 400G output from any leaf node.

The implementation is based on VXLAN and BGP/EVPN

Namex Peering Platform: https://blog.namex.it/2021/04/switching-to-ip-fabrics/

# **ROUTE SERVER**

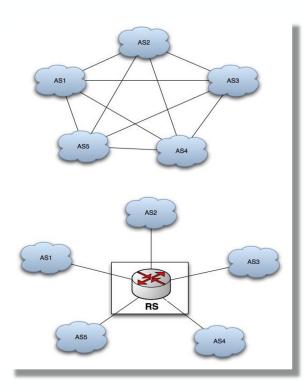
WHAT?

Route Servers (RS) provide support for the establishment of peering arrangements between IXP peers: theoretically, a single peering session replaces a complex full mesh BGP interconnection

WHY?

- Reach a lot of parties with just one BGP session
- Providing backup for direct peering session
- Preventing/Mitigating misconfigurations (hijacks)
- Easy entry point for new members to the exchange immediate traffic
- Security features





Route Server Looking Glass: https://lg.namex.it/

Route Server Prefix Filtering: https://blog.apnic.net/2021/11/15/checking-prefix-filtering-in-ixps-with-bird-and-openbgpd/

### The challenges

WHAT	International Content/Transit <b>Providers</b> establish <b>a</b> presence <b>at the IXP</b>
WHY	Satisfy <b>the</b> needs <b>of local ISPs /</b> Content closer <b>to end</b> <b>users and</b> transit <b>open</b> market
HOW	Create a critical mass of local ISPs
GOALS	Local ISPs may compete at higher levels in the Internet value chain, transit requirement is reduced, peering value is drastically increased

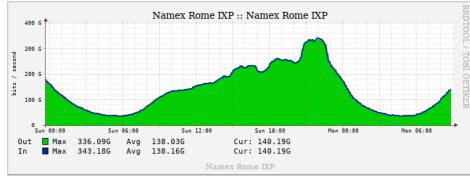
**Peering Key factors** 

#### Why peer – Keep Local Traffic Local

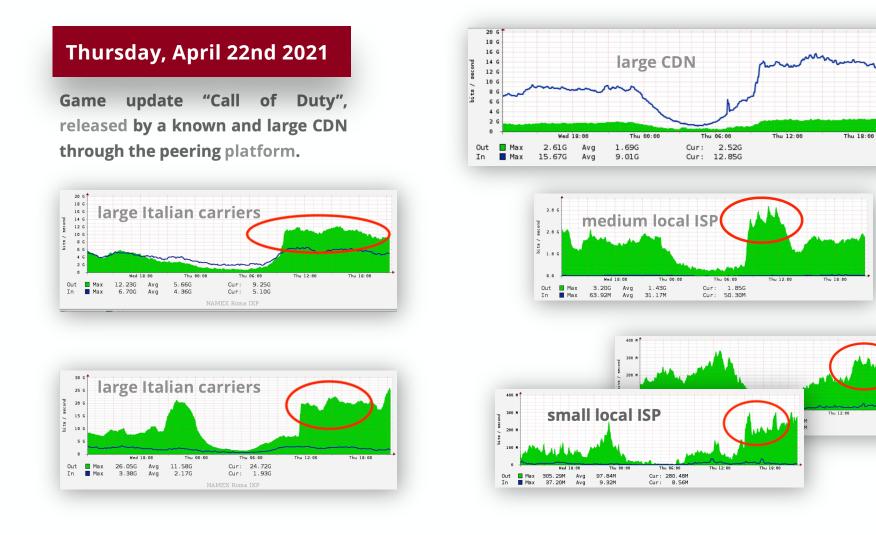
Performance	Lowers the latency Increase the throughput Improves user experience in terms of speed and stability
Saturday, April 3rd 2022 The football match in the Italian Serie A Championship between Juventus – Inter.	Sun 00:00 Sun 00:00 Sun 00:00 Sun 12:00

#### Wednesday, January 23rd 2022

The football match in the Italian Serie A Championship between Milan – Juventus.



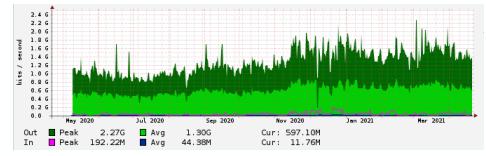
#### Why peer – Keep Local Traffic Local



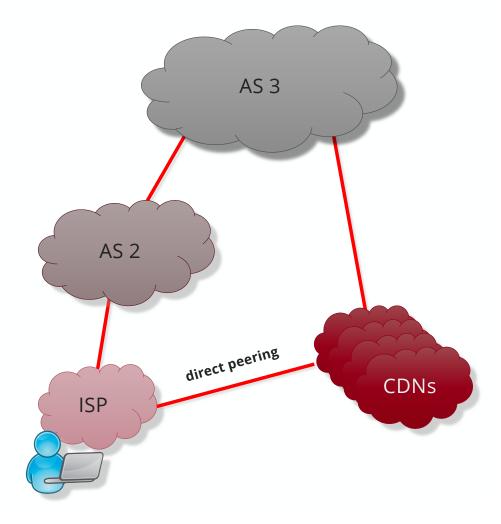
Thu 18:00

#### Why peer – Keep Local Traffic Local

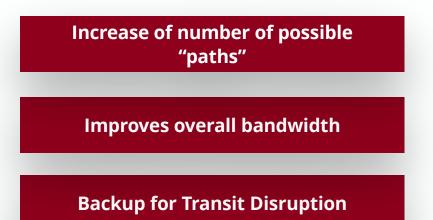
Keeping services as close as possible to their users contributes to have a greater control over traffic flows



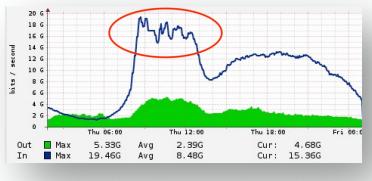
Italian small-size ISP. Over 60% of the overall traffic flows through the IXP



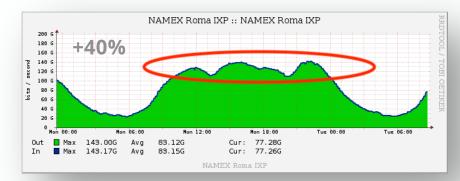
#### Why peer – Resiliency



During the pandemic, Internet traffic is experiencing a significant increase. Distance learning as well as communications in general need more performance (keep local traffic), high capacity and reliability.



morning distance learning



Traffic during covid era at Namex

# The practical benefit of an IXP

# THANK YOU!

www.namex.it

f.luciani@namex.it