
ICANN81 | AGM – SSAC Open Mic
Thursday, November 14, 2024 – 9:00 to 10:00 TRT

KATHY SCHNITT: Hello and welcome to the SSAC Open Mic Session. My name is Kathy and I am the Participation Manager for this session. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior and the ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy. If you would like to speak during this session, please raise your hand and zoom. When called upon, virtual participants will be given permission to unmute and zoom. On-site participants will use a physical microphone to speak. I do have a roaming mic for those in the audience. Please state your name for the record and speak at a reasonable pace. And with that, I'm happy to hand the floor over to SSAC Chair, Ram Mohan.

RAM MOHAN: Thank you, Kathy. First order of business, may I invite all the people in the audience, you're behind us, at least me, I cannot see you. So, may I invite you to come to the table. We have space here. So, please come up to the table. Please join us. Yeah, there's a very shy guy in the back. Can you all look at the shy guy here in the back? Well, you can do it to friends, right? Okay, thank you for all of you. And Kathy, as new people come in, please. So, long as we have seats here, just please strongly encourage them to come and join us at the table. It just makes it more collegial, more of a community here together.

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So, this is the open mic session, and we have just a few slides before we do everything. Now, before we get to the open mic, I wanted to introduce Elizabeth Field, who is here, and Elizabeth, I'm delighted that you took time out of your busy calendar to come and join us. And Elizabeth is the new, is it ombudsman still, or is it ombuds? Okay. So, the new ombuds for ICANN, and with that as a very brief intro, I'll hand the microphone over to you.

ELIZABETH FIELD:

Thank you, and thank you for you for making time for me to introduce myself. I'm really pleased to be here and to have some time with you. I'll very briefly, I'll introduce myself, and I'll cover two things in the introduction. So, I'll tell you a little bit about the ombuds role and my background, and then I'll just share with you three principles that I've got for evolving the office, and then if there's any questions or thoughts that you have, I'd love to hear them.

So, just very quickly, a little bit about the role itself. The role of the ICANN ombuds is set out in the bylaws. I handle complaints from community members who believe they've been unfairly treated. I handle complaints under the Anti-Harassment Policy. I have a role to play in the request for reconsideration, and also, I have a role as an advocate for fairness, and so in this I'm looking at the promotion of a sort of environment, a positive environment for the ICANN community, and I think two other really critical things to note about the role.

One is it is independent, and the other is that it reports into the Board. So, this is in line with best practice in ombuds, the standards of ombuds.

It goes into the highest level in the organization. My background. So, I have 20 years or two decades experience working as ombuds, conflict resolution, mediator, conflict coach. I've done facilitative work, dialogue, restorative justice process work, and I think what is important is to mention is that that work has always been done in the context of global, intercultural, multilingual settings, and I have work with human rights movements. So, this is a similar organizing model to ICANN in that it's bottom-up consensus building with volunteers at the heart of it. So, I'm familiar with the ICANN environment.

I've worked with UN and UK civil service, and I have a background as well in anti-harassment work, both in the prevention of it but also in the response to it. So, in terms of how I'm thinking about evolving the office, one thing it's maybe worth saying is that I believe there's a good stable foundation to build on, and one thing that.

So, in terms of three principles I have, one is really around data, and data is very important to me. So, I want to take a strategic approach that is driven by data, and part of that data is the needs of the community and what people are needing. So, I really want to hear from people and respond to that, and as part of that strategic data-driven approach, prevention is a core element. So, that's one.

The second element is communication and engagement with the community. So, this is really to help me both what I'm giving out but understanding what people need, the services, and shaping my offer around that, and the third thing is really around prevention but also the promotion of positive the positive environment, but also I want to

highlight that I offer services beyond just the complaints the prevention element is also offering support, advice, guidance to individuals, groups, leaders, and ICANN on how to manage things. So, that's me, that's what I'm hoping to do with the office very initially, and I'm working collaboratively as my aim. So, I'm really hoping to have be in touch with you. So, thank you. If you have any questions, I'd love to take them.

RAM MOHAN:

Thank you so much. Questions. So let me initiate and perhaps that'll prompt a few others. What is your metric for success?

ELIZABETH FIELD:

I love a question about metrics. So, there are, there are a few that. So, first of all, the metrics from success will be driven by the strategy, which will be driven by a connection with the ICANN Strategic Plan. So, there's these things all need to be well connected. A couple of metrics I would have. So, one is how people feel when they interact with the office. So, in terms of fairness, it's not always about the outcome, whether people find or doesn't find, but were people was the process clear and well handled, and were people well treated throughout. So, that is a metric for success.

Obviously, caseload is a -- I wouldn't say it's a metric for success necessarily, but it's something you measure and you observe, and what you do want is you do want people coming forward, and so zero cases is not a success because people are not coming forward. So, I mean, if

you're interested, I have a whole series of things, but these would all be provisional, again, based on what it is, the outcomes that we're looking for as an office, and I have plenty of ideas and certainly happy to share them with you if you'd like to discuss.

RAM MOHAN:

Yeah, I think that would be great. Just a quick follow-up. Yesterday, the SSAC met with the ICANN Board, and one of the questions that the SSAC was asked was what suggestions do we have for the ICANN, incoming ICANN CEO. In that conversation, we said three things. We said that there needs to be a focus on culture and changing the culture. We said there should be a focus on effectiveness, efficiency, and empathy, and the third thing we said was a focus on proper stewardship.

In the culture part, specifically, we spoke about how ICANN, the community, ICANN, the workforce, needs to be a more welcoming environment, especially for women, and that there is a lot more to unpack underneath that, but I would just say to you that that sentiment that the SSAC has expressed, there is actually a great deal more underneath that, and so in a separate session, perhaps, that's worth unpacking, but I want to just bring it up to your attention that at least from within the SSAC and from the SSAC to the Board, our feedback is that there is a culture change that needs to be fostered, and the culture change, among other things, this is not the only thing, but among other things, one of the things that may have an overlap with your area of responsibility is a more welcoming environment. Any other comments from folks here? Jeff.

JEFF BEDSER:

Thank you. Jeff Bedser. So, I know your recent role, but there's a current community public comment on the new standards for the Harassment Policy, and one of the things that I've noted in reviewing it, it seems to bifurcate between how staff should handle harassment versus community, and I'm wondering if you can comment on the reasoning for that logic, and obviously, you aren't the one, necessarily, that drafted this, but maybe you could give us some insights on that. Thank you.

RAM MOHAN:

Thanks, Jeff, and I just note before you responded that Robert is in the queue in Zoom. So, if there are others, either raise in Zoom or raise it here in the room. Thank you.

ELIZABETH FIELD:

Great. I'll start with your question first, just very briefly, and again, I'm speaking very provisionally and very partially on partial information, but my understanding is, and this would map onto other organizations that I've worked at more than I can, if that makes sense. So, the employer has a duty of care. They have legal kind of constraints in terms of what they have to do with. So, the policy has to look a little bit different than what you have in a community where the contract, so to speak, is quite different. They have to align, and they have to intersect. So, that would be, I don't know if that helps at all, but I'm certainly happy to look at it. They need to be in alignment, but they will look very

different because you have very different relationships, if you will. Does that make sense?

JEFF BEDSER:

It certainly does. The troubling part for me is that the ICANN community has always included staff in the term because it's almost like you're taking the ICANN community but staff, and the overlaps are profound, and the interactions are constant across all those lines. So, the opportunities for this policy to be deployed are always in place. So, it seems that having a separate process is really putting at risk some almost second-class citizen role in the way it's handled. So, that's a concern. I'll make a comment to this public document at some point, too, with those thoughts, but I just wanted to share that.

ELIZABETH FIELD:

Thank you, and I've noted that's an interesting point around the definition of community, and I'll take that back and look at that, and just, I think, on your point on culture. This is, I'd love to have a longer conversation because I think there is a wonderful opportunity here in terms of what the ombuds can do. I mean, the idea that you're talking about it and identifying what you'd like to work on is a problem can't be solved unless it's raised, right? It's surfaced. It has to be, and that talking about it, thinking about it, planning for it, and also, it's a collective responsibility. So, everyone can work on culture. We can all have a part to play. So, I think that's really exciting, and there's certainly initiatives that the ombuds office can take that will support that ambition.

RAM MOHAN:

Thank you. Can anybody here sitting at the table who has an open seat next to them raise their hand, and folks who are here, please come join us at the table. Hard for me to see behind my back. Thank you. Robert?

ROBERT GUERRA:

Sure. So, first, welcome. Before being on the SSAC and work that I used to do years ago, I used to do a lot of, kind of, training with human rights organizations. So, I'm happy to just connect with you on that point. I think in the, and having been on the SSAC and been involved in ICANN a couple times, or for several years, I think because the community comes from stakeholders that come from a variety of different entities, they may be large companies, they may be small, they may be At-Large, the education and awareness raising on a lot of the issues.

What we hear in the meetings is we're abiding by the community standards, but what that means to people and how they implement it may not know, and so I think that whether it's for the SOACs or the community as a whole, not having a session that competes with everything else, but really what that means, and running through examples and education, I think could be helpful.

I think that's been attempted in the past, but it's like more, oh, it's there, but I think it's just it should be more at the forefront, because of the world that we live in, a lot of these issues are kind of out there, and so I think it's really important to everyone know what those terms mean. That could be particularly helpful.

I don't want to speak for the SSAC, but I think that there's an interest also in terms of how that can come in, because if the technical security community can be an ally of yours, and somehow that would be a very powerful voice, because I think that's something that doesn't come up a lot. It's usually, oh, these tech geeks are very male-oriented and stuff like that, but at the end, if it is a diverse set of people, then it's more than just your office. I don't want your office to feel that you're alone for a lot of the issues as well, and I'll just follow up with you separately. So, thank you so much for being here.

ELIZABETH FIELD:

Just to say thank you, and I love that, and I appreciate the offer to be an ally. I think that's really important, and awareness raising is very important. I think behavior is, people observe around them. The norms are set by what people see. So, that's really important to have that understanding. So, I'd love to talk more, and that's great. Thank you.

RAM MOHAN:

Other comments, questions for our new Ombuds?

FREDERIC TAES:

Thank you. I'm Frederic from Internet Society Belgium, which is also an At-Large structure of ICANN EURALO. I fully agree of what my, how to say that, my colleague said. I would like to insist that security needs to be, end-to-end security needs to have more, from my perception, from what I have seen, more customer-centric. I'm also a business guy with technical background and in cyber security, and so what means, and

you, it's user-centric, it's user-centric, the end-users, but also the registrants.

I think that we don't work enough on those two parts, and, of course, the bad guys are looking for the weakest points, and it's not always the, how to say, the technology, and the idea I give just one here, the human firewall, is something that we can further improve, not only to have the social security from a technical point of view, but more integrated with people. That's my message, and I have also some concrete projects we have developed. I will not disclose here.

RAM MOHAN:

For the ombuds?

FREDERIC TAES:

No, it's really for SSAC, for the community.

RAM MOHAN:

We'll come to that in a moment. So, hold your thought. I will come back to you and get yourself in the queue.

FREDERIC TAES:

But I don't want to enter into the details, but it is more to you--

RAM MOHAN:

We love details, but we'll get to that in a minute.

FREDERIC TAES: Okay, thank you.

RAM MOHAN: Now, this specific part is with our Ombuds and interaction with the ombuds, okay?

FREDERIC TAES: Okay.

RAM MOHAN: So, thank you. Gopal is on the Zoom with a hand raised. So, Gopal, would you like to--

GOPAL TADEPALLI: Thank you very much. I'm Gopal from Anna University, Chennai.

RAM MOHAN: Cannot hear you. So, perhaps you have to speak a little louder.

GOPAL TADEPALLI: I'm Gopal. I teach at Anna University, Chennai, India. Thank you very much. Discussion. The idea of culture is overarching. We evolve the entire computing and communications coming together based on some methodology of recognizing what is a machine. This is a machine. Now, the entire form and format of what is a machine is changed. We

are not even talking about any specific form by which a machine can be connected and through which we can communicate. Is there a way of positioning that changed context in the space of computing and communications?

RAM MOHAN:

It's a big question. I don't feel equipped to give you any kind of an answer other than just commenting and saying it's a big question. All right. Any other questions? Oh, you have a hand raised here.

LEONARD HAUSE:

Yes, hi. I'm Len Hause with the U.S. State Department. I welcome Elizabeth in her new role. I think as a technologist in the State Department dealing with the internet, integrating the technology pieces with the diplomacy pieces is always interesting. Creating that welcoming culture and the diversity of culture is important, especially as the internet continues to grow into all the sectors of our lives.

The technical community and the standards communities and the security communities, I think, have to take that reality in and make sure that the voices are heard in that environment. We also have to make sure that the culture of these types of organizations is healthy and continues to grow and continues to be productive. That's part of the challenge as well. I welcome you to this endeavor. Thank you.

ELIZABETH FIELD: Thank you. That's very kind. I agree with everything you said. I think that's great. Thank you.

RAM MOHAN: Elizabeth, thank you so much for coming and spending time with us. Don't feel compelled to leave. You're welcome to stay. This is open mic, but you probably have other places to go as well. Welcome to the ICANN community. We look forward to having further interactions with you. One final thought in my mind to share with you is that traditionally, at least in my experience with Ombuds people here at ICANN, the Ombuds is given a spot. He or she comes up to the initial forum, makes a speech when people aren't really paying attention. Then the Ombuds has a room. There's an expectation that people go and talk to the ombuds.

The Ombuds, at least in my experience, has never been a member of the ICANN community. The Ombuds has been apart and away from the ICANN community. I can understand some part of it is because there are complaints coming through or issues coming through. You want some separation. My own experience is that if I had a problem that I saw, my first instinct would not be to bring it to the Ombuds.

My first instinct would be to gripe about it to my friends in the community and say, I don't know what to do about this. This is kind of icky, but not sure what to do. There's that culture of the Ombuds is not off the community or in the community. The Ombuds is kind of a separate entity altogether. That, I think, causes some level of separation. I do not have a solution. I merely make an observation.

ELIZABETH FIELD:

That's incredibly useful data. I appreciate that. Actually, I have a slightly different view than being on the sidelines. My view is the communication and engagement. I think I need to build a relationship with people. I need to know what the issues are. I need people to have trust and confidence that I understand both the work but the environment that people do. So, my approach would be slightly different. If it doesn't work, then change it. But communication and engagement are at the heart of what I want to do. I hope to have input from all of you. Thank you.

RAM MOHAN:

Great. Thanks again.

FREDERIC TAES:

I would like to add just a comment on my own. I'm from EURALO. We have people from Ukraine. We have people from Russia having to work together. That's not always how to say that's easy. But it's really important and I think that it's true. ICANN, it's one internet, one world that we can rebuild the future because we can have in the same room people from countries just conflicting each other. But each time something is going even on policies or whatever, someone says, I want to talk with the ombudsman for this or that. And so, if you have somehow to say that's tips on how to we help us as others in the community to manage that. But I think it would be good to exchange this how to facilitate the communication.

RAM MOHAN:

Thank you so much. Appreciate it. Elizabeth, thank you again. Once again, for those of the table, if you have an open seat, please raise your hand. And for those from behind us, please join us at the table. It's hard for me to interact with you if you're sitting behind me. So, let's go to the slide deck. Only have a few slides. This is really for those who don't know who the SSAC is.

Next slide, please. Thank you. This is just a quick overview of the SSAC. We are chartered under the mission of ICANN. And our role is to provide advice to the ICANN community and the Board on things that relate to security and the integrity of the naming and address allocation systems.

Our responsibilities are to engage, analyze, coordinate, inform, and advise the Board and the community. This is who we are. The real highlight here is that we are focused on increasing our makeup in terms of the skill set of the SSAC as well as where we all come from. This used to be until recently a little bit more skewed towards North America and Europe. It's still fairly skewed towards that, but we're making progress in adding highly skilled and highly effective people from other parts of the world as well. And we're also taking a look at other aspects of diversity.

Next slide. This is the current leadership team. And you will note that unlike some other communities inside of ICANN, we look at all of the ICANN staff members as part of the leadership team. And this is a feature. These folks who are here, they are integral to the success of the

SSAC and to how we work. So, that's a core part of how we work inside the SSAC.

Next slide. We have most of our work is expressed through the publications that we put out. Our work is often through documents. The documents are part of a numbered series, and you will see a smattering of them on multiple topics. So, we have what a set of them. They're all available from the SSAC website. And we are in the process of actually, for some of these documents, putting together a 500-word summary in a way in words and language that is more accessible for everyone. So, that's an effort that we have just started.

In the most recent 18 months, on the left-hand side of the screen, you will see several publications that we put out, work on DNSSEC, Nameserver Management, Name Collision Analysis, which is linked to the New gTLD program, as well as evolution of DNS Resolution, which is linked to the Emerging Namespace, things like blockchain, et cetera. So, that paper covers that. Currently, we are working on two topics. One is on DNS blocking. We had earlier put out some reports and some work on DNS blocking. But thankfully, time has passed, but along with it, so has technology and how blocking has evolved.

So, we are refreshing our look at DNS blocking. And the other work that we're doing is on how, not just how, but on Open-Source Software and its use in DNS infrastructure. So, those are two work parties. Both work parties had meetings here at the ICANN meeting, at this ICANN meeting. They were open meetings and the community could listen in to how we were doing the work and thinking through those issues linked to both

of those topics. So, with that, I will take us to the last slide and open it up to you, the community for questions. Please raise your hands either in the room or in Zoom.

FREDERIC TAES:

Thank you, Ram. I have a question. I noticed that there is a zero, nobody in the South of America. Do you have an explanation? I have discussed with some. I have an explanation, but I would like to have yours first.

RAM MOHAN:

Robert?

ROBERT GUERRA:

I'll just comment and maybe you can comment as well from a leadership point of view is that we've had members from Latin America before. It's an area that takes a little bit more of effort. I speak Spanish and have done work in the region and have reached out, and I think we just need to reach out to others. It's a gap we really want to fill. We did add eight new members that complemented regions that we were not having as many members as we had liked, and that's an area of focus, I believe, for next year.

TARA WHALEN:

Thank you, Robert. I think we appreciate your help on that as well. So, I think, Robert's 100% correct. We have had members. Sometimes there is a change. Our composition changes over time, but we

recognize this as something to be looking out for, and we appreciate any, I guess, pointers that people have or advice or communities. I think Robert is going to be a useful ally in this, but we've certainly had people pointing us to places where we can spread our message.

FREDERIC TAES:

Yeah, the feedback I have received, maybe, yeah.

BARRY LEIBA:

I just wanted to add that we're looking at a combination of skills that we're looking for and diversity aspects that we're also looking for. And finding the balance, finding that in one person is important to us. So, we appreciate help in outreach, and Robert has offered to do outreach as a Spanish-speaking SSAC member, but anybody in the community can help us reach out to people in that region.

FREDERIC TAES:

And the feedback I have received from some, even experts in various domains, is that they don't speak English, they are not comfortable to work in English. And if you want to reach more people, have some content available in Spanish, and so you will have more people. And that was really the input I have received from different people.

RAM MOHAN:

That is something we need to talk about. I mean, all our work is done in English. It's kind of our prime language, link language but it's for consideration. John?

JOHN LEVINE: Can I just note that ICANN is by law, it is their working language. So, they translate where they can, but at some point, adequate English is just necessary to get the work done.

BARRY LEIBA: True. But ALAC and GAC both work significantly in non-English languages, in addition to producing their communiques and whatever in English. And RSSAC and SSAC work exclusively in English up until now, and it's something we need to talk about.

FREDERIC TAES: And I could even add French for a big part of Africa. You see that you have only two people from Africa. If you have French added as well, you will have also more people.

RAM MOHAN: Certainly. Language is a component that we do need to take into consideration. But I will say that I do not see that, at least speaking personally, I do not see that that mode of operation where English is our primary communication mechanism and interactive mechanism. I do not see that changing in 2025 for how the SSAC is working. But I do think that language as a part of design criteria in how we disseminate and how we communicate outwardly is something that we should take seriously.

Personally, I feel like it would be, unless we had from ICANN significant support with real-time translation and things like that, which is a budgetary expense that ICANN has to do, if we had that, we could certainly support the various languages. But absent that, I think we will end up defaulting to English as our primary and only means of interaction amongst ourselves.

BARRY LEIBA:

And I think certainly we need to start with people from that region who speak English. We can perhaps eventually move toward a buddy system kind of thing where we can have non-English speaking people participating through their colleagues who can help with that. It's going to be, like I said, we need to talk about it. But it's going to be a difficult transition to make if we make it.

RAM MONAN:

Please.

LILY EDINAM BOTSYOE:

Hi, everyone. My name is Lily Edinam Botsyoe, for the record. I am an ICANN81 fellow. It's my first general meeting. I was a Next Gen before, but I was in a smaller one in D.C. So, for this session, I have two questions. So, yesterday, there was somebody from the Board that had shared the intention of SSAC to do something that looks like an ODSUI. So, it was something like an understudy, right?

I just wanted to know what that looks like for fellows, number one. And number two, I'm also doing a PhD in IT and my focus is in Privacy, or my dissertation is in Privacy. And so, is there any issue of interest in SSAC that has any links with Privacy? I know generally for ICANN. I see a lot of who is an RDRs towards those areas. But are there any emerging ones that is an issue that SSAC is looking into? Thank you.

RAM MOHAN:

Thank you, Lili. Any respondents for the first question?

JAMES GALVIN:

So, I'll jump in a little bit, but this is about the internship program, and I think really that should go back to you, rather than my speaking. I made an introduction that we wanted to engage SSAC in its role of wanting to join to give back to the community. We're trying to pull in fellows, and one way to do that is we're trying to create a model of an internship opportunity. And so, yeah, I think you should speak to that.

RAM MOHAN:

Yeah, thank you. So, we floated the idea with the appropriate with the fellowship program of ICANN. They are considering it. They are excited about the idea, but they are looking at it in a broader context. So, we're waiting to hear back from them, and as soon as we know more, we'll be happy to share that. But we think it's a good way for people who are young in their career with security instability to look at what we're doing and at least watch and observe and perhaps go along that path. Okay. Respondents to the second question on Privacy? John? Tara?

JOHN LEVINE:

Yeah. For Privacy, it's definitely a topic we are interested in. But although people at ICANN actually spend a lot of time arguing about Privacy, Privacy is not very closely related to what ICANN does. I mean, there are, what, 9 billion people in the world. There are 250 million domains under management, which would probably mean there's a few million registrants. The vast majority of those registrants are businesses that do not have that do not have Privacy protections.

And so, although we have spent a great deal of time arguing about what data goes into WHOIS nominally protected a relatively small number of individuals, the reality is, for most people, what we do is irrelevant and the real Privacy issues are in government regulation for example, I live in the U.S. that has terrible Privacy laws, whereas other people here live in Europe and Canada that have pretty good Privacy laws that apply to the Internet.

There are network operators, are they allowed to look at your traffic, and what can you do about that? There's the IETF that does standards. In the IETF, we do a lot of work on developing our standards so that the traffic that people pass back and forth is protected from being spied on. And then there's all the application-level stuff. I mean, people argue about social networks, which are sort of about like you've got the domain name, you've got the IP address, and you've got the network, and sort of four levels up is Facebook which is where the major Privacy thing is.

So, I think the answer is, yes, it's an important question, but we don't actually have a whole lot to say about it.

RAM MOHAN:

Thanks, John. Tara?

TARA WHALEN:

So, I'm also a Privacy person. So, I'm glad to meet another person in my neck of the woods. So, there are absolutely, of course, and I guess John pointed out, the overlap where the Privacy and security, the confidentiality part, that will come up a lot. I think that we are also seeing things around when there's data collection in general. So, a lot of the projects, things came up in the Names Collision Analysis Project, for example. We're sort of talking about you're trying to do some kind of a large-scale analysis.

There will be some data collected to do that towards the end of having some sort of it's all about intelligence in a sense of what's happening to make good outcomes. But there can be tensions about the nature of the data, what is the appropriate amount of data, how to kind of find the right amount, and how do you set those systems up. So, these do come up in some of even sort of the large-scale initiatives that are going forth about trying to find that right balance.

So, you will find that it does come up, and particularly now as I think there are a lot more data-driven initiatives happening, that these questions around what is the right data set will be coming up. So, that kind of expertise, I would say, is also on top, plus everything that we talk

about around what's happening in the regulatory space and how the Privacy and security, how we thread that needle does come up in some of the work as well. So, I would add a little bit from the Privacy side. Thanks.

RAM MOHAN: Barry?

BARRY LEIBA: Yeah. So, there's, I see a couple of aspects of Privacy in the work that we do, and one of them is, as John addressed, the Privacy that's involved in policy stuff, the core of ICANN's work, and I agree with what John said about that. But if you look at some of the recent publications that SSAC has done, look at SAC109, which is about DNS over encrypted transports, DNS over HTTPS, and whatever, that there are a bunch of Privacy issues that are addressed in that document in operational Privacy and how the protocols help maintain Privacy.

SAC123, which was about the evolution of DNS Resolution, it touches on some Privacy issues there. So, it is something we consider as we're writing our documents, and more and more our documents are not just advice to the Board or advice to the community, it's also information for the community. And then there's a lot more we can say about Privacy as it comes up in operating the various systems. Thanks.

RAM MOHAN: Thank you. Rick?

RICK WILHELM: Rick Wilhelm. I think that Privacy is as integral to security and stability as any part of our mission. It might not directly say so, and so I think that Privacy matters a ton. It certainly mattered a lot in the ICANN agenda over the past, I mean, when did we start first talking about Privacy a lot, 2010-ish, something like that, when GDPR first rolled into the arena? And so, I think that it's clearly in and around Internet stuff, not only here at ICANN, but also certainly in and around at the IETF. And so, it's definitely a big part of what we do and needs to be. And for us, Zach, to ignore it would be at our own peril and at a threat of a loss of our credibility. Thank you.

RAM MOHAN: Thank you. Maarten? Then I'll come to you.

MAARTEN AERTSEN: Yeah, I wanted to give the example that Tara already made. So, I'll just say plus one to what Tara and Rick said.

RAM MOHAN: Thank you. Please?

LEONARD HAUSE: Yeah, Len Hause with the Department of State. I just want to intervene with a comment about the challenges I've had. I helped develop courses on technology and specifically Internet within the Department

of State to teach to diplomacy folks. And one thing that I found particularly challenging, which I think some of the people in this room will appreciate, is looking at the architecture of the Internet and looking at the various layers and taking a policy issue and dividing them up in the context of those layers to know which is appropriate to talk about in that particular context.

And so, I think that as part of an education within the policy community, I think that's a particularly useful challenge to put it in that context because everybody tends to, as we're looking at, when you start talking about this, they immediately go to the top of the stack, if you will, and then it kind of dribbles down and it makes it more difficult. So I think part of the, I think, useful effort is to educate, as a lot of this has been, to the community at large in how these systems are put together and how they're architected in the context of this. Thank you.

RAM MOHAN

Thank you. Merike?

MERIKE KAE0:

Yeah, I very much like what you said. In my personal capacity, I was actually in the Middle East last year and I was also teaching diplomats in terms of what's relevant from a geopolitical aspect. And it's interesting because they have to know some concepts of how it works. And within the SSAC, we have been discussing how do we make our advice more digestible to different audiences and especially the ones

that really are not technical at all. And so, we do have work and we have been discussing that this is an important item for us.

RAM MOHAN:

Thank you. Rick, I'm assuming that's an old hand. Okay. Other questions? Other topics? Wow, your emails must be really interesting. Yes, please.

HOSSAM BADRAN:

Good morning. My name is Hossam Badran. I'm an independent consultant at the moment. Regarding the parallel DNS approaches for naming and conventions, the IETF is working, yes, on certain paradigms and evolutions, but there are other SDOs, Standard Developer Organizations, that are attacking this issue as well. One of them is the ITUT. I participate in the ITUT.

I used to present ISOC and CISCO before. And in specific study groups, particularly study groups 13 on future networks, that point has been lingering for several years. So, I think it requires some attention that what other standard organizations are looking to develop. In that particular case, Blockchain was the fundamental concept. And some clarity was missing, but the process was taught. But it's, I think, an important venue to observe and see what the implications there are.

In many cases, the proposals are not very direct to the Naming System, but imply a new network architecture that has interference with the Naming Resolution, DNS resolution. And this is an ongoing, ongoing, ongoing issue. And I think it would be quite useful to have the

opportunity to interact with these proposals when they arise to provide some expert advice.

RAM MOHAN: Thank you for that. SSAC members, what do you think? Do you think that's a kind of topic that is worth engaging on? Traditionally, that's not the kind of thing we've done. Okay, Rick, and then Maarten.

RICK WILHELM: I would say, we would do that if so, asked by the ICANN Board.

MAARTEN AERTSEN: From a personal perspective, I think it is at times useful to look at what other SDOs are doing. I remember a phase where the ITF was standardizing TLS 1.3, and ITUT was standardizing a watered-down version of TLS 1.3. And I think in situations like that, it's pretty valuable that there are some people who compare and contrast and point out some of the, let's say, features that some find very valuable and others might not. So, that's something that sparked to mind when you were suggesting this. I don't have any specific knowledge about the protocol you are suggesting, and I think what Rick said seems appropriate for SSAC to do, but just a personal reflection upon other SDOs doing Internet protocols.

RAM MOHAN: Thanks. Barry?

BARRY LEIBA:

Yeah, this is Barry. The way we generally work with SDOs is that their individual SSAC members participate wherever they participate. A lot of us are ITF people, but we also have W3C and we have ISO, and I don't know if we have anybody who is active in ITUT or not. But that's generally how we do it, and there are three ways that work comes into SSAC. One of them is SSAC members themselves propose something we need to write, and that can come from their work in other organizations. So, that would be how it would come, or as one of the others said, if the Board asks us to.

RAM MOHAN:

Other comments, questions, opinions? Anyone from behind me?

MAARTEN AERTSEN:

This is really the ask us anything hour. So, don't feel, even if you joined later and you didn't get that introduction from Ron, this is where we sit still and ponder questions. So, do make use of the opportunity if you feel like it.

JOHN EMERY:

I have a question. As someone a little bit new to this space, I've heard a lot about this, and I'm sure there's going to be some strong opinions on this. Is it worth me taking the time to learn how to use Linux? Linux. Is it worthwhile, or do I stick with the Mac operating system?

RAM MOHAN: Oh, that's another issue. John, Andrei?

JOHN LEVINE: Well, I mean, this is one of those questions where the only possible answer is it depends. It turns out underneath Mac OS and Linux are about 80% the same. They both trace back to Unix systems. I develop a lot of stuff on my Mac, which I can then port over to BSD and Linux systems with no tweaks at all. And if you want to learn how to run a Linux system, it's kind of like beating your head against the wall. It's nice when it stops.

So, I would say, if you want to know how to do Unix programming, you can do it on Linux or you can do it on a Mac, and it's all pretty much the same. If you're wondering, I can imagine there would be situations where you're trying to design some sort of larger system that has containers and stuff, and it's useful to have some idea how to do Linux administration. And some stuff is easy, like you'll find religious arguments about this thing called System-D that's used to start and stop things. Again, it depends. If it is important to you to figure out how to make stuff deployable in the cloud, then you probably do. If you just want to write Python scripts, nah.

JOHN EMERY: I definitely don't want to bang my head against the wall.

RAM MOHAN: Thanks. Andrei and then Maarten, and then Robert.

ANDREI KOLESNIKOV: Okay, I just had a life experience that I needed a VPN for obvious reasons. That's why I rented a computer in New Zealand, opened up the container, and installed the VPN by my own hands. So, this is a case when you might need to know how Linux works. Yeah, the container, you can run Docker on your Mac, no problem.

RAM MOHAN: Maarten?

MAARTEN AERTSEN: Yeah. So, I used Linux until I joined my current job two years ago, and then I switched to a Mac because I could just close the lid.

JOHN LEVINE: I can see a code on his screen.

MAARTEN AERTSEN: And it would not burn battery like crazy. So, I guess it really depends on what you want to achieve, and it's also largely personal preference. Maybe if you have some fun tinkering around, but then I can really sympathize with the comment John made, because it's what made me switch, even though I have fairly strong principles with respect to software licenses and et cetera. So, yeah, I like the question, and thanks for asking it. I hope we have more fun questions like this.

RAM MOHAN:

Robert?

ROBERT GUERRA:

Sure. So, again, we should maybe have a whole session on that or a whole afternoon. But in seriousness, I think as someone who's used a variety of different platforms and done training on a variety of different platforms, is that it could be useful for the Open-Source work group that we have at the SSAC to have tinkered and know how all that works, because it's a little bit different. I think I would say one of the challenges is that it depends on use.

I think it depends on also keeping up to date with patches and stuff like that. I mean, you get to see maybe behind the scenes a lot more kind of the stuff that happens. And yeah, I think it really depends on what you want to do, and I would say the other thing too is the time that you have to invest to learn something new, and the support and the resources that are available are a little bit different as well too. And so, you might find that you have to spend a lot more time going through forums to dig through the support for the driver that you need to connect XYZ instead of having a machine that just plugs in and it works.

RAM MOHAN:

Thank you.

ODREJ FILIP:

Maybe like a person who has never used anything else is it worse to use Mac, by the way? To answer your question, I think it's definitely more difficult. So, it's probably, you don't want to use it on desktop if you do not want to go deeper into that. But the flexibility and the ability you can do with the computer is definitely bigger, but you spend a lot of time. If you're going to do some server application, I think that's a good time to learn at least some basics of it, of course.

RAM MOHAN:

Thank you. You have a question? Please, start.

JOHN FERGUSON:

So this might not be as fun as the last question, but John Ferguson from CIRA.ca. I'm still relatively new in my TLD journey. It's been almost three years now. So, I've been spending a lot of time observing at ICANN as opposed to maybe participating. This group interests me deeply because I come out of a product management background. Please don't kill me in the back, okay? Work with a ton of deeply technical people like yourselves. Want to contribute, but, and I hear Ram saying we need different skill sets. You're looking for different definitions. My roles on a day-to-day basis are primarily from the business side.

So, security and stability of our operations, of the systems we bring in, type of code we bring into the organization, the risks that that brings. I'm still trying to figure out where in the ICANN community that type of lens and perspective would be best brought to a table and whether or not it's this room or another.

RICK WILHELM: CPH Tech Ops. Is where you want to go? No, no, you can stay, but CPH Tech Ops, please come there. No, Contractor Party House, Tech Ops. But you're welcome to go to Copenhagen. It's a lovely place. So, yeah, that's exactly where we need you. Thanks.

RAM MOHAN: The other place where a lot of this kind of discussion happens is the ICANN Board. So, that's another place for you to go.

JOHN FERGUSON: Maybe year four.

RAM MOHAN: One last question. Andrei?

ANDREI KOLESNIKOV: Yeah, I just want to put a little summary about AI. So, we can see two tracks. One is AI and in Cybercrime detection of the bad anomalies. And another AI is just in overall business related to main names. And I really believe that in detection of anomalies, AI will play a significant role. Recalling this close presentation, the end game. And the guys didn't tell a lot of details, but I'm sure a lot of neural networks were working to actually detect all these botnets and things. And I think this will pop up in the first coming ICANN meetings more and more. I just feel it kind of

fit. Anybody share? Just raise your hand. No, you don't trust AI. Yeah. You are very conservative, guys.

RAM MOHAN: Okay, thank you. I think that. Sorry. Yes?

FREDERIC TAES: Yes, I have another question. I think that security is not only the concern of security team, but of everyone. And I see too often, we don't need to care about security because there is a SSAC or whatever. I just translate what I have observed in organizations to ICANN. And I'm wondering what is done to have projects to promote also the security mindset towards end users, towards registrants and other actors who are poorly involved. Now, what are the current projects of SSAC or collaboration project between SSAC and other constituents of ICANN to really improve that, to have really that everyone is conscious is doing something for security?

RAM MOHAN: Thank you. So, we have a program that we started with the ALAC, the At-Large Advisory Committee. It's called Safer Cyber. And that's our intent is to make this a continued campaign to improve cyber hygiene in the community. But we're also beginning outreach with other parts of the community. We met with the GNSO, we met with the GAC, and we're proposing to do joint projects with them as well. Merike?

MERIKE KAEAO: Yeah, besides the ALAC, I mean, the SSAC also has done advisories that will also be beneficial for registrants to know how to protect themselves and especially in the DNS ecosystem. And we've also worked very closely with OCTO. So, ICANN itself has built some training programs around credential management, let's say, because that's also one of the avenues that perpetrators usually use to get in popping a credential. And OCTO has created a training program. They update the SSAC. And actually, this week, we just heard that they've had like six or eight trainings already specifically to that. Thank you.

RAM MOHAN: That concludes this session. Before we wrap up, let me hand the microphone over to Tara for concluding remarks.

TARA WHALEN: Thank you. Oh, yeah. Yes, in general, just I want to point out we've had such a, I think, a great response having the open meetings. We've never had an open mic like this one. Are we good?

RAM MOHAN: I'm just waiting for the conversations to end before you continue.

TARA WHALEN: Sure. I appreciate everyone coming to the open mic and bringing your questions. We like having an active open mic session. And this was a lively one. But also, many of our sessions are now open. We always try to repeat the message so it gets out that the majority of our meetings

are now open. And I think we've definitely been benefiting from people's participation. And we hope our message has been getting out. And we also mentioned I think membership came up here earlier this year.

So, I think we've also had benefit of our membership initiatives from the openness as well. And so, then we're planning for next year. So, spread the word about SSAC as we are looking to expand our representation, our skill sets, our strong technical foundation across the different communities. So, look out for that in the upcoming time. So, I guess with that, we will wrap this session. Thank you all for coming and participating.

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