



**UGANDA
COMMUNICATIONS
COMMISSION**

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

THE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF THE UGANDA INTERNET EXCHANGE POINT – (UIXP)

DISCLAIMER

This document is a working document of Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) and does not prejudice the final decision that UCC may take.

The responses to this consultation paper will provide important input to the review of the UIXP governance and management.

APRIL 20, 2018

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

| | | |
|--------|---|--|
| DFID | : | Department for International Development |
| ISPA | : | ISP Association |
| ISPs | : | Internet Service Providers |
| MEMART | : | Memorandum and Articles of Association |
| NSRC | : | Network Start-up Resource Centre |
| UCC | : | Uganda Communications Commission |
| UIXP | : | Uganda Internet Exchange Point |

1. BACKGROUND

The Uganda Internet Exchange Point (UIXP) started as a project to get existing internet service providers (ISPs) in the country to interconnect and exchange traffic locally thus keeping local internet traffic within the country. This was deemed necessary to eliminate the need for an email from a customer on one local ISP having to go over slow, expensive satellite links to the United States of America internet backbone before coming back to the recipient on another local ISP who may even be sitting across the street. This international transiting was also believed to be hampering the development of local content and the advancement in the use of the internet for real time applications like video streaming.

Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) thus convened a meeting of all existing ISPs in 2001, which was followed by a series of meetings held under two groups - a managerial/executive committee and a technical committee. After extensive discussions, an operational model was agreed upon and a grant from the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) enabled the purchase of various equipment like uninterruptible power, an equipment rack, as well as cabling and office supplies. The Network Start-up Resource Centre (NSRC) based in the University of Oregon also donated a switch to be used to interconnect all the providers.

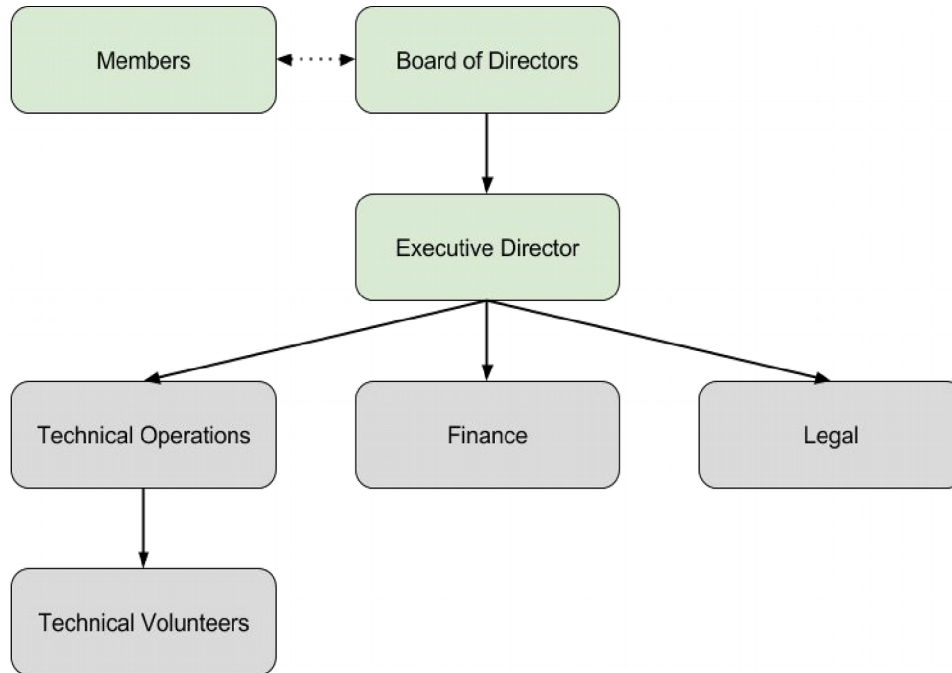
Despite this, the UIXP did not immediately commence operations mainly due to differences among stakeholders over the way the UIXP should be managed and how to make it viable and self-sustaining in the long run. Leveraging on experience of persons such as Bill Woodcock from the United States, consensus was achieved among members on how the UIXP should be managed and operated. It was agreed to eliminate costs as much as possible and UCC graciously offered rent free space inclusive of utilities (power, cooling, equipment and security). There were to be no membership dues for connecting to the IXP or payment for exchange of traffic and members were each responsible for maintaining their link to the IXP. The technical issues were to be handled jointly between the members of the IXP.

The ISPs existing then proceeded to register the ISP Association (ISPA) as a non-profit organisation. The UIXP was to operate under self-regulation with UCC as an observer member, ensuring balance of interests of all stakeholders in the internet community (government, ISPs and the consumers).

Consultation on the governance and management of the UIXP

Memorandum and Articles of Association (MEMART) were developed with the following governance structure which was never been fully implemented due to finances and other administrative challenges. Instead, the UIXP has, in the period, depended on volunteers that are not necessarily representatives of ISPs and donations from members and well-wishers to keep it running.

Figure 1: UIXP Governance Structure.



Over the years, the traffic carried and number of ISPs connected to the UIXP has grown. There has also been an expansion in types of peers to include content providers and academia. Notably, though, only about 5 of the original directors of the ISPA are among the current 28 peers at the UIXP. The growth experienced by the UIXP has, however, left its facilities and resourcing constrained.

A review of the governance and operating model has been deemed necessary to ensure the continued existence of UIXP. In this vain, UCC seeks the input of the various stakeholders on the appropriate UIXP governance structure and operational requirements that will foster further growth and development of the UIXP.

2. CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

2.1 Respondent profile

Q1. What is your affiliation?

- Government
- Internet service provider in Uganda
- Content provider/host
- Internet user
- Other (*please specify*)

Q2. In what capacity are you responding to this consultation?

- Private individual
- On behalf of your affiliate organization
- Other (*please specify*)

Q3. Are you willing to be contacted for any further clarifications or input related to this consultation?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please provide full name and contacts (*inclusive of telephone number(s) and email address(es)*)

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Consultation on the governance and management of the UIXP

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2.2 Governance and management of the UIXP

Q4. a) What kind of ownership do you think the UIXP should have?

- Government owned
 - Internet service providers peering at the UIXP
 - The Internet community in Uganda
 - Private person(s) as a business
 - Other (*please specify*)
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b) Please provide reason(s) for your response to Q4 (a).

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Q5. a) If the UIXP continued as a Not-for-profit organisation, which of the following types of organisation do you think would deliver the objectives of the UIXP best?

- Unincorporated association
 - Not for profit incorporated organisation
 - A trust with appointed trustees
 - Not-for-profit limited liability company
 - Other (*please specify*)
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b) Please provide reason(s) for your response to Q5 (a).

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Consultation on the governance and management of the UIXP

Q6. a) Who should constitute the members of the UIXP?

- Internet Service Providers only
- All UIXP peers
- Any interested persons in the local internet community
- All the above
- Other (*please specify*)

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b) Please provide reason(s) for your response to Q6 (a).

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Q7. a) Which governance model do you believe would enable the UIXP effectively deliver on expectations and flourish?

- Cooperative board comprising representatives of all peers with consensual decision making
- An advisory board of trusted individuals drawn from the public offering professional expertise at no cost on the operation of the UIXP
- An operational board that doubles as the management team doing the day to day operational and administrative tasks associated with the functioning of the UIXP
- A board of comprising of individuals elected by the members of the UIXP to set and oversee implementation of policy on the functioning of the UIXP
- Other (*please specify*)

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b) Please provide reason(s) for your response to Q7 (a).

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Consultation on the governance and management of the UIXP

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Q8. a) Which type of management team do you think the UIXP requires to deliver its services effectively and develop further?

- A contracted full time team
 - A contracted part time team
 - A designated team drawn from the peers
 - Volunteers from among the peers
 - Volunteers from the wider internet community
 - Outsource to 3rd party
 - Other (*please specify*)
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b) Please provide reason(s) for your response to Q8 (a).

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Q9. a) How should the UIXP be financed to ensure effective delivery of services and continued development?

- Donations
 - Voluntary contribution(s) by members
 - A one-time membership fee to connect to UIXP
 - Operational cost(s) distribution among the peers
 - Operational cost(s) distribution among the peers
 - Other (*please specify*)
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Consultation on the governance and management of the UIXP

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b) Please provide reason(s) for your response to Q9 (a).

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Q10. a) What role should UCC have with respect to the functioning of the UIXP?

- None
 - Substantive member of the governance board
 - Observer member
 - Arm's length provision of regulatory guidance
 - Licensor (issue a licence to the UIXP)
 - Other (*please specify*)
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b) Please provide reason(s) for your response to Q10 (a).

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Consultation on the governance and management of the UIXP

911. Please provide below any additional information/ concerns/ recommendations you deem necessary to the consideration of this subject. (*Attachments are accepted*)

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3. SUBMISSION OF RESPONSES

Thank you for taking the time to participate in this consultation.

All responses should be submitted to UCC by 5:00PM EAT on 5th May 2018 using of the following:

Uganda Communications Commission
Plot 42 – 44, Spring Road, Bugolobi
P O Box 7376,
Kampala – Uganda

North Eastern Regional Office
Plot 3, Andrew Olal Road, Gulu.

Consultation on the governance and management of the UIXP

North Western Regional Office
Plot 8, Ntuha Road, Masindi.

South Western Regional Office
Plot 7, Galt Road, Mbarara.

South Eastern Regional Office
Plot 39/41 Republic Street, Mbale.

Email: ucc@ucc.co.ug

For any inquires, please use the email above or call:

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