
ICANN67 | Virtual Community Forum – RSSAC Work Session 1
Monday, March 09, 2020 – 16:00 to 17:00 CUN

FRED BAKER: Well, it's the top of the hour. The reason I wanted to have this meeting as much as anything is that we're going to vote on this document regarding the empowered community and I wanted to make sure that we're all on board with it. I know that several of us are ... I don't know. I just think it's a bad idea to go in to take a vote and not know what the answer is going to be.

I notice Hiro's email where he wants to edit the document, which means that it's not stable. It means we're not in a position to vote on it. Maryam, I believe that you are controlling the screen. Is that correct? Maryam Bakoshi?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Hello.

FRED BAKER: Hi, there. Ozan, are you on the call?

STEVE SHENG: I think Ozan's Zoom has just crashed. He's coming back up.

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FRED BAKER: Okay.

STEVE SHENG: [inaudible] document. Thanks.

FRED BAKER: Okay. Yeah. He and I talked a half an hour ago about what documents I wanted to see displayed. Okay. Now I see two of Ozan.

OZAN SAHIN: Hi, Fred. Sorry. My screen just crashed, so I am sharing the document now.

FRED BAKER: Okay, sounds good.

OZAN SAHIN: Maryam, can you please stop sharing? Thank you. I hope you can see the RSSAC statement on joining the empowered community now.

FRED BAKER: Yeah, I can see it. I assume that if I can see it, everybody can.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Yes.

FRED BAKER: Okay. Brad, you actually wrote this and have been involved in a couple of the calls. Could you walk through this document?

BRAD VERD: Sure. It's pretty straightforward. There's really not a lot to it. I think the first paragraph kind of just gives a little bit of history on where RSSAC comes from and the—how do I put this? Well, it kind of covers our normal ... RSSAC has been very narrow in scope and we haven't been ... This empowered community thing, we haven't been a member of and this is why. We explain that in the first paragraph.

Then, the second paragraph basically describes where we think things are going, and that because of where we think things are going, we think there's an opportunity to become a member of the empowered community. Then obviously we end with our recommendation.

I'm happy to read through it if it would be helpful to people or if they have specific questions around sentences but that's kind of the breakdown of the doc. The first one is kind of why we weren't. The second paragraph, again, is the opportunity to become it—or at least we believe there's an opportunity to become a member. Then the recommendation, which is kind of how we give advice to ICANN. You kind of end with the recommendation. So that's where we ended here.

Our recommendation wouldn't go to the GWG which is where we started with this document but it would go to the Board and then the Board would basically track it for the GWG. I think I got all that right. Any questions? Paul, you have your hand up.

PAUL HOFFMANN: I do. For those of us who haven't seen the document, is there anything below recommendation one or are we seeing the whole thing here? Great. Thank you.

BRAD VERD: That's it.

[PAUL HOFFMANN]: I don't intend to have my hand up.

BRAD VERD: Okay, Paul. Any other people with questions or comments or thoughts, concerns? Hiro?

HIRO HOTTA: Yes, thanks. Sorry, I lost my connect. When I read through the statement again, I felt that it would be better to be clearer in expressing our thought. I sent a mail several hours ago but what I said in the mail was in the last sentence of the first paragraph, I felt that we're not joining the empowered community just because there's an opportunity to join. But we join because there's a good reason to join.

So, in the background, I propose that we would change in a very friendly manner. For example, in the last sentence of the first paragraph, provide a [resonant] opportunity or—

BRAD VERD: Hiro, may I give some feedback on your email before you [inaudible]?

HIRO HOTTA: Yes, please.

BRAD VERD: So, I read your different suggestions and I kind of had a challenge with both of them, to be honest with you. I felt it kind of raised the questions of legitimacy and/or justification when, quite honestly ... Again, this is greenfield for ICANN. No one has really done this, other than the inception of the empowered community for the transition. So, really, at any time if RSSAC wanted to, they could. We could say we want to become a member and we could start that process.

Given ... I believe. I'm going to kind of channel the group with all the discussions that we've had going through 37 and 38 and recently when we've talked about this document is, because of the accountability created or that eventually will be created with the implementation of 37 and 38, that it seems reasonable to become a member of the empowered community because of the tradeoffs of the accountability that RSSAC—or what will become RSSAC—will want to have more of a say.

I like the sentence as it sits because it's cleaner, meaning this is an opportunity. I'm not saying that we never had an opportunity in the past, nor will we have an opportunity in the future. We are saying that

this is an opportunity and nothing more. So, I'll let that for the group.
But go ahead, Hiro.

HIRO HOTTA:

Thanks, Brad. I understand what you said. I'm not upsetting what the sentence says as it is, but I think it's better to say. I thought it's better to say that if there's a good reason to join, we'll join or we want to join. That's just what I wanted to say. I can remain ... I can make the sentence remain as it is or just change, as I said. I want to follow the discussion with the group.

BRAD VERD:

I'd love to hear other people's thoughts.

WES HARDAKER:

So, I liked some of the elements of Hiro's wordings. I like the idea behind it, I should say. I didn't think legitimacy was the right word, and I know, Hiro, you had talked about not being able to find the right word in your write-up in the document.

What I was thinking about is trying to figure out what the principle was that I thought it was why we would consider doing this. And I think the document already [inaudible] to some extent, as Brad says.

The one thing that I might be willing to insert is something like we feel like it's now our responsibility to join the empowered community. Because I think Hiro's point of we don't want it to sound like we're doing this because we can or because with want to. We've resisted it

for a long time I think for very solid, well-grounded reasons. But now it seems like, with the advent of 37 and everything else, that model is changing and our place in the ICANN universe is actually changing quite fundamentally and now it seems like our responsibility to join that empowered community. So, responsible is the word that I think I would pick over legitimacy.

BRAD VERD: I see Mr. Hoffmann’s hand up. Go ahead, Paul.

PAUL HOFFMANN: So, I am confused about what Wes just said, since I haven’t been part of the discussions. Just reading the words I’m seeing on my screen for the first time, I don’t get the impression that RSSAC is asking to join the empowered community now. I got the feeling that this is a request to have RSSAC join the empowered community through the RSSAC 038 process. If I’m wrong, then I think some wording changes are needed.

BRAD VERD: No, I think you got it right, Paul. I think what’s in question is the last sentence in paragraph one. I don’t have edit capability of this document, so I’ll just add some words that were ...

I think we leave the “legitimate” word off. I think that one is just the wrong word. I think, Wes, you kind of agreed with that and I know Hiro had questions with it.

Hiro, he said rather than opportunity, it provided a justification to join the ICANN empowered community.

PAUL HOFFMANN: I'm sorry, that all makes sense to me, but the way Wes was talking was in sort of what sounded to me like the present tense.

WES HARDAKER: No. I'm sorry if you took it that way, Paul. That was not my intent. [inaudible] because I mentioned as 37 stands up but ...

BRAD VERD: Yeah. I think recommendation 1 is very clear in how it reads, that RSSAC believes that the best way to complete this change is through the ICANN Board's implementation of the recommendation in RSSAC 038. This is just a backstory or giving our thought process on getting to recommendation 1.

PAUL HOFFMANN: Okay. So, however you want to do that, that's fine, although my reading of the current words actually matches what it sounded like what Hiro wanted anyways was to make it sound like we've thought about this, not just we are going ahead because it seems like we can. So, even if you make [inaudible], I think that's clear.

WES HARDAKER: So, backtracking to I guess clarify what I was saying more, I think Hiro is right about the word "opportunity" being sort of a strange one.

That's, I think, the one that called his attention and I agree that that's probably not quite the right word.

FRED BAKER: Well ...

BRAD VERD: If I may just really quick, Fred.

FRED BAKER: Go for it.

BRAD VERD: So, the original verbiage—I don't have it in front of me. The original verbiage had something that was much stronger than opportunity and that was removed by people in RSSAC. I'm happy to change it but I do want to point that out.

FRED BAKER: Speaking for myself, I kind of like Wes's comment about responsibility. I'd have to think about how to word that. It's certainly not providing anything ... It's acting on ... Yeah. I think I would say would expand the RSSAC scope and act on a responsibility to join the empowered community. That's just me. I haven't checked with anyone. Any other opinions?

BRAD VERD: So, Fred, you're suggesting that we go forward with Wes's—

FRED BAKER: Well, yeah. If we're going to modify the document at all, I'd very much agree that "legitimacy" is the wrong word.

BRAD VERD: Clearly, yeah. I think we all do.

FRED BAKER: Justification doesn't leave me comfortable. It makes it sound like it wasn't justified before. I think we're taking the event as, while we're making changes, let's make this one. But I like Wes's thought about responsibility, acting as a responsible member of the ICANN community, for lack of better word.

BRAD VERD: Yeah. I'm fine with it.

FRED BAKER: So, if we're going to change something, then it seems like something about acting on a responsibility ...

BRAD VERD: Yeah. I think, Steve, you're missing a word in there that just doesn't work for me. If you read the whole sentence, it's RSSAC 038, there

would be a number of changes that would expand the RSSAC scope and our responsibility to join the ICANN empowered and

FRED BAKER: I think I would put a period after scope.

WES HARDAKER: I just posted a comment to the chat. We're doing exactly that, Fred. You and I are [inaudible] mind.

BRAD VERD: Thank you.

FRED BAKER: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Is using "necessitate" too strongly worded? Necessitates our joining the empowered community?

WES HARDAKER: Works for me.

FRED BAKER: I think it's stronger than necessary. It might not be too strong. What we're doing is recognizing and acknowledging, then following up on this responsibility.

BRAD VERD: Right.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Without it sounding like begging.

BRAD VERD: Yeah. We don't want it to sound like begging. That's not the word.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: But still, the root server system has kind of a rare relationship to ICANN, having preexisted it. What we really are doing and what I think we should maybe try to find words to describe is that we are recognizing that a system has come into existence that we are not as engaged with as our preexisting responsibilities really call for us to do. We are evolving to match the evolution of the system around us.

BRAD VERD: I would go back to it is our responsibility ... Or it is its responsibility.

WES HARDAKER: Yeah. Sorry. I did not come up with perfect wording, but I was trying to get [direction].

BRAD VERD: No, that’s all right. That’s why we’re here. We can fix it. I like that better. I don’t know if we’re speaking from first person there through the whole document now.

WES HARDAKER: How about a new responsibility of RSSAC is to join.

STEVE SHENG: Andrew, since you’re the grammarian, can you take a look at grammar in the text?

ANDREW MCCONACHIE: Yes. I’m looking at it now.

WES HARDAKER: I think the point is there. I don’t think we need to wordsmith as a committee. I think Andrew can probably do a better job alone than with the team voicing [inaudible].

BRAD VERD: Jeff, you got your hand up. You got something else to say, Jeff?

JEFF OSBORN: No, I just couldn’t put it down.

BRAD VERD: Okay. Is everybody okay with the idea of this new verbiage? Then we can turn it over to Andrew to make grammatically correct and provide us a stable draft? Andrew, go ahead.

ANDREW MCCONACHIE: Before it is turned over to me ... So, I'm reading the sentence RSSAC has decided it is our responsibility to join the ICANN empowered community, but it's my understanding that RSSAC will no longer exist at the time this new entity joins the ICANN empowered community.

BRAD VERD: No, it's not that RSSAC won't exist. It's the next version or what's going to become of RSSAC.

WES HARDAKER: Yeah. We've never come to agreement on what will happen to RSSAC itself, but your point is [inaudible] that you could ... I suppose you could label it as something like RSSAC or some future body that is taking on the current roles of RSSAC or something. But that almost seems like a clarification sentence down at the bottom or something, just as ...

FRED BAKER: Yeah. I've been calling it RSSAC Next Generation.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: RSSAC and its heirs.

WES HARDAKER: I think we're up to 3.0.

BRAD VERD: Yeah, 2.0 was Next Gen.

ANDREW MCCONACHIE: Okay. I understand the intent, so I'll work on it.

PAUL HOFFMANN: I think that's a good question and I think it will come up. Is what you're deciding is that the root server operators as a group, that it's their responsibility to join the ICANN empowered community? So without naming what the group is, it is the group of root server operators.

BRAD VERD: No, it is RSSAC Next Generation. The root server operators are different than RSSAC.

PAUL HOFFMANN: Okay, just checking.

BRAD VERD: [RSSAC] is an ICANN member. The RSOs are not. All right. So, are we good with this, to turn this over to Andrew and we'll create a stable document so it can go up for votes in April?

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Good to me.

FRED BAKER: That makes sense to me. Voting on it tomorrow I think breaks all of our rules.

BRAD VERD: Yeah. With this change, there's no voting on it tomorrow.

FRED BAKER: Yeah.

BRAD VERD: All right. I see no hands.

WES HARDAKER: E-vote in a week or something.

FRED BAKER: Okay. Well, yeah. So, does anybody else have any concerns with this document? Does anybody else have any concerns with becoming a member of the empowered community? Hearing none, when we come to taking a vote, I'd like to believe that everybody is going to say, "Yes, this is where we need to go." If that's true, then I guess we don't have anything else to discuss today. We can adjourn.

BRAD VERD: Before we adjourn, I can't scroll this document down. I'm sorry. Can I see the recommendation real quick? I just want to ...

Yeah. There's a word here in the recommendation that maybe we should look at. I don't want to be splitting hairs ... I'm sorry, I keep trying to highlight it. I can't. RSSAC believes the best way to complete this change is through the ICANN Board implementation. The word "complete", should that be "affect this change"? I don't know how somebody might interpret complete or implement. I'm fine with implement, but somebody might interpret "complete" something different. That's all.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: I would be fine with implement, but I'd also prefer "pursue".

BRAD VERD: Interesting. Okay. Any other thoughts on changing that one? Russ, you've got your hand up.

RUSS MUNDY: Yeah. Thanks, Brad. I was just reading, and is the intent of listing just RSSAC 038, was that the plan or was it ... Usually, we tend to mention them in the pair of 037 and 038.

BRAD VERD: Well, we mention them in the pair as 037 and 038, but the ICANN Board isn't doing anything with 037 other than implementing it through 038. Does that make sense?

RUSS MUNDY: Okay.

BRAD VERD: Our recommendations were in 038 for them to do it. The recommendation was come up with the final plan, cost it, and then implement it. So, this recommendation ties to the third recommendation in 038.

RUSS MUNDY: Okay, great. I just wanted to make sure it was completely by intention as opposed to an accidental oversight.

BRAD VERD: Yeah. That was written ... Quite honestly, that was with Kaveh and the Board in mind. How do we write this for the Board? That was very much on purpose.

RUSS MUNDY: Okay, great. Thank you.

BRAD VERD: I don't know if Kaveh is here to back that up, but Fred, you were in the room when we wrote this.

FRED BAKER: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Correct. We talked about our scope, RSSAC's charter, basically. And since basically our main job is to develop a cost to the Board, we thought we have to [inaudible] to the Board and expect the Board to also report back on it. I assume this will be [inaudible]. So, via the Board liaison to the GWG, which is Tripti, the Board should pursue this and report back to RSSAC.

FRED BAKER: Great.

BRAD VERD: All right. Any other questions?

FRED BAKER: So, Mary Wong has a comment in the chat. Mary, you want to talk about that?

MARY WONG: Hi, everyone. This is Mary from ICANN Org. So, just to explain, the comment was really to follow-up on what Brad is suggesting, because

while it may seem somewhat pedantic or technical, if the statement is going out publicly, which I assume it is, how you complete the change to become a member of the empowered community is via the amendment to the fundamental bylaws and there's a process in the bylaws for that, and that would be the technical completion that RSSAC asks to become something else, a member of the empowered community, then that triggers a Board voting process and an empowered community approval process, and only at the end of that would that change of status for RSSAC be complete. That's what I intended to say.

BRAD VERD:

So, if I may, just to see if I interpreted you correctly, you're saying that maybe we should leave it as complete because that allows the Board tracker to have an actual end point. Is that correct?

MARY WONG:

Sorry if I'm being unclear. I was meaning to support you in saying that complete is probably a somewhat misleading word here and something else, whether you say pursue or effect or something like that.

BRAD VERD:

Which one, given your experience with this, do you think the Board would respond to best or its best? Does pursue work here or should it be implement?

MARY WONG: I don't think any of us have any experience with this. I think either pursue or effect would work. And as someone has said, implement is fine, except then you have the word implement twice in the same sentence. So, I would suggest deciding between something like pursue or effect.

BRAD VERD: Got it. Thank you. All right. Any other hands up? Fred, I give it back to you.

FRED BAKER: Okay. On this particular sentence, I think the word pursue actually turns out to be the right one. I'm just thinking what is the meaning of the word. I think we are, at this point, pursuing a change that would put us in the empowered community.

So, before I close, is there anybody else that wants to get a word in edgewise?

Failing that, I'll call the meeting adjourned.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thank you, Fred.

UNIDENTIFIED MALE: Thanks, Fred.

BRAD VERD: Thanks, everybody. Have a great day.

FRED BAKER: Thanks, all. Bye.

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