

# Dialup Roaming BOF

Glen Zorn

[glennz@microsoft.com](mailto:glennz@microsoft.com)

# Agenda

- ☐ Agenda bashing
- ☐ Overview
- ☐ Strawman framework
- ☐ Should a new working group be formed?
- ☐ Interest?
  - ☐ mailing list
  - ☐ charter
  - ☐ milestones
  - ☐ chair
  - ☐ editors
  - ☐ homework repository

# Agenda Bashing

☐ Comments?

# Overview

- ❑ What is dialup roaming?
- ❑ What are the benefits?
- ❑ What are some possible disadvantages?
- ❑ Who cares?
- ❑ Implementation status/buzz

# What is Dialup Roaming?

“The ability to use any one of multiple Internet service providers (ISPs), while maintaining a formal, customer-vendor relationship with only one.”

# What Are the Benefits?

- ☐ Enhanced ability to travel and maintain connectivity (can dial in to a Montreal ISP using the account from a local ISP)
  - ☐ Can get to the Internet
  - ☐ Can get to the corporate intranet
- ☐ Ability to keep your local IP address, even when dialing in to another provider
  - ☐ Combination of tunneling and dialup roaming
- ☐ Improved coverage within your local area?

# What Are Some Possible Disadvantages?

## ❑ Service quality impacts

### ❑ Added complexity for existing networks

- ❑ Authentication proxy

- ❑ Phone book synchronization apparatus

### ❑ More unpredictable loading patterns

- ❑ INET conferences leads to busy signals for Montreal providers?

## ❑ Security Issues

### ❑ Increased mobility leads to crime (Bonnie & Clyde)

- ❑ Theft of service

- ❑ Ability of malevolent individuals to reach corporate intranets

- ❑ Issues partially addressed by token card support?

# Who Cares?

- ☐ You?

- ☐ Why are you here?

- ☐ What aspects of this problem matter to you?

- ☐ First guess of interested parties:

- ☐ Local or Regional Internet Service Providers

- ☐ National Internet Service Providers

- ☐ Businesses?

- ☐ Users?

# Implementation Status/Buzz

- ❑ Two press releases in last two months indicating existing or planned roaming services
  - ❑ Asia Online (implemented today)
  - ❑ US RBOC (planned)
- ❑ Private conversations indicate at least half a dozen ISPs interested/at various stages of planning
- ❑ This is a problem that seems to have “legs”
  - ❑ Interest could more widespread than initially thought
  - ❑ Scalability, interoperability could become an issue if not addressed early on

# Should a New Working Group Be Formed?

- ❑ Arguments against a new working group
- ❑ Arguments for a new working group
- ❑ Interest?

# Arguments Against a New Working Group

- ❑ Implementing dialup roaming may not require new protocols
  - ❑ Proxy issues can be taken care of in an informational RFC
  - ❑ Tunneling, mobility issues already handled in existing working groups
  - ❑ Accounting record standardization not in the realm of the IETF
- ❑ Phone book synchronization can be handled without a new protocol
  - ❑ Replicate phone books via existing protocols (RDIST, HTTPS, etc.)
  - ❑ Phone book compilation handled via PERL scripts

# Arguments For a New Working Group

- ☐ While the pieces may not be new, their interaction is novel and worth working on
- ☐ Possibility of incompatible/proprietary implementations should be avoided
- ☐ Dialup roaming problem is fundamental to the operation of the Internet, should be addressed in the IETF

# Arguments For a New Working Group (cont'd)

- ❑ File replication approaches to phone book synchronization will not scale
- ❑ Imagine 100 providers in a roaming association
  - ❑ Remember /etc/hosts files? FidoNet Nodelists?
  - ❑ Phone book files could get large and unwieldy
  - ❑ Propagation process could be unreliable (rollback needed)
  - ❑ Incompatible implementations could limit roaming arrangements

# Interest?

- ☐ Mailing list
- ☐ Charter
- ☐ Milestones
- ☐ Chair
- ☐ Editors
- ☐ Homework repository
  - ☐ Alternative frameworks
  - ☐ Descriptions of existing implementations