IPv4 Address Lifetime Expectancy

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31 October 2005

Australian IPv6 Summit

If 42 is the answer

Then what was the question?

- Part of the reason for differences in outcomes in this area lies in the difference of the question being posed

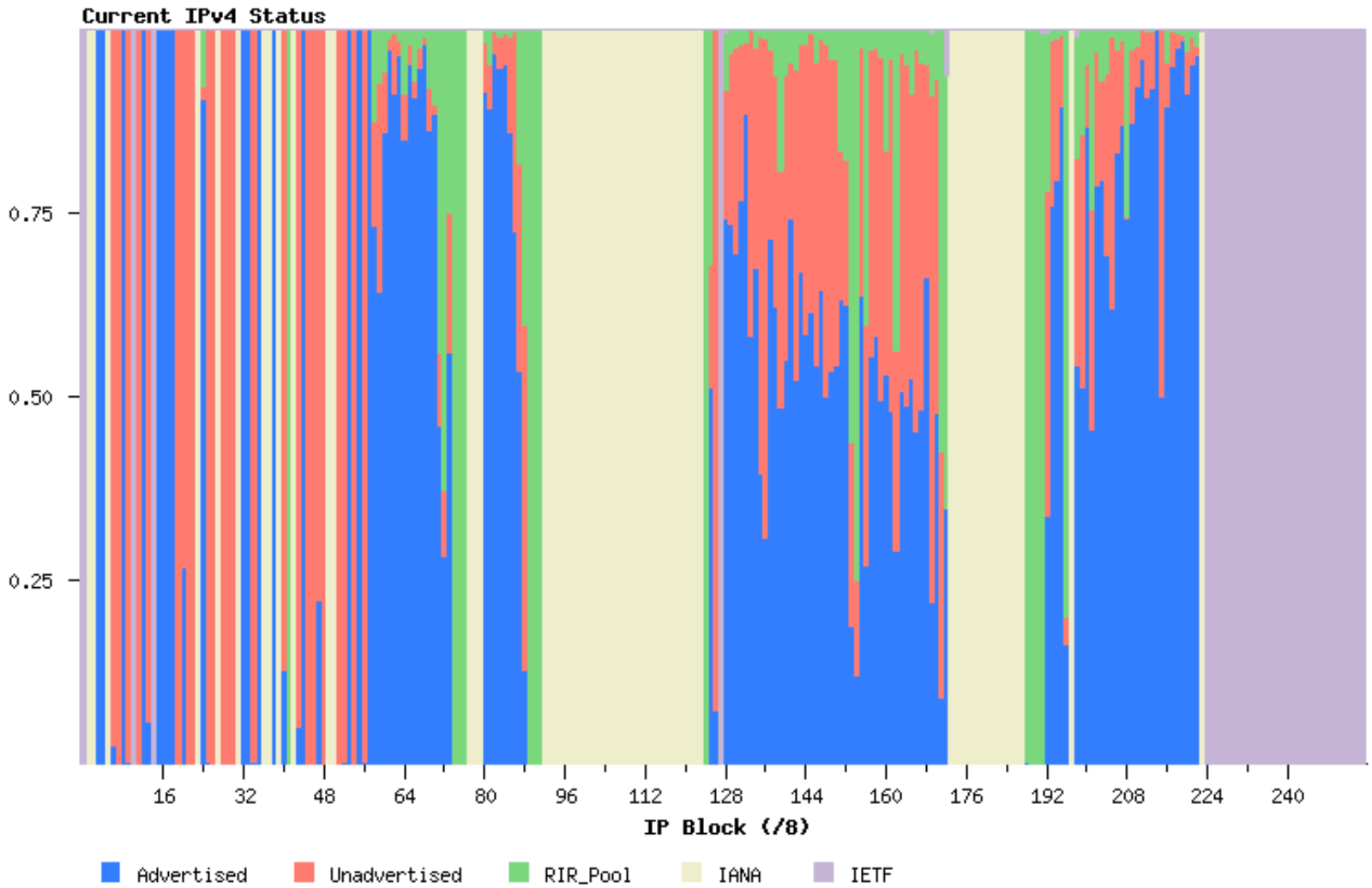
So - to be clear – the question posed in this study is:

When can we expect that the current address allocation policies for IPv4 will no longer apply?

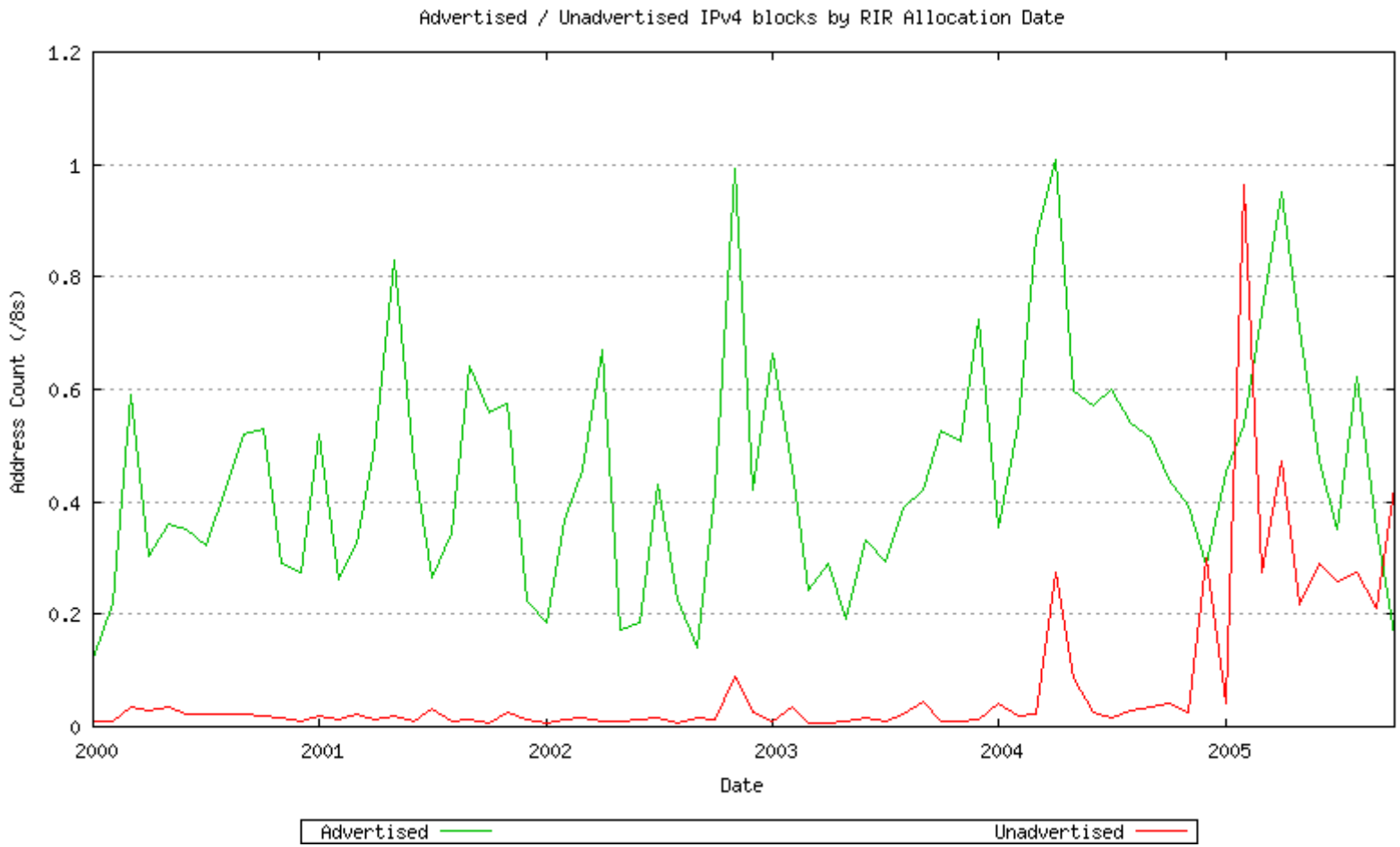
A look at the IPv4 data

- Use a fundamental assumption that **the driver for address consumption is the public Internet**, and that the growth of the Internet is reflected in address consumption demands
- Adjust the model to include each individual RIR's allocation behaviour over time
- Set the 'exhaustion' date at the point when any RIR cannot honour an address request

Current Status



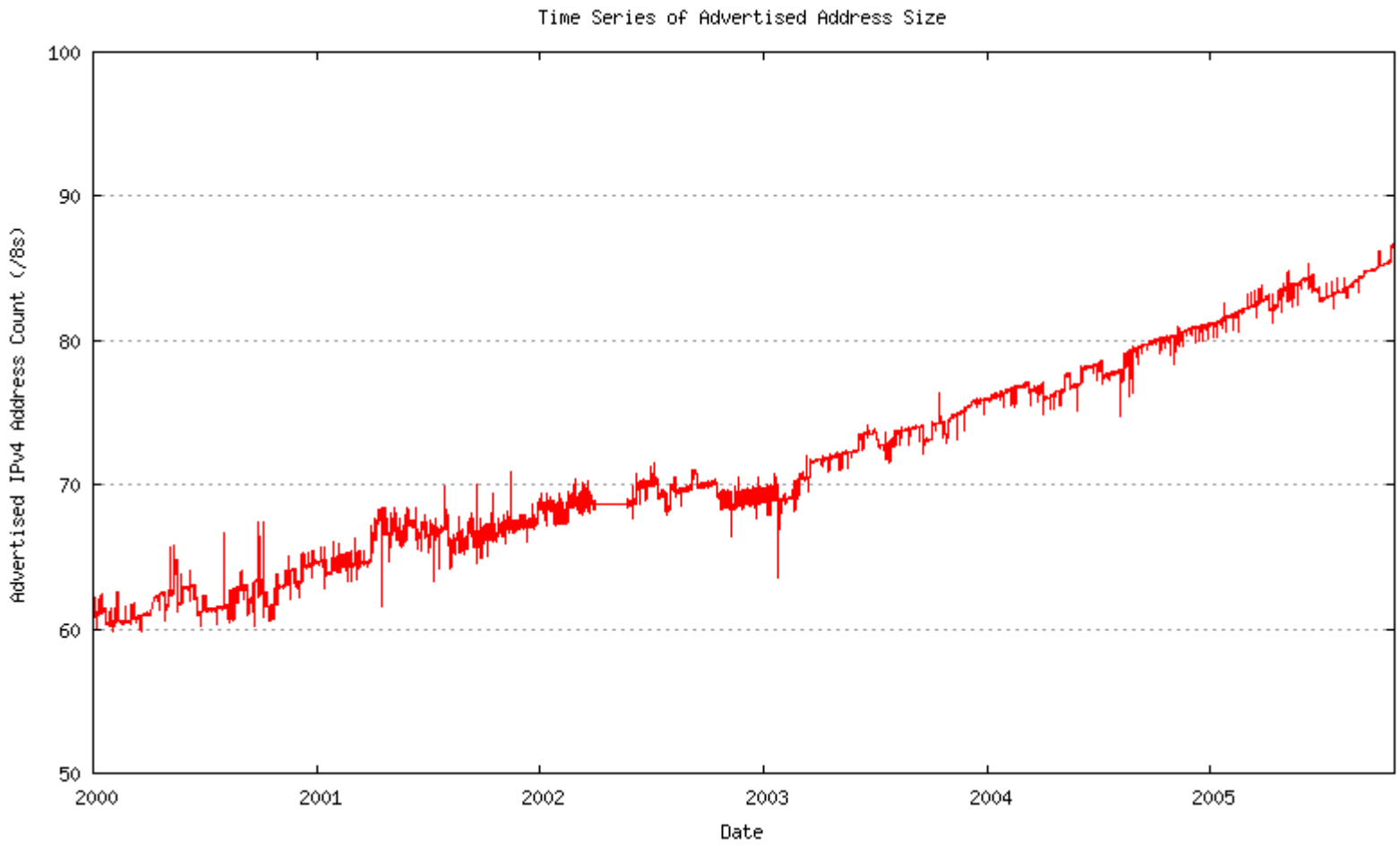
Advertised and Unadvertised Addresses



The approach used here

- The post-1999 data indicates that more than 95% of all allocated address space is advertised in BGP on the public IPv4 Internet
- This implies that the drivers for address consumption can be found in the advertised address pool behaviour
- From the advertised data time series remove the high frequency noise components, generate a best fit trend, then model interactions with unadvertised and RIR address pools
- Perform forward extrapolation from this model

Advertised Address Space



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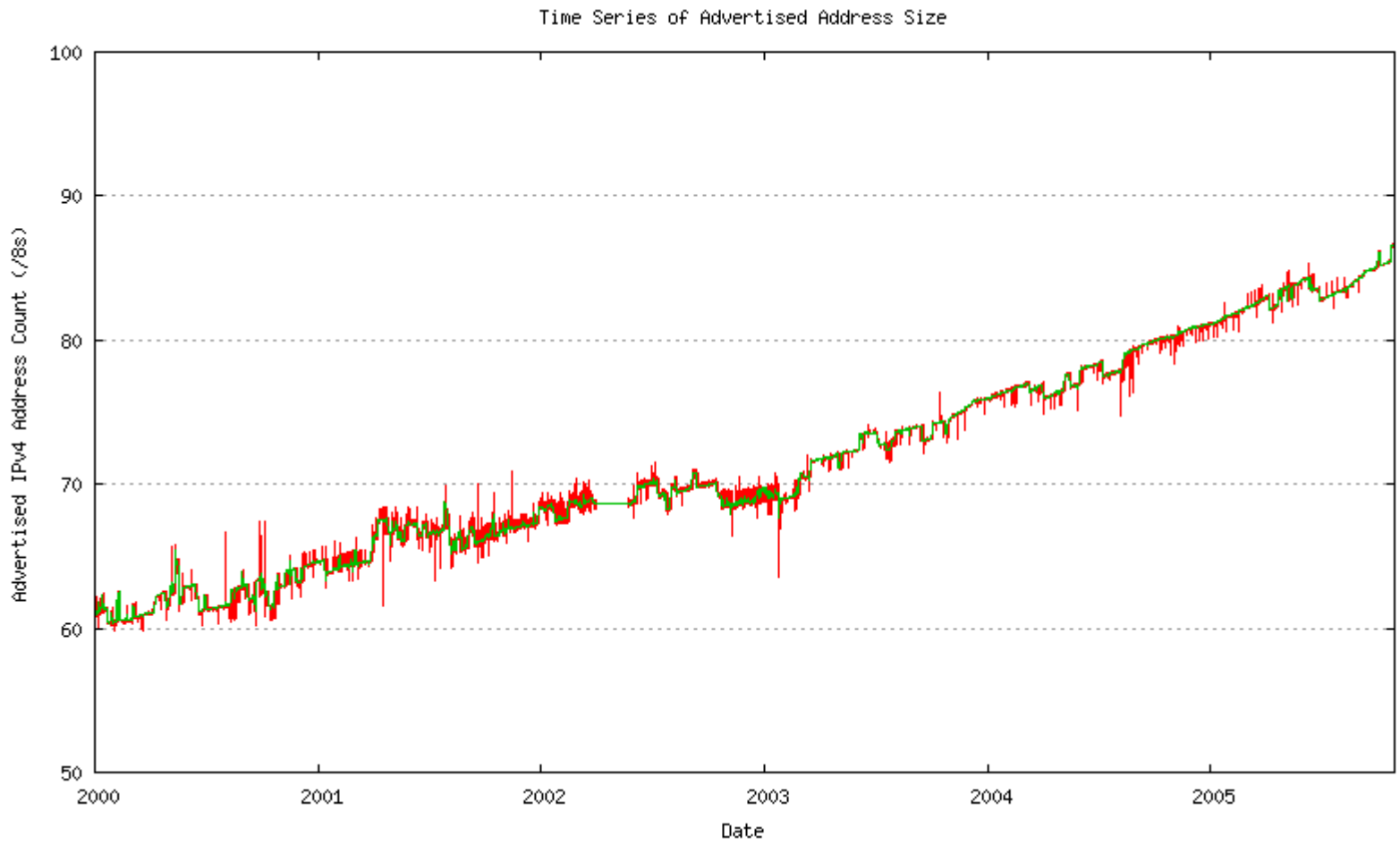

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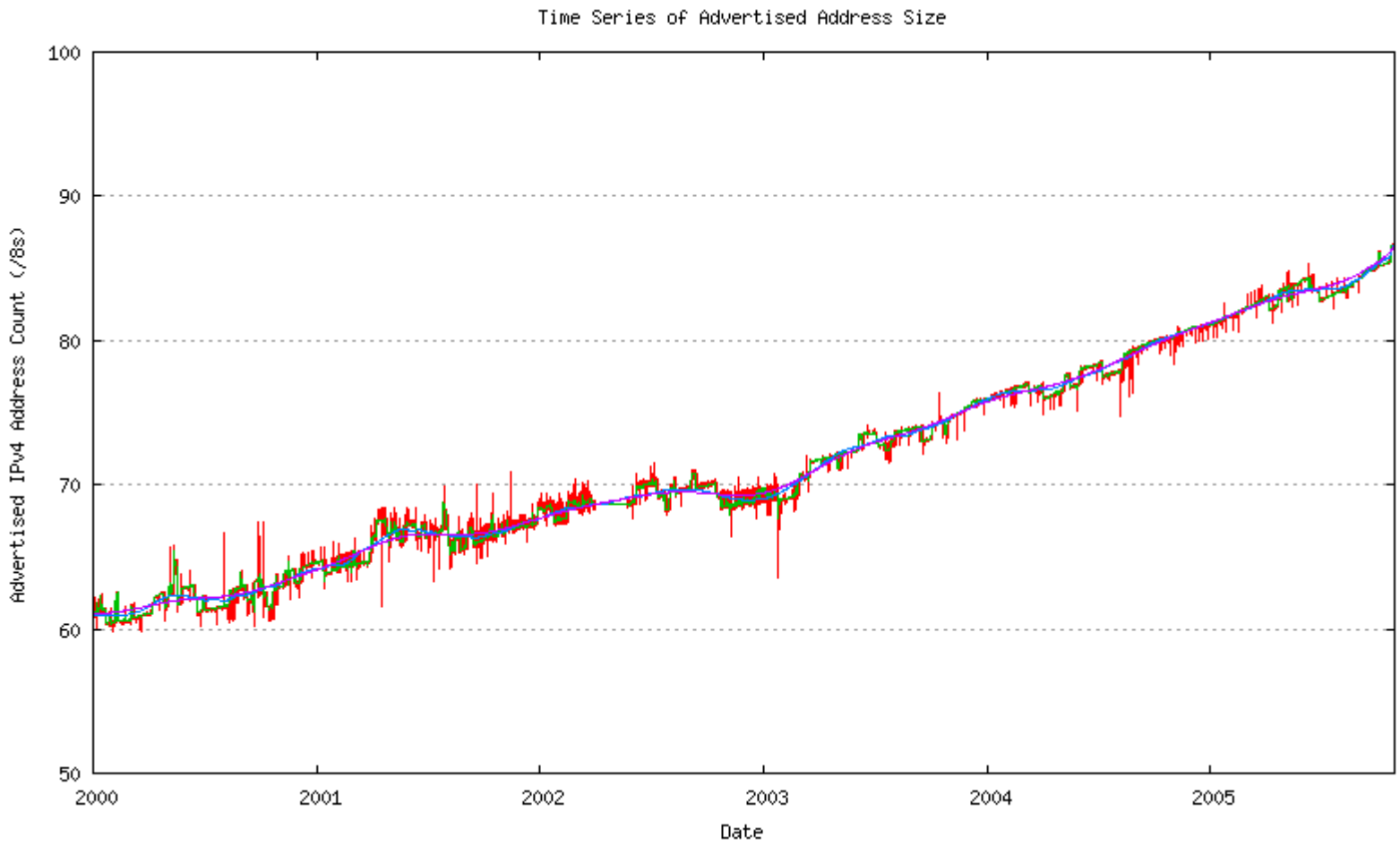

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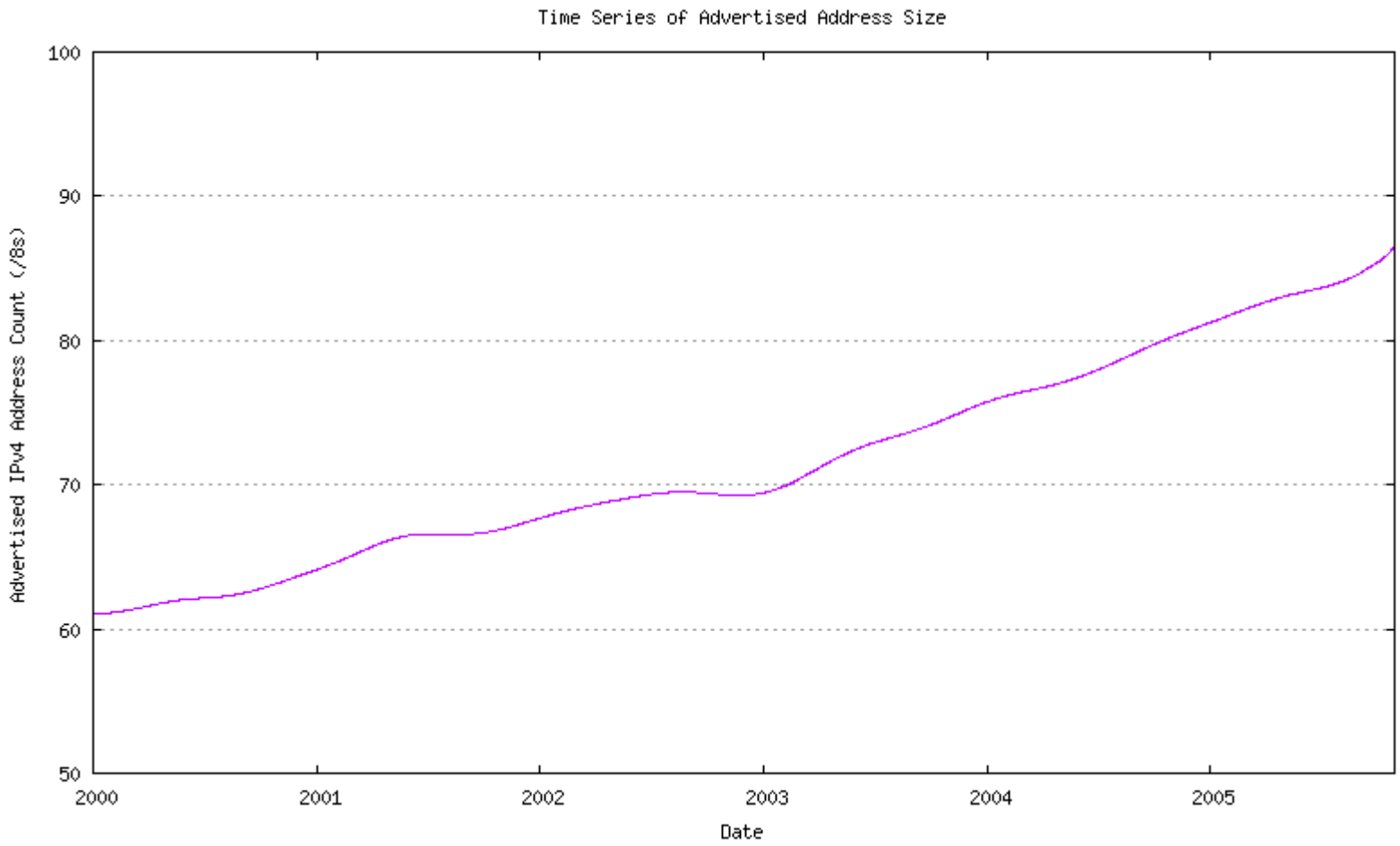
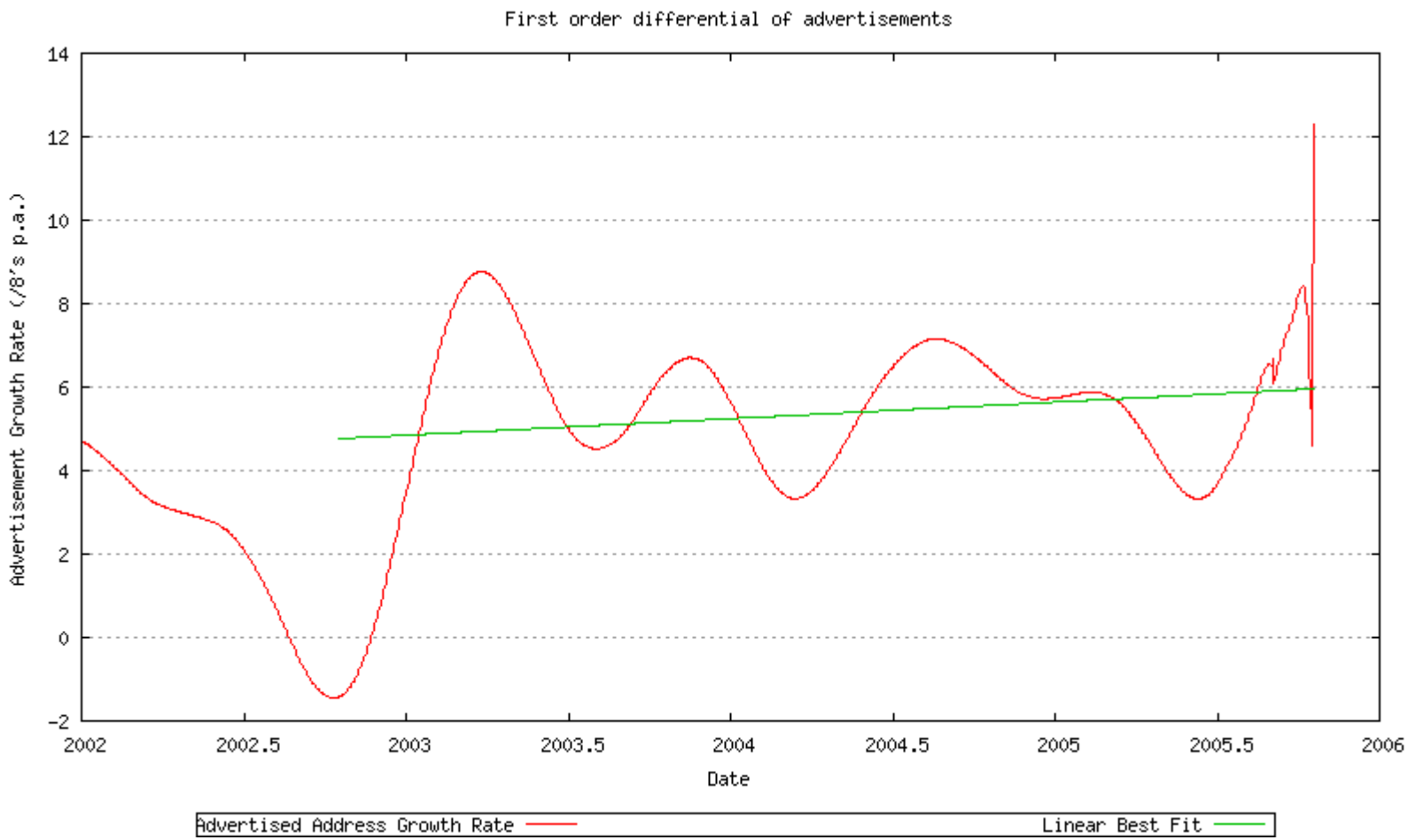


Advertised Address Growth



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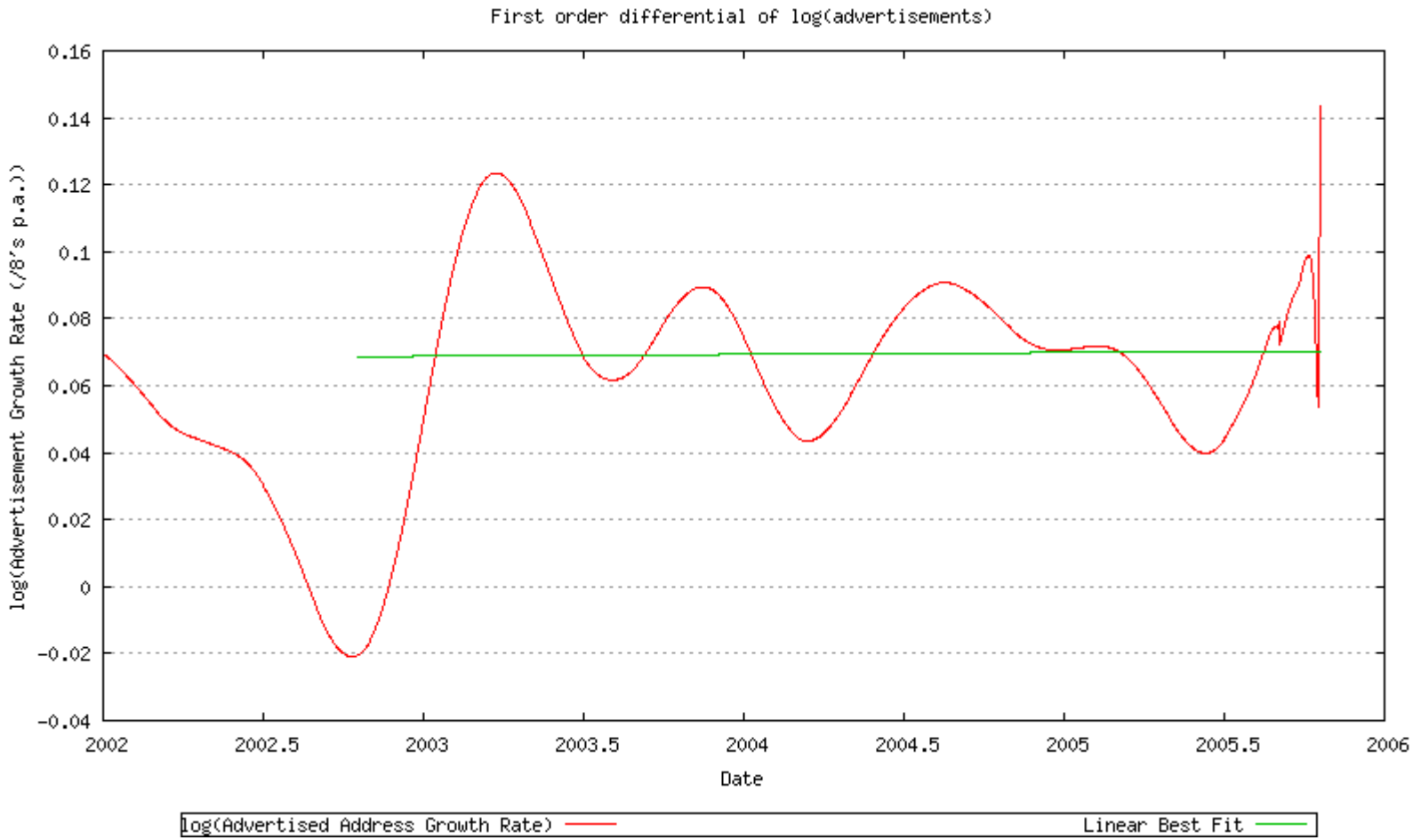
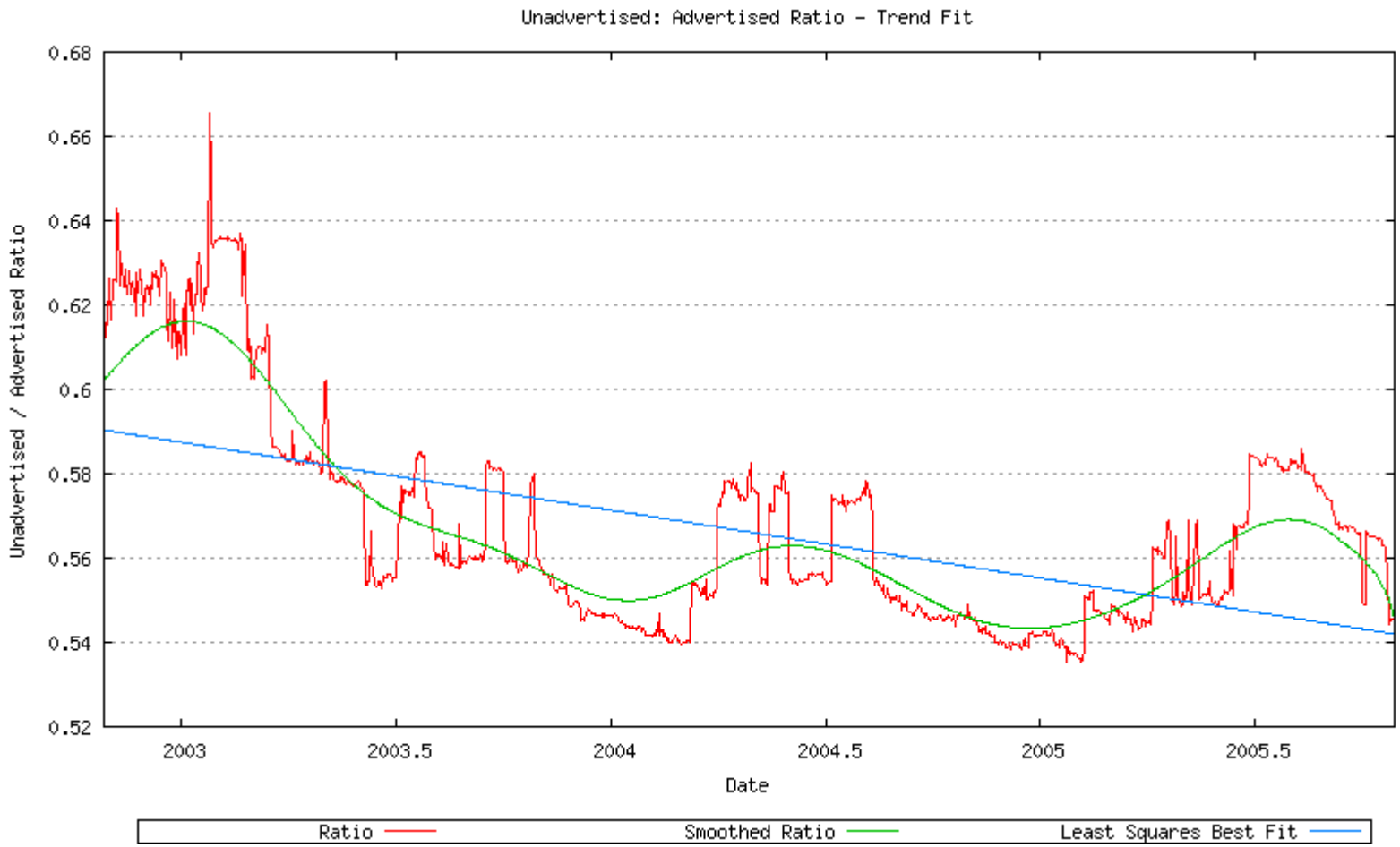


Unadvertised Address Space

Unadvertised / Advertised Ratio



Modelling Advertised Growth

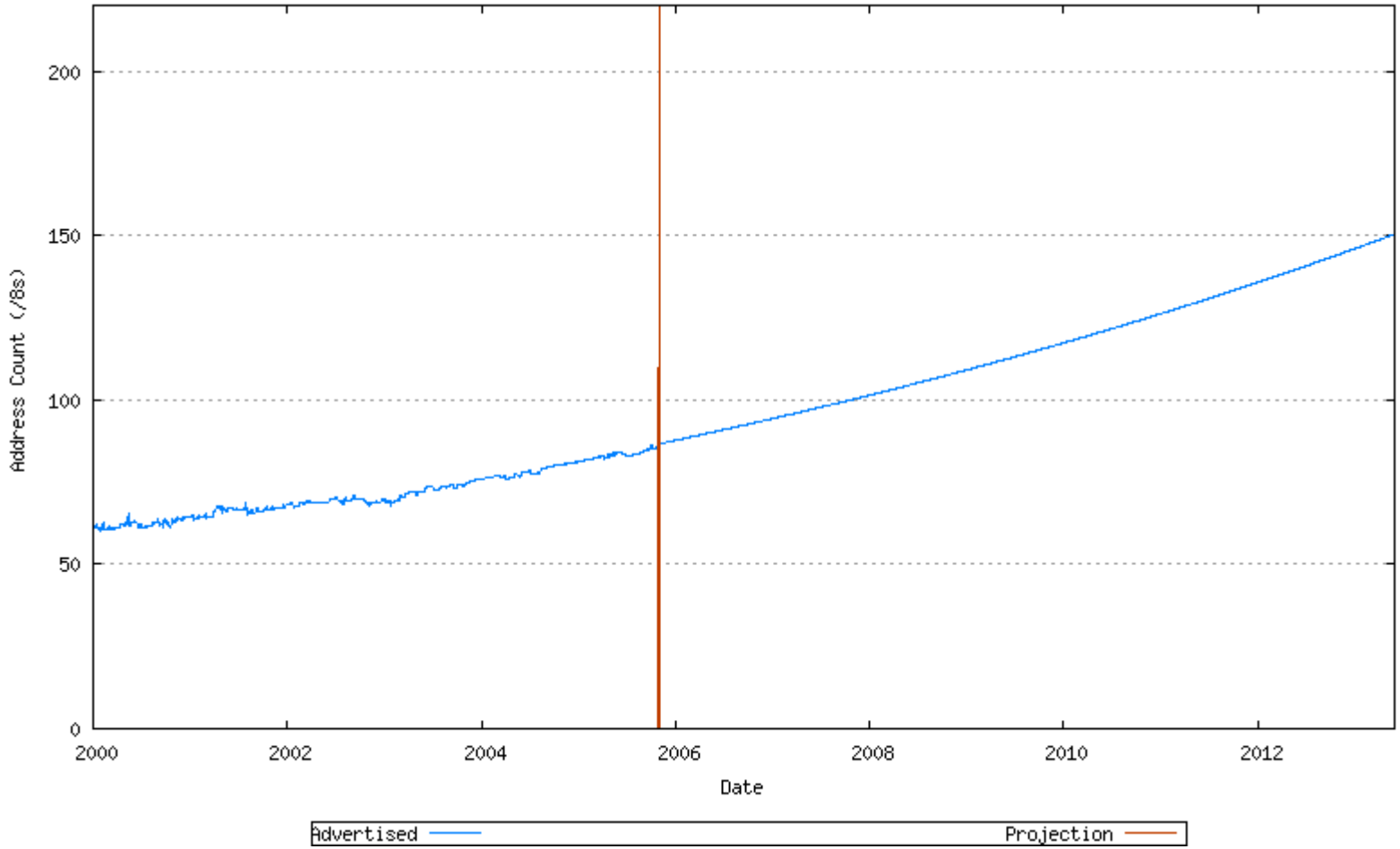
- Best fit to previous 3.5 years data appears to be a compound rather than constant growth rate
  - Use an exponential growth model ($adv = e^{a*x+b}$)
- Average network growth of some 6 /8's per year – accelerating at a rate of 0.3 /8's per year
- To reach a 'policy exhaustion point' the model uses:
  - an exponential growth trend model based on previous 1,200 days (~ 3.5 years) advertised address data
  - a (decreasing) linear trend growth model of the ratio of unadvertised to advertised addresses
  - An assumption that the pooled "various" blocks will be exhausted following IANA pool exhaustion

Advertised Addresses

- Advertised address count grows at an exponential rate

The Address Consumption Model

Advertised Addresses

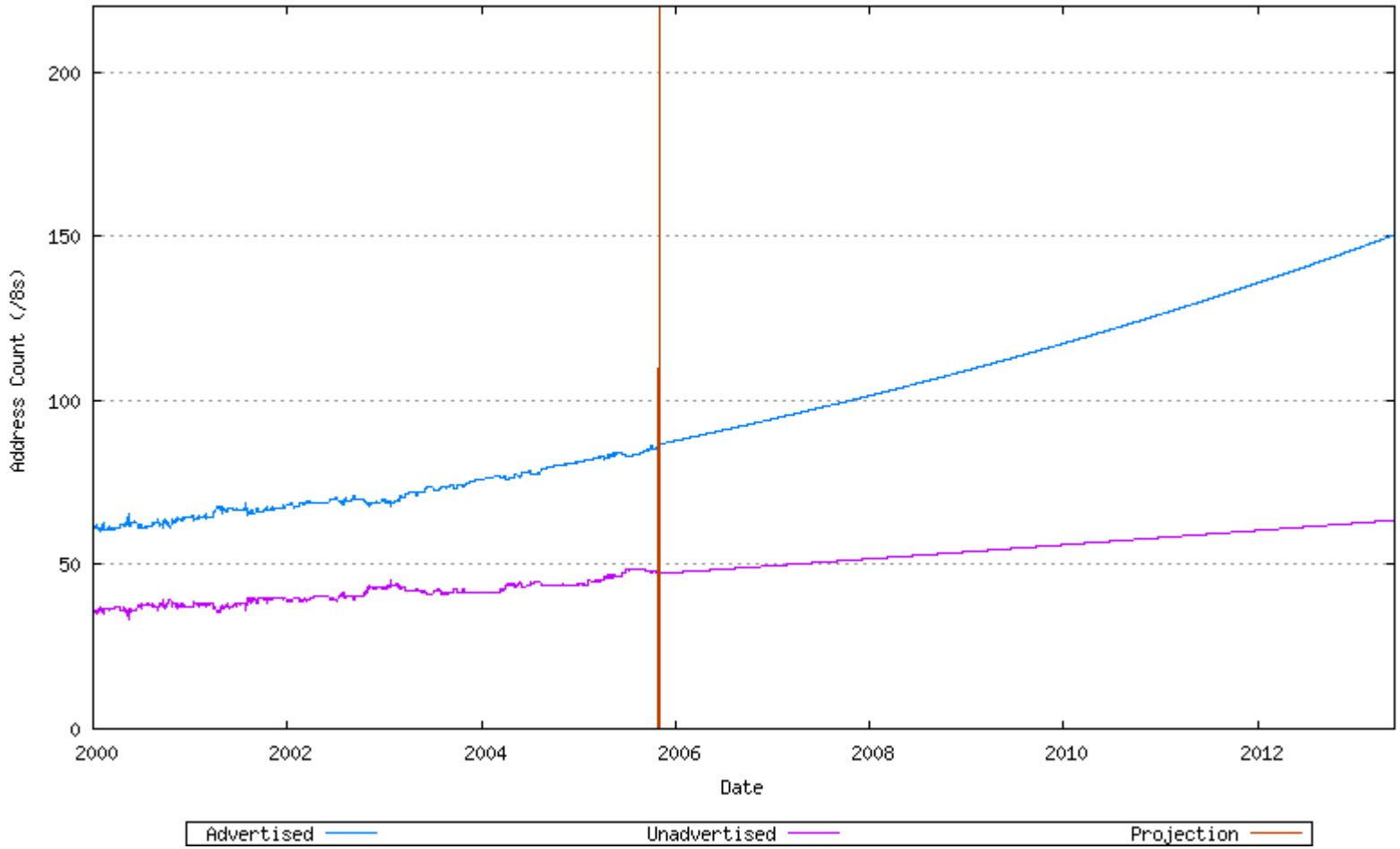


Unadvertised Addresses

- Unadvertised addresses grow at a slower exponential rate
- Reuse, reclamation and return rates for addresses drops to negligible levels

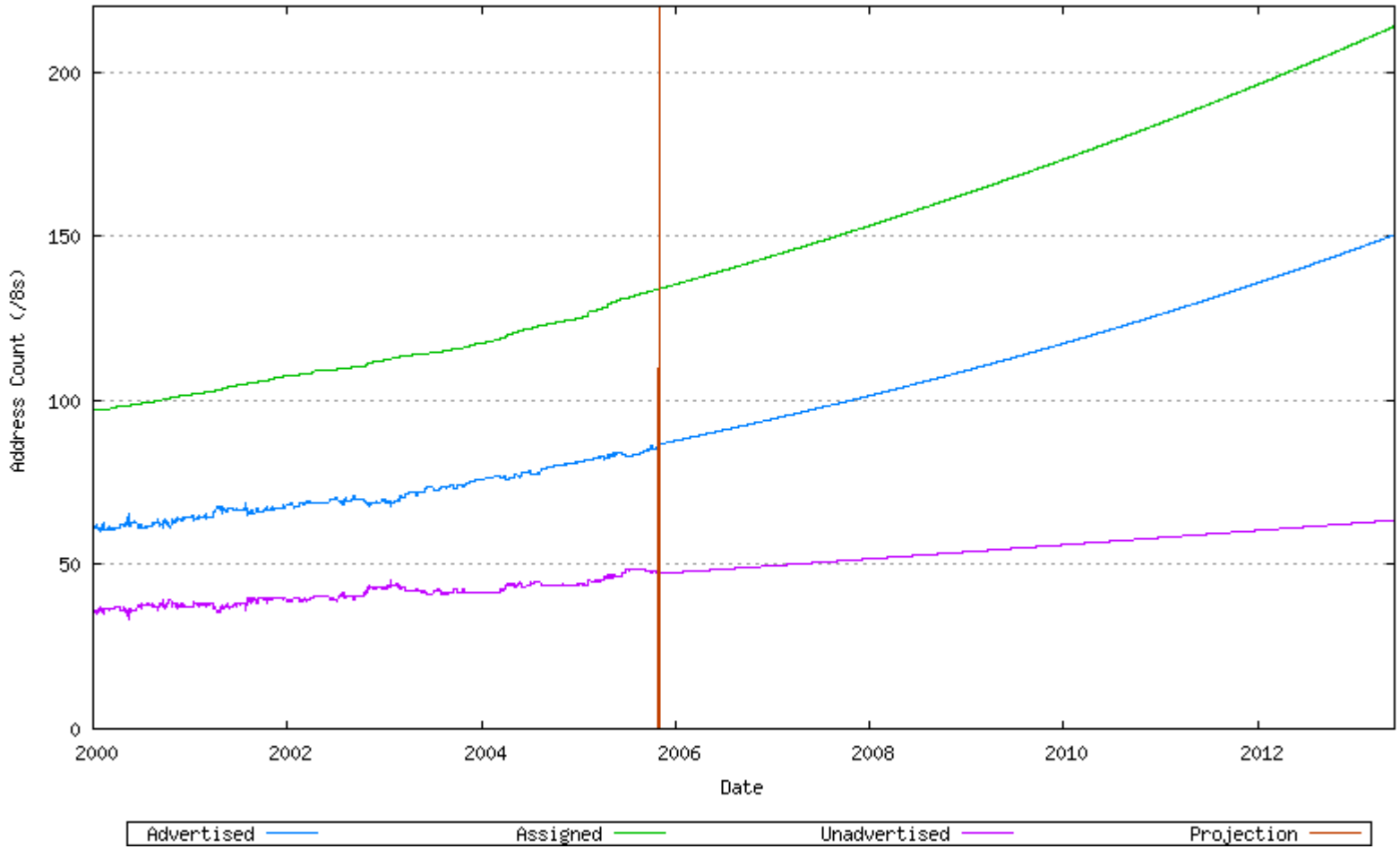
The Address Consumption Model

Unadvertised Addresses



The Address Consumption Model

Total demand level

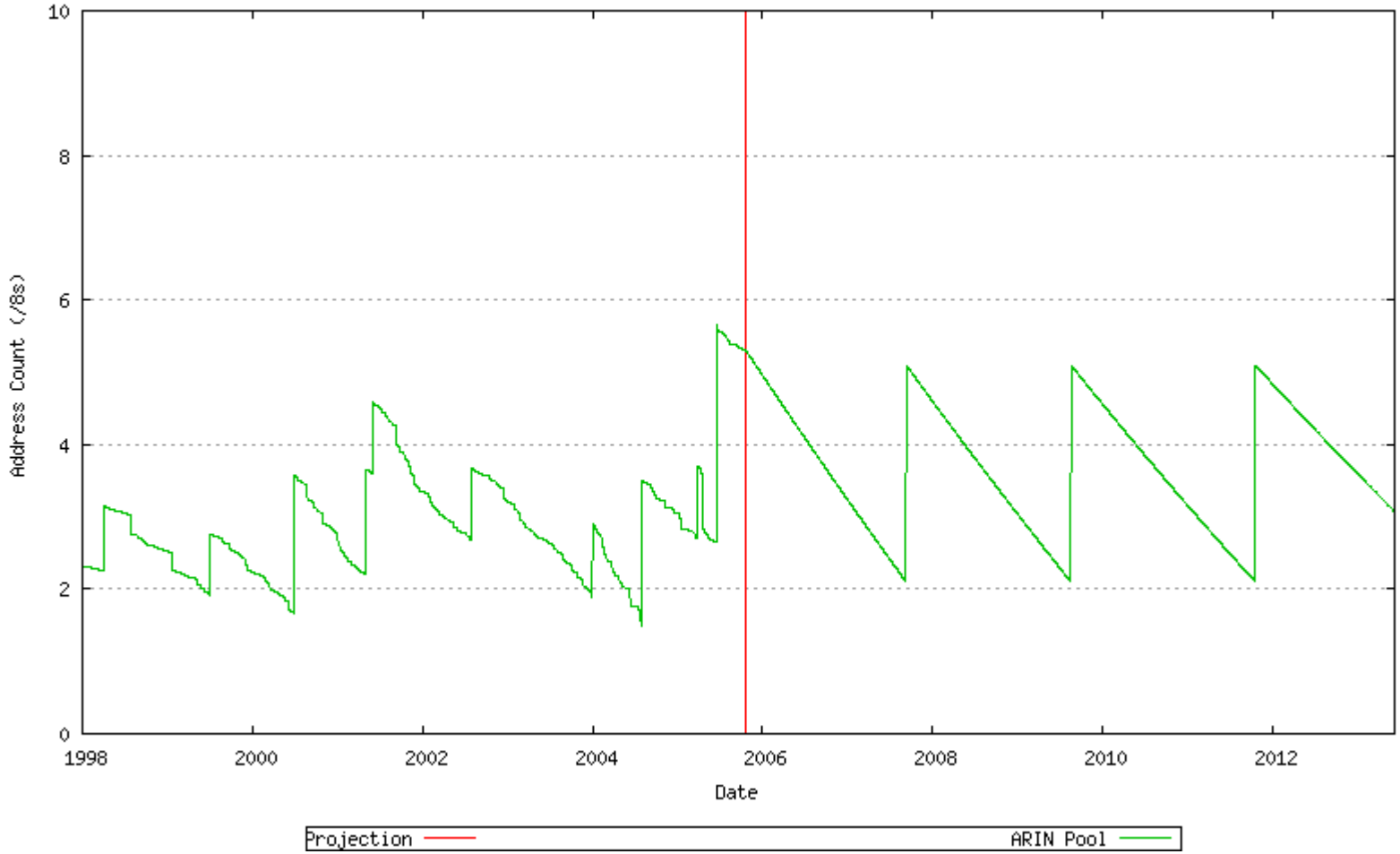


RIR Model

- Assumes that the relative rate of RIR allocation between the RIRs varies according to relative allocation trends in previous 3.5 years
- Absolute rate of total RIR allocations is driven by the total address consumption growth

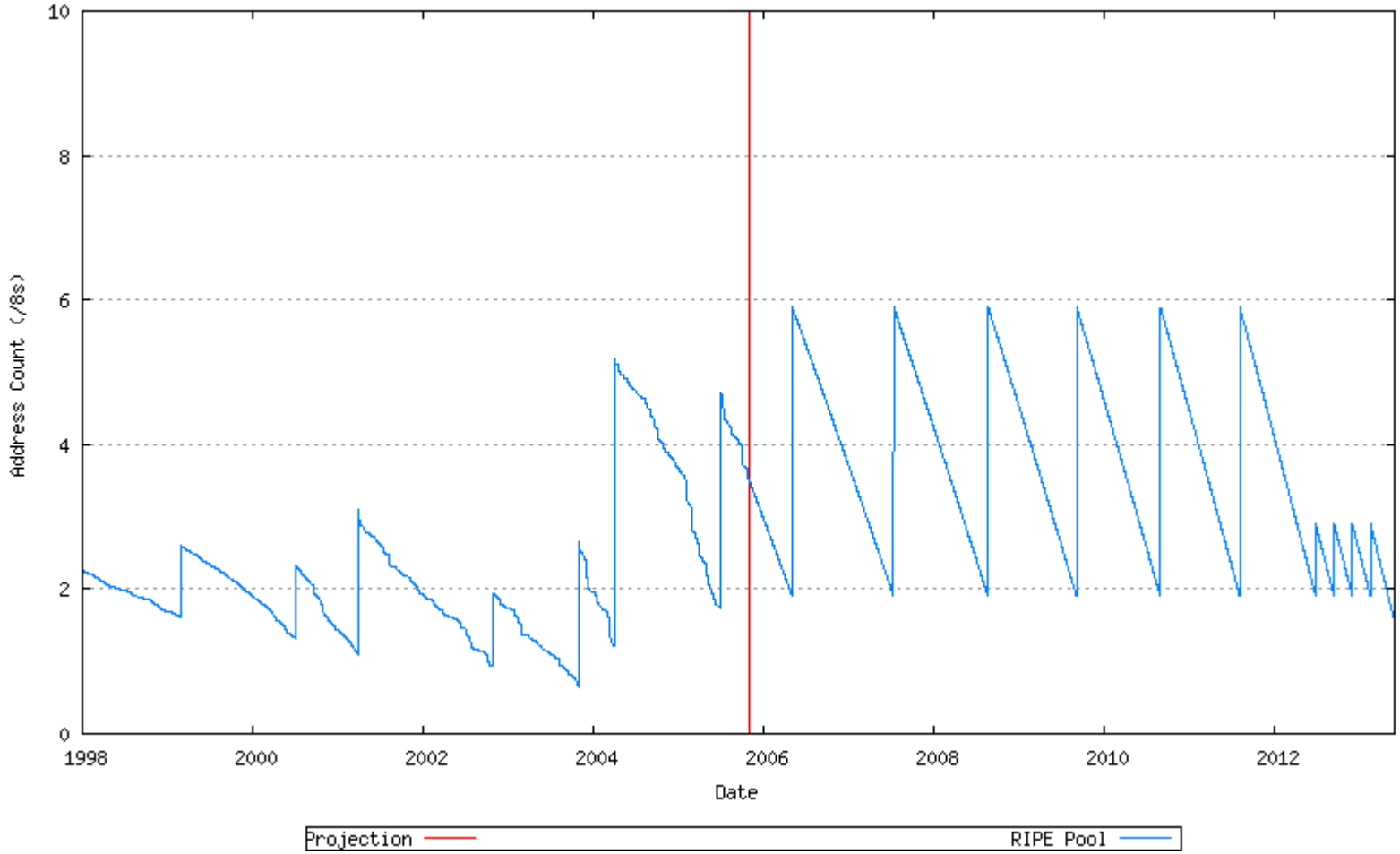
The Address Consumption Model

ARIN



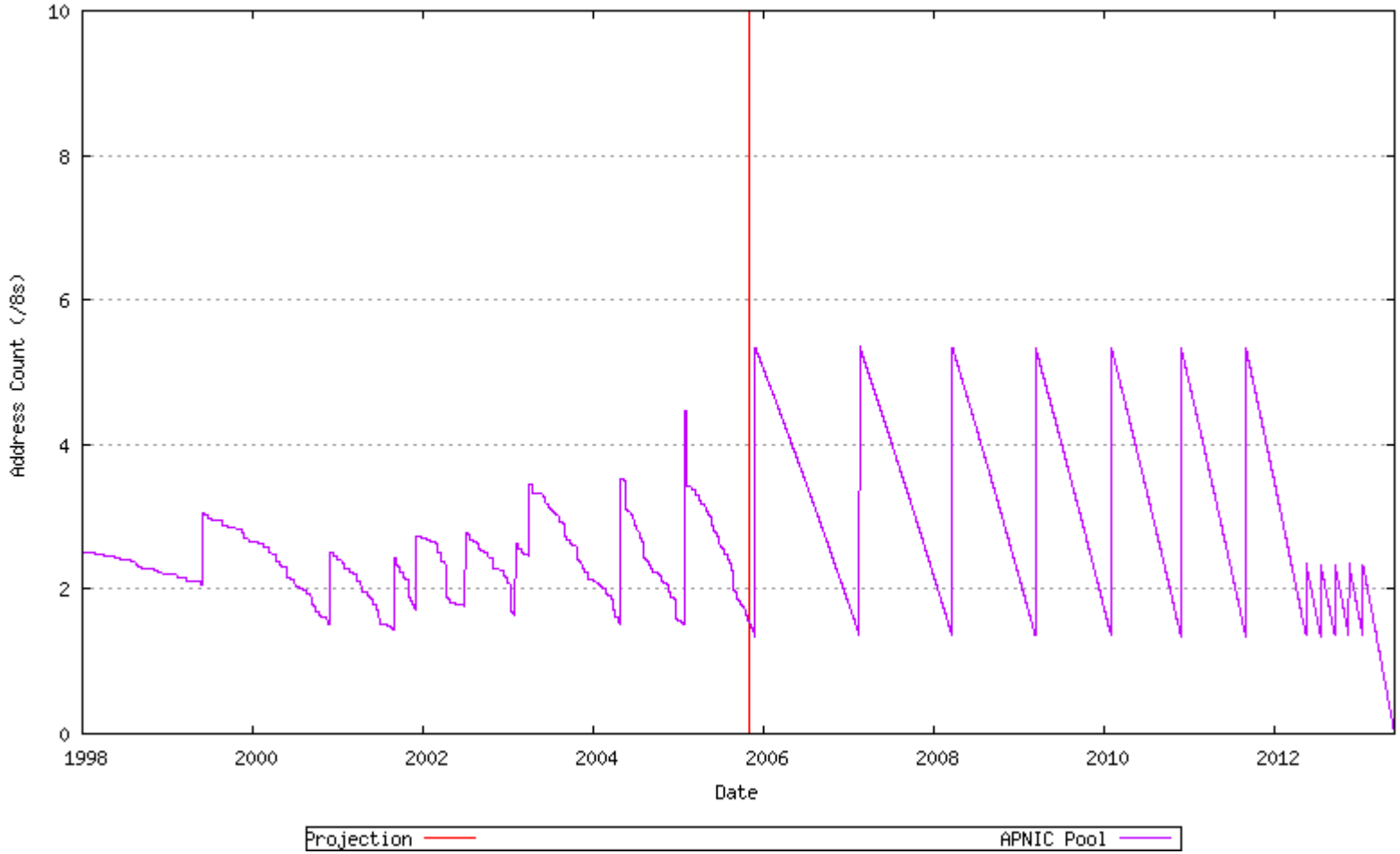
The Address Consumption Model

RIPENCC



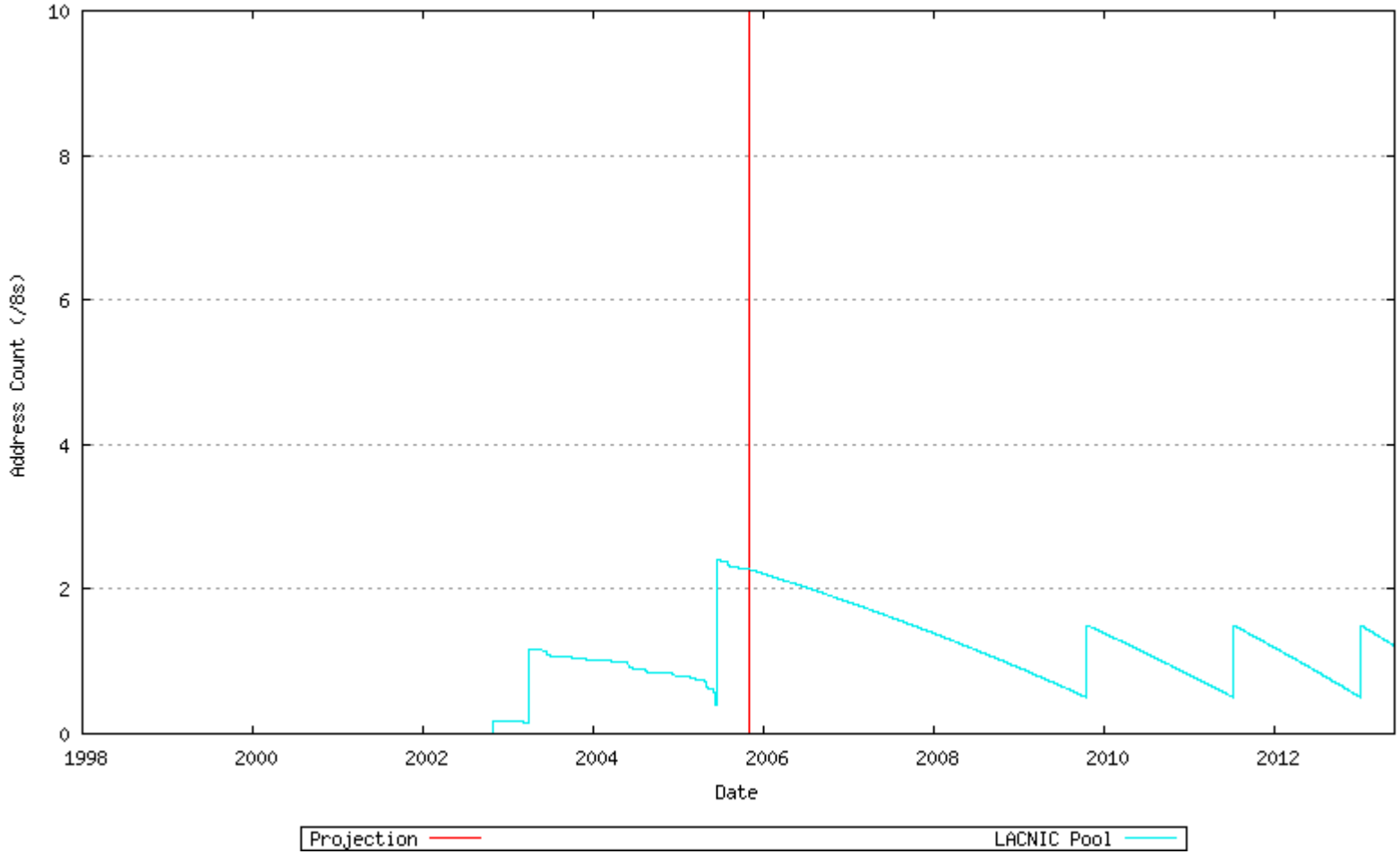
The Address Consumption Model

APNIC



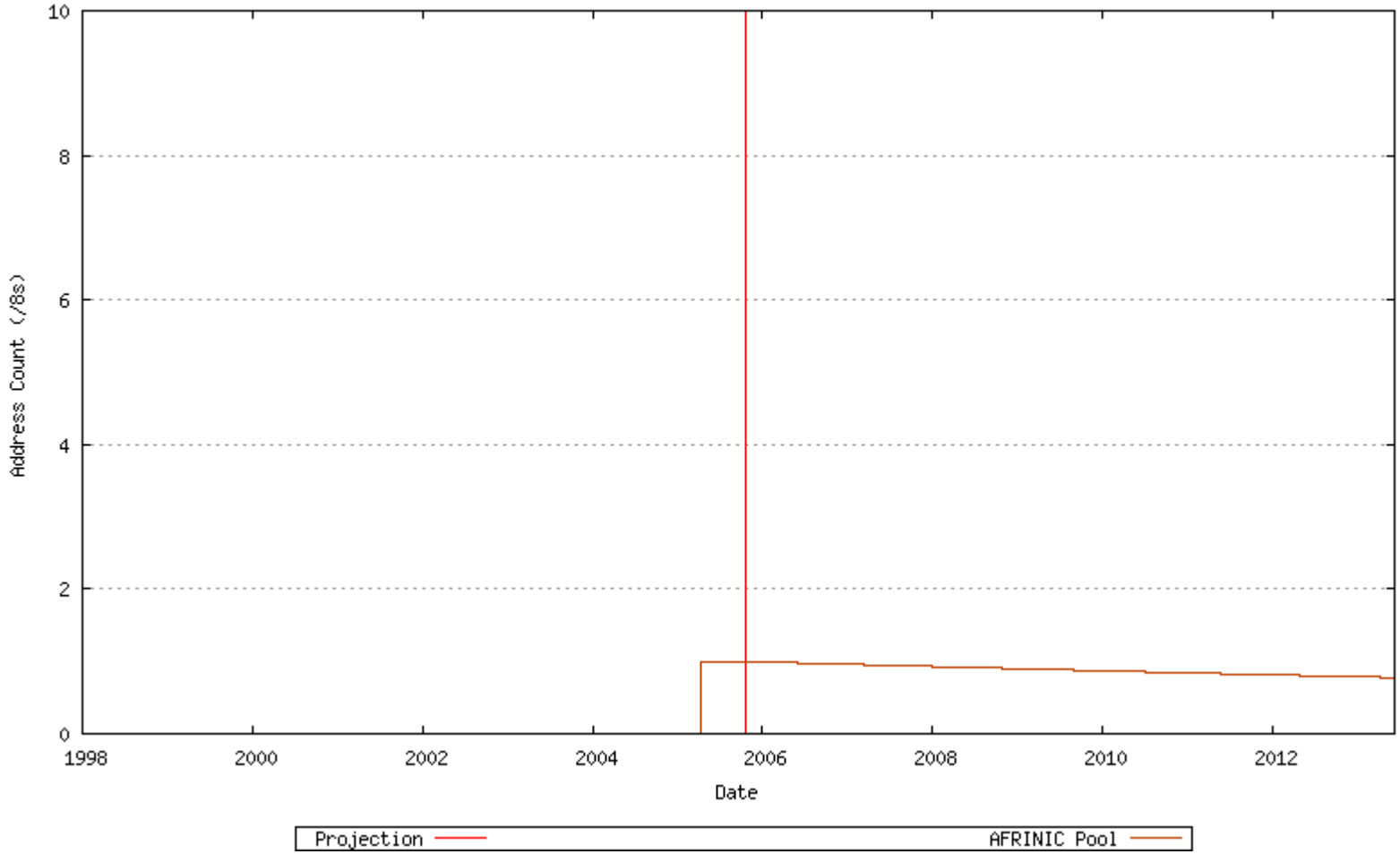
The Address Consumption Model

LACNIC



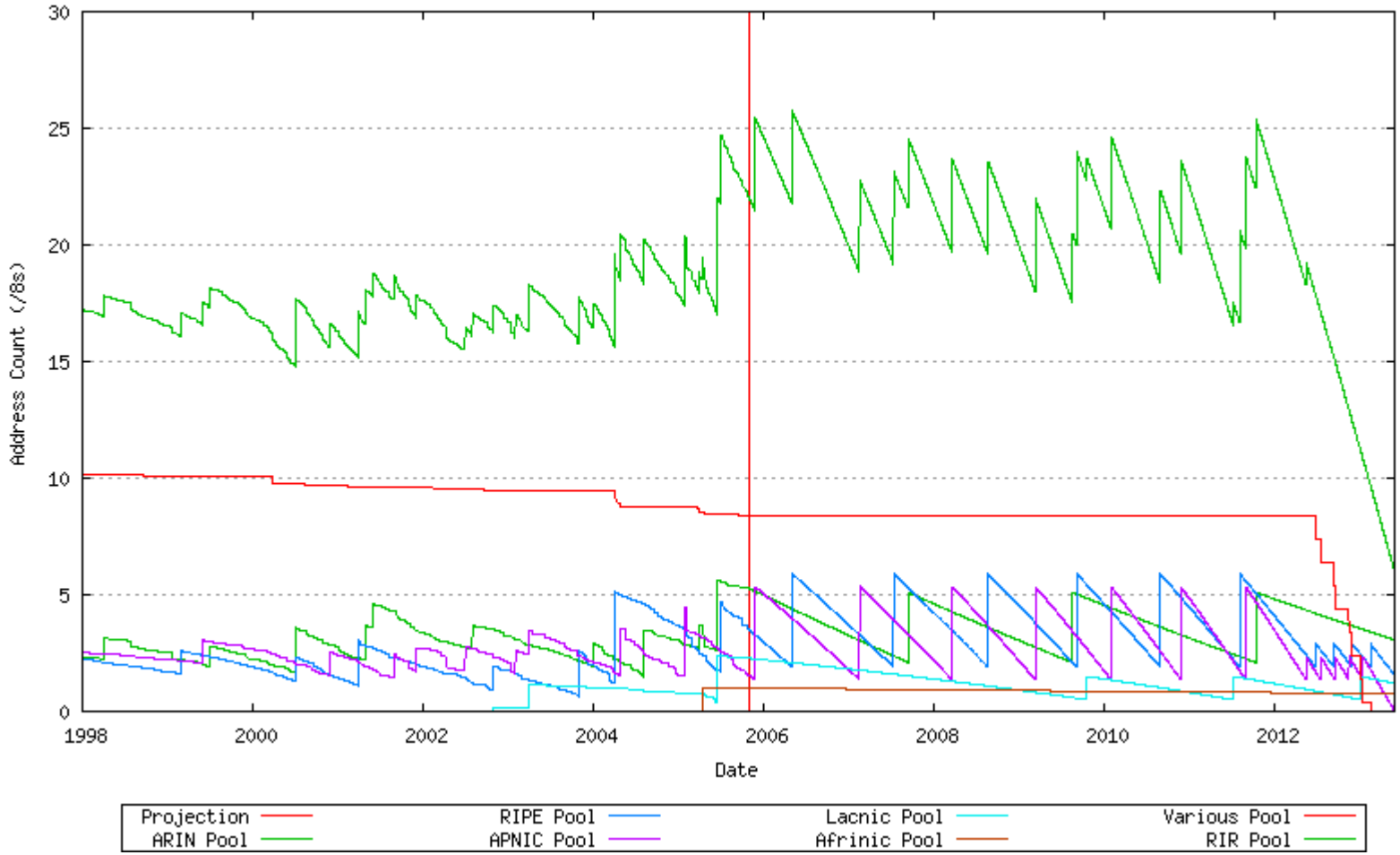
The Address Consumption Model

AFRINIC



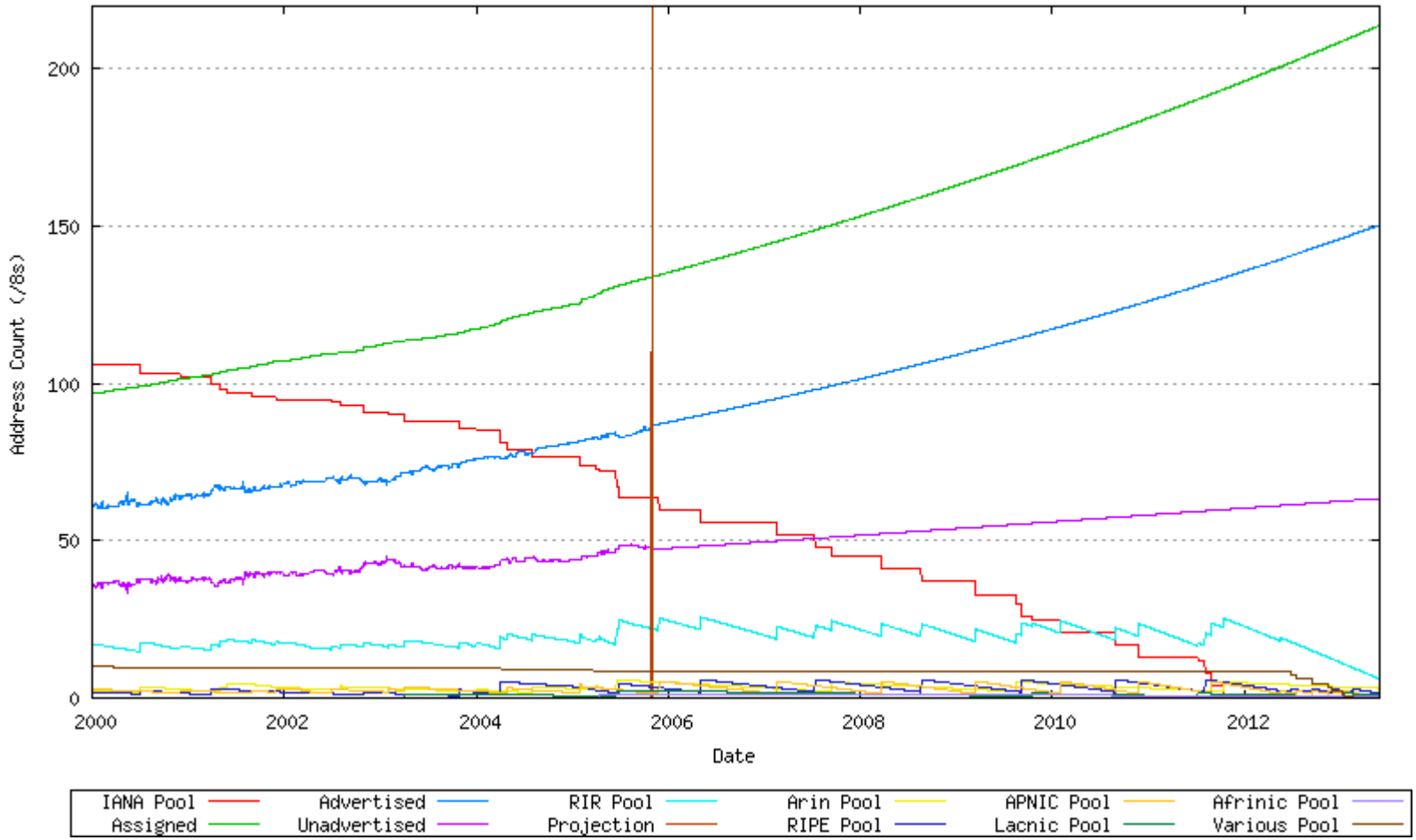
The Address Consumption Model

Combined RIR Model



The Address Consumption Model

Full Model



Some Projections from this Model

- IANA Unallocated Address Pool exhaustion

  13 May 2012

- RIR Unallocated Address Pool exhaustion

  29 May 2013

Comment about date prediction

- This model assumes an orderly procession right up to the point of effective exhaustion of the unallocated address pool
  - This is **highly unlikely** to eventuate
  - Within the current policy framework a more likely industry response will be accelerating demands as imminent exhaustion becomes more ‘visible’
  - It is not possible to model such ‘last chance rush’ behaviours based purely on the historical address allocation and BGP data
    - Some other form of modelling of social and market behaviour would be better positioned to make some guesstimates here

Commentary

- Exhaustion of the IPv4 unallocated address pool does not imply complete unavailability of IPv4 address resources to industry players

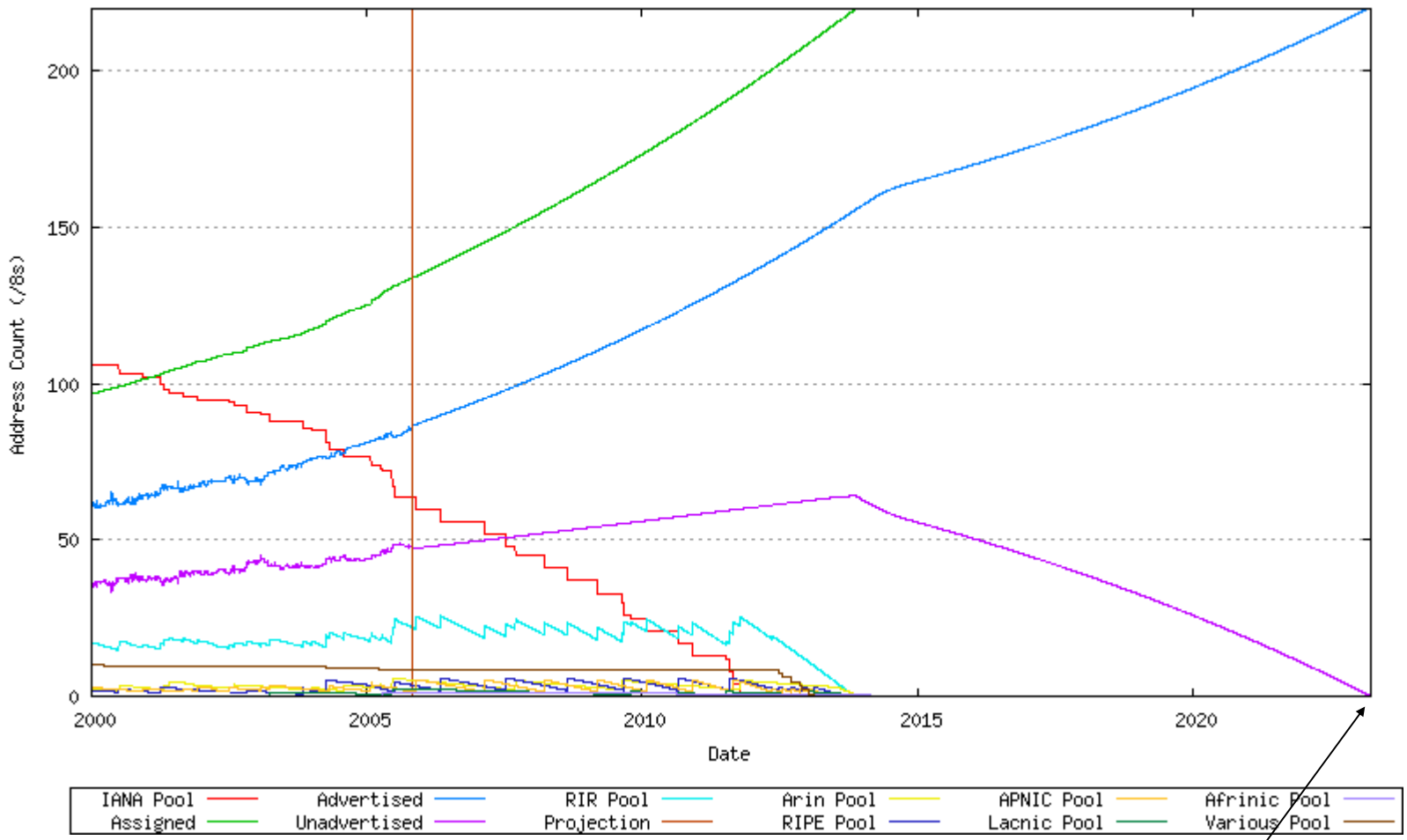
- The exhaustion of the unallocated IPv4 address pool does not appear to imply a forced IPv6 conversion onto the industry at that point in time

- There is strong reason to believe that the Internet industry will continue to use IPv4 as a base protocol long after this IPv4 unallocated address pool exhaustion date comes and goes

Policies and IPv4 Address Markets?

- In the absence of the imposition of specific external control functions, a conventional economic response would be the emergence of various forms of trading markets in address resources
- In conventional markets scarcity tends to operate as a pricing premium factor
- Market behaviours would then imply an entirely different behaviour in terms of IPv4 address distribution functions
- Unadvertised address pools, poorly utilized address pools and release of current address holdings based on conversion to address compression technologies would come into play within a market-based pricing dynamic
- What form of market regulation would be appropriate? How would it be applied? Who would apply it? Why would it be useful to have?
- How can we preserve address utility (the integrity of address uniqueness) in an environment of market-based trading?

Address Markets?



Hmmmm

- Is this address space “melting like ice under the heat of the sun”?
  - Don’t be completely silly!
- Are current policies “strict conservation” measures?
  - No – they have been consistent for a decade now. Address policies have been attuned to industry needs for many years.
- Is this “running into a brick wall”
  - Not at all!
- Is this “rapid exhaustion”
  - Again, not at al!
- Is 2008 a likely date for “the exhaustion of the IPv4 address space”?
  - Don’t be inane – this is just one predicted point of policy change in address distribution mechanisms
- Will anyone be “unable to get additional IPv4 addresses”?
  - Of course not! There will continue to be address distribution functions
- Is this a repeat of “as they did for Y2K”?
  - Only if you interpret y2k as just sign of a PR system getting tragically suckered into its own hype machine!

Quotes from: http://www.isoc-au.org.au/ipv6summit/getready.html

Food for Thought

- RIR Allocation Policies:
  - What is the threshold point where the application of different IPv4 address allocation policies may be appropriate? Or is “no change” a wiser course of action?
  - Should the RIRs establish “strategic reserve address pools? Why?
- Emergence of IP Address Markets:
  - Is the emergence of such markets Good or Bad? Avoidable or Inevitable? Appropriate or Inappropriate? Fair or Unfair?
  - Are the any practical alternatives?
  - How are trading markets best supported?
  - Would such markets be regulated? How?
  - What is the RIR role in such an environment?
- Global Implications:
  - What about “Equity”, “Affordability”, “Fairness” of access to address resources at a global level?
  - And in what venue are such concerns best expressed?

Address Policy Questions

- What are most appropriate address management policy measures that will support the continued well-being of the global Internet and its users?

- And when will they be needed?

The Daily Report

The IPv4 Report

http://www.potaroo.net/tools/ipv4/

Thank You