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UAEU had earlier registered as a RIPE NCC member on June 2010 in order to have seamless connectivity to both Ankabut and Etisalat. Since then, UITS has been planning to get a second ISP link to connect to the Internet from Du. However, Internet connectivity from Du was not readily available in Maqam area at that time as they did not have the fiber link.

On the 31st December 2012, Du finally completed their fiber link and device installation at UAEU. Since then, UITS has been testing the new Internet service from Du with selected test users to ensure its reliability.

There were issues to be addressed from day to day during the testing that needed the involvement of all of our uplink Internet providers: Ankabut, Du and Etisalat.

Finally, on 10th April 2013 after working together with our providers, we resolved all the issues and the installation was up and running.

We currently have 1Gbps link to Ankabut, 1Gbps link to Etisalat and 1Gbps link to Du. As such, we effectively have 1Gbps connectivity to the global research network via Ankabut-Internet2 and 2Gbps connectivity to the commodity Internet via Du and Etisalat.

High availability Internet is achieved by advertising our Internet prefixes (whole Internet Protocol [IP] address range) to both Du and Etisalat (via BGP). In order to have load-balancing, a more specific prefix is advertised to Du and another to Etisalat.

This way, whenever a machine in a remote-end communicates with a machine in UAEU, the best path between Ankabut, Du or Etisalat is chosen by the routers of the remote ISPs. Whenever an ISP link is down from UAEU's side, other ISPs routers will still relay the traffic to our active ISP link.

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By Syazwan Hisyam

Learn More

For those who are interested in this topic, the BGP site at <http://bgp4.as> is a good place for you to start reading. You can also explore the Internet numbered resources allocated to UAEU by doing some queries on the RIPE database at <http://www.ripe.net/>. If you want to get more information about how UAEU is connected to Ankabut, Du & Etisalat and onwards, <http://www.robtex.com/> provides you with great tools for this purpose.