






Strongest arguments on each side 

Understanding the

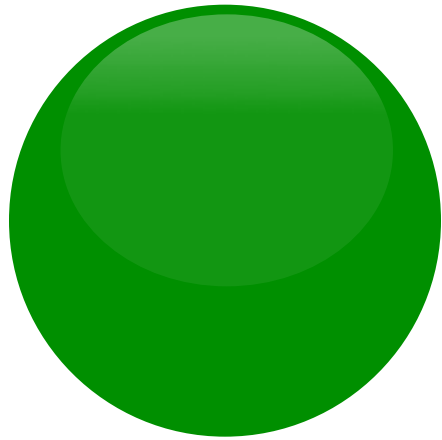
Public vs. Private Peering Debate



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Which is better: Public or Private Peering?

- Many strongly held (almost religious) views
- The “Great Debate”
- Top 3 Reasons Public Peering is better
- Top 3 Reasons Private Peering is better

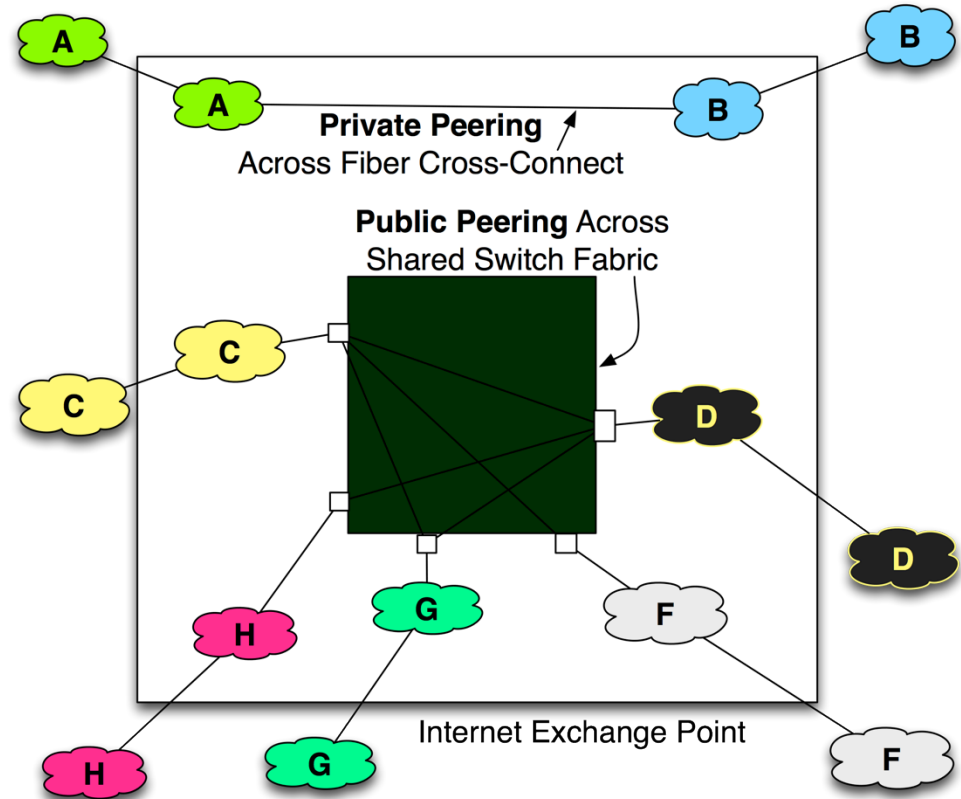


REASONS PUBLIC PEERING IS BETTER THAN PRIVATE PEERING

1. Aggregation Benefits of Public Peering

- Many small peers for a single port cost
 - Private peering requires cross connects and interface cards
- Peaks and valleys offset
 - 2.5:1 aggregation benefits
- Large gradations of port sizes
 - 10Mbps → 100Mbps → 1Gbps → 10Gbps
 - Scales well

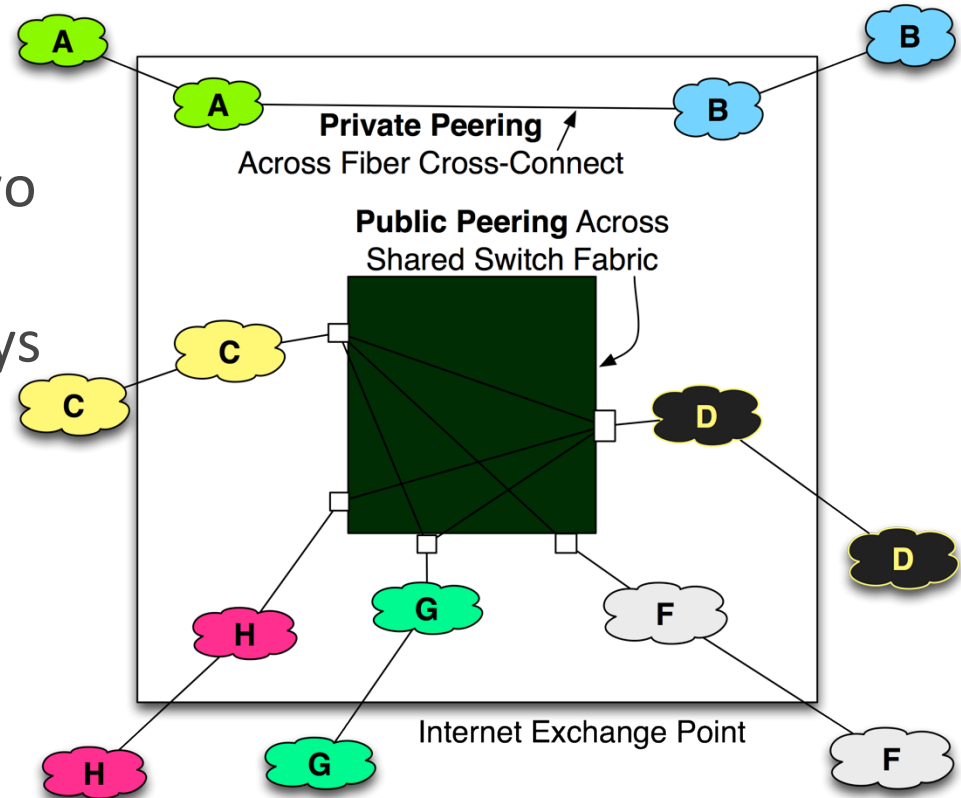
PUBLIC PEERING IS BETTER



2. Public Peering Administration is Easier

- No physical work to turn up new peer
 - Soft config on both sides
 - Private peering requires two sides to agree, order and test cross connect, who pays for XC?
- Trial peering easier
- No budget approval required to add peer
- Financial predictability
- Scales seamlessly
 - 10G for many ~1G sessions

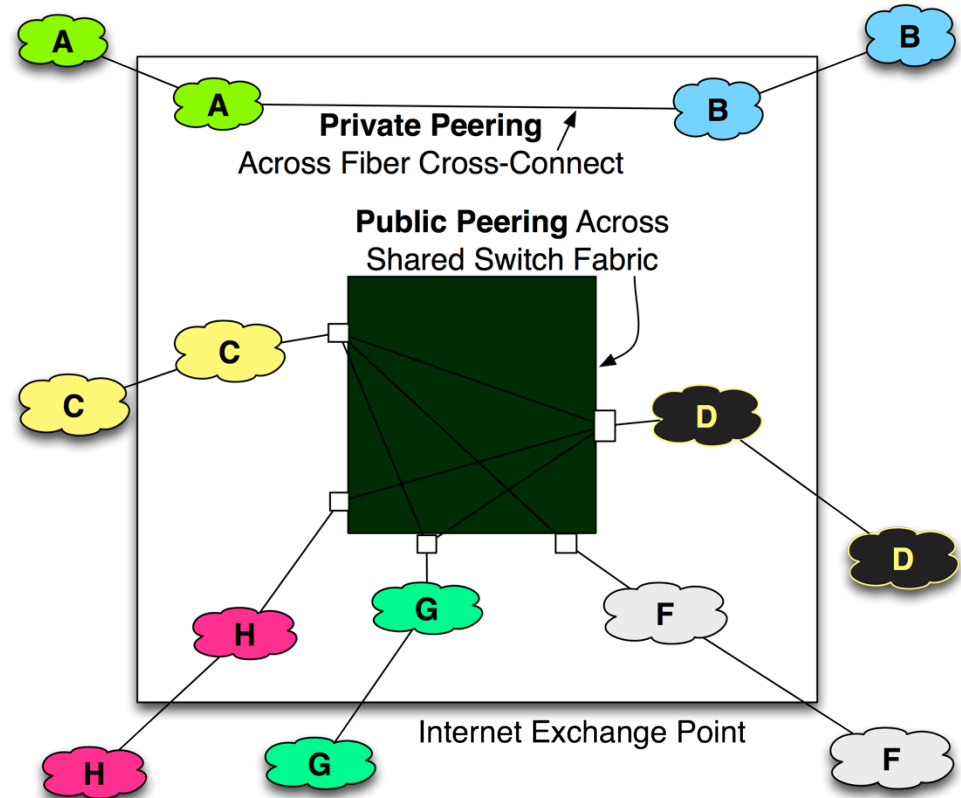
PUBLIC PEERING IS BETTER



3. Customers like Public peering

- Customers ask about peering
- Community building
- Cost-effective across multiple colos

PUBLIC PEERING IS BETTER





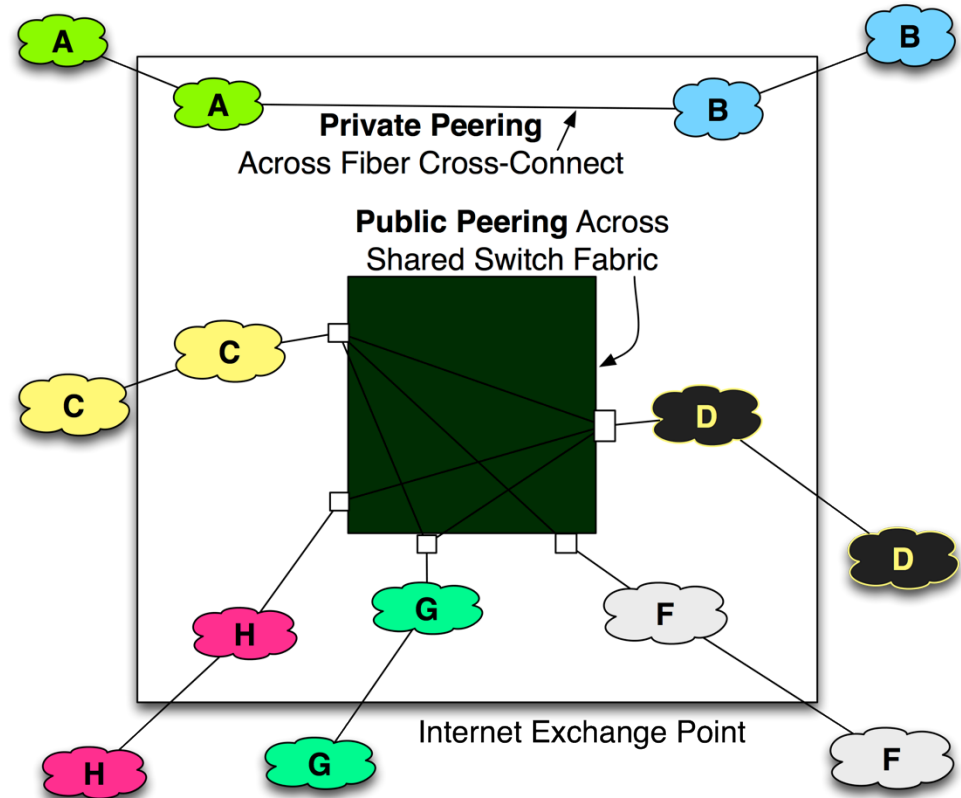
REASONS PRIVATE PEERING IS BETTER THAN PUBLIC PEERING



1. Private Peering Sessions are Easier to Monitor

- SNMP Counters on interface
- No blind oversubscription problems
- Some ISPs require migration to private peering when public reaches 40% Utilization

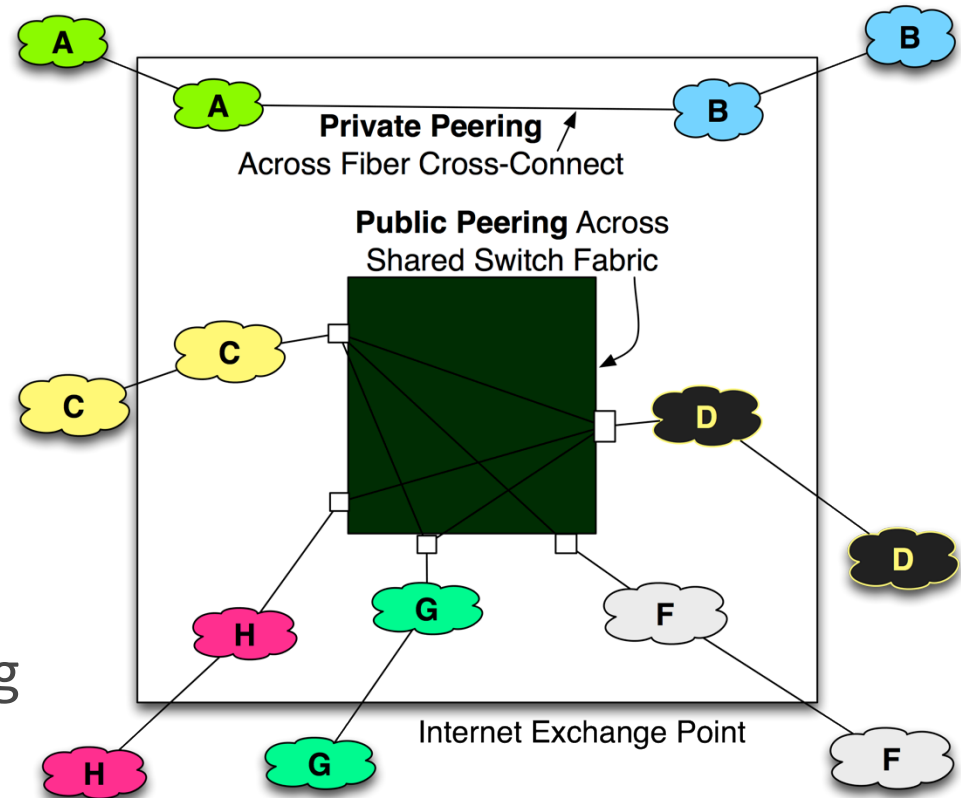
PRIVATE PEERING IS BETTER



2. Private Peering is very cost effective

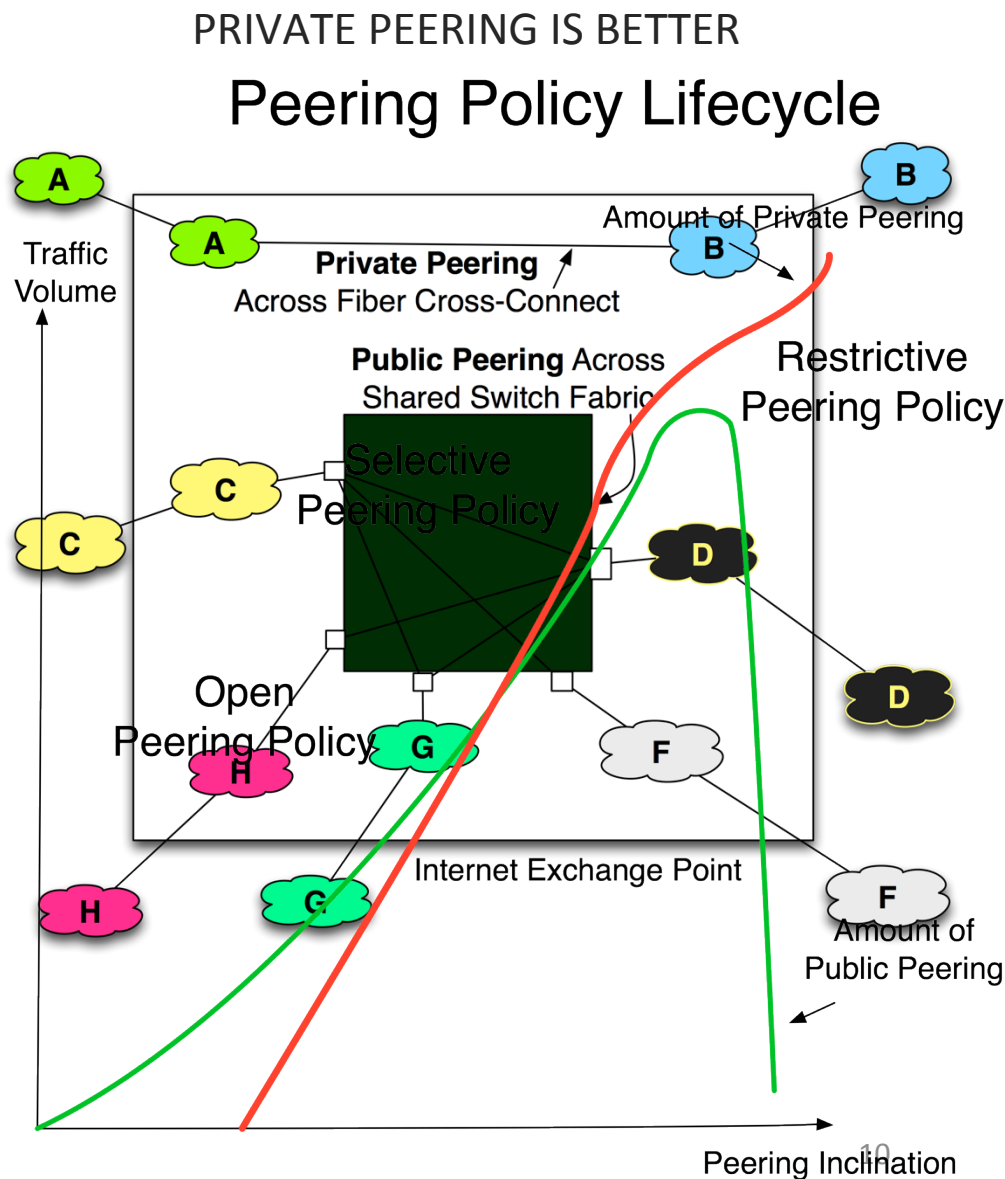
- Example: \$800/mo for cross connect and port on router
- $\$800/4\text{Gbps}=\$0.50/\text{Mbps}$
- Peering follows 80%/20% rule
 - 20% of the peer generate 80% of the valuable peering traffic

PRIVATE PEERING IS BETTER



3. Private Peering is more reliable and easier to debug

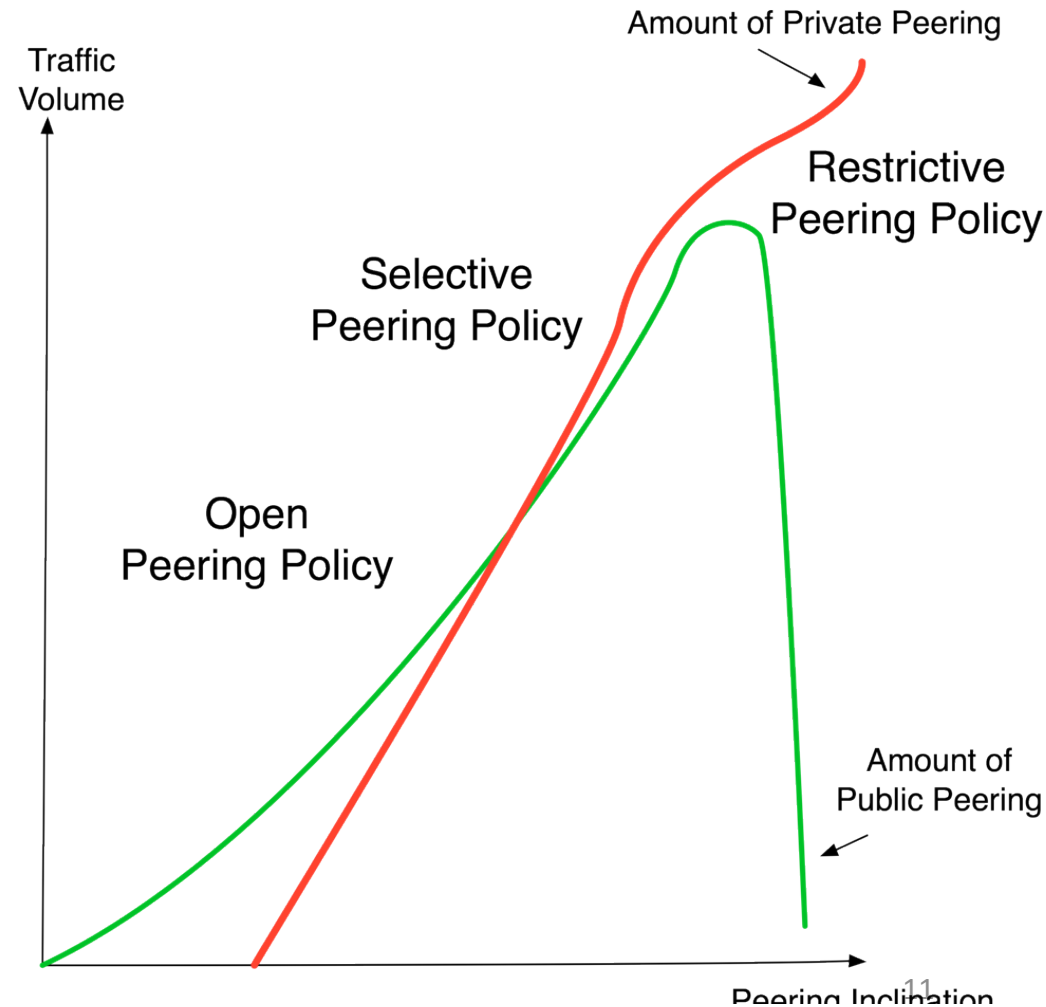
- Fewer active electronics
- Less variability across peering points
- Public peering can easily break
 - Connected to other fabrics
 - Unannounced activities bring down your peering



4. Private Peering sessions are more secure

- Only connect to those with a prior contract
- No traffic stealing, pointing default
- Less likely to be compromised without knowledge

PRIVATE PEERING IS BETTER Peering Policy Lifecycle



5. Private Peering signals a more desirable peer

- The big players peer privately
- They all know who the important peers are
- “If you think that public peering is a good idea, your just not big enough yet.”

PRIVATE PEERING IS BETTER Peering Policy Lifecycle

