Newsletter

PHENIX
connecting trusted networks

Connected to trusted network

Secure VLAN replaced by the FENIX project

At the end of May, the project formerly known as the Secure VLAN was renamed after Phoenix, the indestructible bird of ancient mythology. The new name, logo and brand were revealed by the Czech peering node NIX.CZ on May 22 at the annual Internet and Technologies '14 conference in Prague. It enjoyed its world premiere later at the end of May during the Moscow ENOG 7 conference. The new identity will be available for use by all the participating organizations. The project's goal is to improve protection against DoS and DDoS attacks. Currently, FENIX includes the following organizations: ACTIVE 24, CESNET, CZ.NIC, Dial Telecom, Seznam.cz and O2 Czech Republic.

We have partnered with an important meeting of peering managers

The NIX.CZ Association has become a partner of the international European Peering Forum (EPF), which will take place on September 21 to 24 in Split, Croatia. The meeting is organized by the peering nodes AMS-IX, DE-CIX, LINX and Netnod. The Peering Forum will bring together 225 managers and coordinators of network connectivity services. In addition to interesting talks, participants will also be able to use the three-day event to network with potential business partners. For more information, please continue to check http://www.peering-forum.eu/.

European Peering Forum

"From the very beginning, we have been saying that the next step should be the creation an official name, a logo and an icon, which all participating members could use," said Martin Semrád, the director of the NIX.CZ association, on the occasion of the unveiling of the new identity. *"The logotype is based on the triangular structure of the NIX.CZ logo and shows the flying Phoenix bird. The logotype consists of two parts, with the last three letters referring to the organization which initiated the project."*

The FENIX project was created by the Czech peering node NIX.CZ and is primarily a reaction to intense DoS attacks targeting the Czech internet services in March 2013. By joining the FENIX project, the participating organizations have clearly showed their interest in increasing network security and improving their customers' safety.

"The 'Secure VLAN' presented a somewhat narrow perspective of the project, which is in reality more than just a secure connection between several different networks. I hope that FENIX will become synonymous with security, just like the NIX.CZ mark is now synonymous with high-quality interconnection between large networks," Semrád said during the Internet and Technologies '14 conference.

On the mythical bird and the name of the security project

The characteristics of the mythical indestructible Phoenix bird is his ability to constantly regenerate, from his death in the flames (metaphorically referring to the ability of each member to separate themselves from the internet) and later his rebirth from the ashes (and reconnect once the threat of attack has ceased). The Phoenix bird is also famously impossible to find because he usually stays in mysterious and undiscoverable places (likewise, should they need to do so, the members of a trustworthy network can find a safe refuge from a potential source of attack).

NIX.CZ introduced itself at the RIPE NCC meeting in Sofia

A regional meeting organized by RIPE NCC for the countries of Southern and Eastern Europe took place on 14 and 15 April in Sofia. The meeting was attended by representatives from Serbia, Bulgaria, Albania, Rumania or Macedonia, but also from the Netherlands, Germany and Czech Republic.

The programme also included a panel discussion led by Martin Levy from CloudFlare, which included a representative of the Czech peering node, the NIX.CZ director Marin Semrád. His task was to present NIX.CZ and to explain the reasons of the non-commercial peering node's successful development.

Semrád presented the Czech peering mode's model of functioning and also mentioned the FENIX project (at that time still called the Secure VLAN) and the partnership programme which NIX.CZ has been successfully running for a number of years.

The RIPE NCC runs regional meetings throughout its service region. These forums provide an opportunity for network engineers and other technical staff to share knowledge and experiences, and to identify areas for regional cooperation. The meetings are open to anyone and there is no cost to attend.

Peering Day No. 3

This year's Peering Day showed that there is indeed a great interest in an event allowing experts from the field to meet each other and exchange information. The organizers have therefore already announced the date of the next meeting. Experts on connectivity or for example data centres and others will meet next year, on March 18 and 19, in Bratislava. As in the previous years, the Czech peering node NIX.CZ will participate in the preparation of the conference. Both last year and this year, our partners were our colleagues from the Vienna VIX.at. Information about next year's event will be available at www.peeringday.eu.

Please do check for regular updates. On the website you can also find presentations from the most recent event.

ČD–Telematika provides services in partnership with NIX.CZ

ČD–Telematika a. s. is a company providing wholesale mobile, data and voice services. Its optical network is the second largest in the Czech Republic, with a capacity of up to 80×10 G/s and more than 500 connection points. It also runs geographically independent data centres, a 24/7-customer support and its own service facilities. Thanks to the new partnership between ČD–Telematika (ČDT) and NIX.CZ, customers can now be connected at transmission speeds of under 1 GB, regardless of whether their ISPs are members of the association.

ČD-T is the only national telecommunications operator to provide access points – the available port capacities are 100, 250 and 500 MB. *"The ČDT-PARTNER NIX service is one of our activities directly adapted to the current needs of the market,"* said Marek Dvořák, Director of Business and Telecommunication Services at ČD-T.

ČDT-PARTNER NIX guarantees a node accessibility under a SLA, dedicated transmission capacity without aggregation and without need for connection at a data centre. It allows for a rapid increase in capacity and efficient cost-management policy, including assistance from a technical support centre. *"ČDT-PARTNER NIX will also lessen the administrative burden on the side of the ISP,"* Mr. Dvořák added.