
ICANN82 | CF – Joint Meeting: ICANN Board and RSSAC
Wednesday, March 12, 2025 – 13:30 to 14:30 PST

WENDY PROFIT

Hello and welcome to the Joint Session of the ICANN Board and the Root Server System Advisory Committee. Please note that this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior and ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy. This is a meeting between the RSSAC and the Board, so we will not be taking questions from the audience, although if we need to and want to, we can, it's up to the chair, Wes.

Interpretation for this session will include English, French, and Spanish. Please state your name for the record, the language you will speak if other than English, and speak at a reasonable pace. All are welcome to use the chat. Please note the chats are not private and anything that you say to another panelist or member may be seen by session hosts, co-host, and other panelists. I'll now hand the floor over to RSSAC liaison to the Board, Wes Hardaker.

WES HARDAKER

All right. Thank you and good afternoon, everybody. Normally, I'd hand it over to Tripti, but she said she was going to be running slightly late, and look how just barely, slightly late that she is. I appreciate it. We actually will start well, where everybody gets seated with a quick round of introductions around the table just so

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everybody knows who everybody is, although this group is fairly tight knit. So why don't I start with Matt on the far side.

MATT LARSON

Sure. I'm Matt Larson, ICANN Org, L-root.

JIM GALVIN

Jim Galvin, SSAC liaison to the ICANN Board.

ROB CAROLINA

Rob Carolina with ISC, RSSAC.

SAJID RAHMAN

Sajid Rahman, NomCom appointee, Board.

ALAN BARRETT

Alan Barrett, appointed to the Board by the ASO.

CHRISTIAN KAUFMANN

Christian Kaufmann, ICANN Board member, BPC Chair and Root Server Governance Liaison and the L-root service.

HANS PETTER HOLEN

Hans Petter Holen, RIPE NCC, operator of K-root, translating from names to numbers.

JEFF OSBORN	Jeff Osborn, ISC, F-root, and RSSAC Chair.
WES HARDAKER	And as mentioned, I'm Wes Hardaker, I'm the RSSAC liaison to the ICANN Board, and also the operator of the USC's root server.
TRIPTI SINHA	Tripti Sinha, Chair of the ICANN Board, and a delayed welcome to all of you. My apologies, I came in right when you started, but we look forward to this engagement. We like having these joint meetings and I hope today will be a very good discussion.
WES HARDAKER	You have to talk longer, Kurtis is on his way.
TRIPTI SINHA	Oh, yes. And our CEO is just as guilty as I am for being late, and Kurtis, you've got 1, 2, 3, done. It's over to you.
KURTIS LINDQVIST	I'm Kurtis, I'm the CEO. Sorry for being late.
CHRIS CHAPMAN	Chris Chapman, vice chair of ICANN and co-chair of the Strategic Planning Committee.

KEVIN HILDEBRAND Kevin Hildebrand, University of Maryland, D-root.

TIM SHORTALL Tim Shortall, University of Maryland, D-root.

FREDRIK LINDEBERG Fredrik Lindeberg. Netnode, I-root.

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN Lars-Johan Liman. Netnode, also I-root.

BRAD VERD Brad Verd, Verisign.

WES HARDAKER All right, thank you very much everybody. And there are a few other Board members and RSSAC members out in the audience. I appreciate everybody's attendance today. This is one of my favorite meetings of the week. I always believe it's a hopeful meeting. I believe that the Board is going to solve all of our RRSAC's problems and RSSAC will solve all of the Board problems if this goes well. We're going to start today with questions from RSSAC to the Board.

So actually, could we shift the question set so that we end up with questions to the Board first on the agenda on the slide, please. But I will read the first question out, and it is, "How does the Board see facing the longer-term challenges with respect to balancing the

budget under the more constrained recent funding levels?” And I believe Sajid, you're going to take this on.

SAJID RAHMAN

I will, thank you. We are starting with a hopeful topic, I guess. So, if you look at this whole budget thing and where we were and where we are, let's first look at the root cause, why it happened in the first place. So there are three things that happened which resulted to the situation we were in, which is a deficit budget. The first thing was ICANN historically enjoyed domain under management growth, had a nice sleep every year, things were going good, but suddenly we realized it's not happening. So domain under management is constant, and in some cases even falling.

So that was the first reason. The second reason was, when we look at the expense line, of course, inflation crept in, we know it from our daily life, but of course, all the meetings that we do, all the expenses that ICANN incur, after COVID, inflation came back with a vengeance, and you can see it in your daily life, in your family life, as well as business life. So inflation really crept up in the cost line. The third thing which happens too, many companies have seen when things are good, we sometimes lose discipline. So, expenses incurred, which could have been avoided probably.

So these are the three root causes which resulted to a deficit in budget. Now, after identifying these three causes, what we did for the last little less than a year, was taking some very firm actions to start working on the levers that we can deploy. The first, of course,

is a very concentrated focus on the discipline of the expense line. And that means reducing some items which doesn't make sense, restructuring the staff, different departments, stop backfilling some vacancies, stop increment in some cases, even, it went to an extent of reducing the number of staffs who attend these meetings, it looked at all the vendors, all the different product services that we use, and how we can streamline all of those to essentially bring more discipline on the expense line or the cost line.

So that was the first thing. The second thing that we did is we looked at the inflation and we realized that if the domain under management does continue to be stagnant, then we really need to adjust the fees. And there have been discussions, and as you know, that some of the fees have been adjusted, which took place from January, 2025. So we don't have the full impact of those changes this year, around six months, as you know that ICANN budget is July, June, but we'll have the impact of the fee increases next year.

And on the hopeful note, what happened is, the domain under management, the way we predicted, or initially thought, 24/25 did not turn out to be that bad. So numbers have not grown significantly, but it didn't increase also significantly. So with all these, instead of deficit budget, which we projected, we actually are now looking at a surplus.

It is early days, we have to spend a few more months, see a few more disciplines in place, few more cost-savings initiatives in place. But as of now, for '24-25, we seem like we have turned the page and looking at a deficit. So going back to your question, Wes and

the RSSAC team, I think as we continue these three levers and keep focusing on this, we should be able to balance the budget in longer term.

WES HARDAKER

Thank you very much. Does anybody have additional comments or questions from the Board or RSSAC related to that? Rob.

ROBERT CAROLINA

Yes, thanks very much. I do have just one question to clarify. You used the phrase or something like budget deficit. Just to make sure that I understand what you mean by that, does that mean that ICANN was in a position of spending more money on costs than it was achieving in total revenues? Or was your definition of that, that the money being spent exceeded the planned expenditure budget? Or does it mean both?

SAJID RAHMAN

Yeah, the first one. The first one. So the expense was more than the funding in the year. And of course, in some lines, it was more than the budget, but the first one, yeah.

WES HARDAKER

All right. Thank you very much. Anybody else with questions or comments? Seeing none, we will go onto the second question, which is, "How has the ICANN grant program changed over the

course of its lifetime?” And Alan will take an initial answer at this one.

ALAN BARRETT

Thank you for the question. This is Alan Barrett. So the grant program is based on the funds which were obtained by ICANN during the 2012 round of new gTLDs. There were auctions of last resort where multiple applicants for the same name bid in an auction and funding came to ICANN. Those funds were segregated in a separate account, not mixed with the other ICANN funds. And we convened a cross-community working group to see what would be done with the funds.

The cross-community working group on auction proceeds recommended that there should be a grant program, that the grant should be spent on supporting activities which are, A, within ICANN's mission, and B, not already being done by ICANN. So the amount of funds as of the end of January this year was about \$228.5 million. So that includes the original auction proceeds plus some earnings on investments because the investment's been increasing a little.

The Board in 2024 authorized up to \$10 million to be spent in the first round of the grant program. And we anticipate that there will also be future rounds. Applications were open for a few months in 2024, I think from March till May. We received 247 applications from 64 different countries.

Over the next few months, those applications were scrutinized, and there was a final slate presented to the Board in January, 2025. And the Board has approved that the final slate go ahead to contracting. ICANN Org is in the process of contracting with the successful applicants, and we anticipate that those contracts will be finalized soon and the \$10 million will be distributed.

Then there will be a survey or a review of the first cycle, and the outcome of the review will feed into subsequent cycles. So maybe the next cycle of the grant program will be done a bit differently. Okay, I think that's all I have for now. Back to you.

WES HARDAKER

All right. Thank you very much. Does anybody have further questions or comments related to the grant program? Jeff.

JEFF OSBORN

Thank you for the explanation. I may have been the one who put the question in here, and while I had my own questions, I had been trying to explain to other people on behalf of ICANN the disparity between questions one and questions two. There were recent layoffs due to inadequate funding for the expenses required, and then there was a large pool of money being given away.

And the thing I kept finding myself doing was saying, it's all very complicated, and I kind of didn't believe myself when I said it that way. So I'm just wondering, I can't be the only person who's asked

this question. Is there a place where a more coherent story is that it's complicated?

ALAN BARRETT

Thanks, Jeff. This is Alan again. I think the cross-community working group recommended that the fund should not be used for normal ICANN purposes. So it was not that money was segregated, it was not available to fund the budget deficit in the past year. We had to keep it separate.

SAJID RAHMAN

So just to add, so this is from the first gTLD program, so the funds, and there has been a clear instruction not to use it for operating. So these are the two different stream of funding. So the operating budget, we have an expense and deficit, but then we have a separate pool of fund, which is used for grants and other programs. But I can understand the-

JEFF OSBORN

Yeah, I got a degree in economics, I can follow it. I was having a really hard time explaining it to other people, and I wondered if you'd had any simpler ideas on it.

WES HARDAKER

Tripti.

TRIPTI SINHA

Jeff, it's just a different color of money, and you know how accounting works. It's got a fence around it, it was designated to be used in a particular way, and that's how it's being used. And we don't mix colors of money, it really comes down to that very fundamental principle.

WES HARDAKER

Especially in a community directed organization, we color the money based on what the community wants. Yes, exactly. So, all right, any more discussion on the grant program?

All right. Hearing none, the last question to the Board from SSAC is, "The SSAC has recently taken a strong effort to hold more outreach communication meetings with other constituencies such as the GAC to explain the operation of the root server system, which is also complex, right, Jeff.

What additional information briefings, metrics or transparency measures do you think that the ICANN community and beyond could use that would effectively demonstrate the security, stability and resiliency of the RSS?" Tripti, you want to give the initial answer?

TRIPTI SINHA

Yeah. So first I want to say a thank you to the RSSAC for taking this initiative on because indeed it's important to inform people how the root server system works and take the mystery out of it. And when it comes to the GAC, thank you for engaging them, and in particular, they have very high turnover. So they're in a constant

state of churn, they have to inform the next generation that comes in, or the next representative who comes in on how all of this works.

So we really, really appreciate the steps that you've taken to put together the slide deck and talk about it and inform them. Second, I think it's extremely important that you also work with the gTLD and the ccTLD community because I'm not sure that everyone in the community understands how resolution works. And so I think this is good for everyone is to give everyone a strong footing in understanding how resolution works and the place of the root server system.

I still remember when we put together the RSS GWG, and there were some folks who said, well, why are we here? It's like, well, don't you realize the role that the root server system plays in resolution? And some of them did not know that. And we also ask you to work with the two organizations inside ICANN, which is the Global Stakeholder Engagement group, as well as the Government Engagement group, because they do outreach to various regions and governments and other stakeholders and to partner with them and do engagement sessions and talk about the root server system.

Kurtis and I were in a meeting recently where we were asked some interesting questions, and I thought I'd bring, bring it back to this group, and it was about the root server system. They said, we'd like to know if instances have a naming convention. And we both said, actually, no, there isn't. There are conventions within a particular letter, but not a naming convention that everyone follows. So

these are just some feedback I'm giving you. It might be good if you were to standardize on a naming convention for instances.

And also, they ask for data, traffic data. And you might argue that, well, why do they need to know? Hardly any queries go up to the root and only bad queries go up to the root. The bottom line is, it would be nice to be able to provide this information, do what you need to provide it, which is if you need to anonymize the data and whatever else you need to do to ensure you protect privacy and so forth. But there is a request to provide more information, and I think you've got some good opportunities here to be a little bit more informative and embrace the community when they ask questions.

WES HARDAKER

Thank you very much, Tripti. Does anybody else want to add additional comments, questions, or information to that topic? Liman, please.

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN

Lars Liman from Netnode here. Yeah, thank you. Info like that is very useful so that we can do more outreach. And what I hear is that combined with my own insights is that some of these things are already in place, so what we really need is to bring the message out. So this is where you can find this or how can you access various types of data because some of it is already there. And it tells me that we have to polish the message and improve on what we're saying there. So it's very important feedback and I wish that more

people would actually stop us in the hallways and say, how can I find this? Where is this? And please do come and talk to us, we love that. Thanks.

TRIPTI SINHA

You're absolutely right, Liman, I know each of, each of us does things differently, the data's there, but we were told, Hey, L-root gives us data, can we get it from the other root service as well? So, yeah, exactly.

WES HARDAKER

The root server operators really do like conversations. Chris Chapman, and then Kurtis.

CHRIS CHAPMAN

Just wanted to add to what Tripti was saying to give you encouragement about collection of data and distribution of data in a public facing consumable way. It would be remiss of me if I didn't, as co-chair of the Strategic Planning Committee refer to the new strategic plan, which we're adopting tomorrow. But one of the strategies is 4.2 strengthened DNS root service system, and that's a specific encouragement and focus on this area.

And it's a very key part of the strategic plan. And the Board is very, I was going to say chuff, but that's not the right word. It's very glad that it has made this area a particular focus. And I wanted to also say that this is an absolute must for ICANN generally and the Org, the better utilization and explanation of what we do through better

and more impressive and more consistent iterative statistics and explanations. I just wanted to add my confirmation to that as a way forward. Thanks, Wes.

WES HARDAKER

Thanks, Chris. Kurtis.

KURTIS LINDQVIST

Liman said something, used the word or a phrase to trigger him a little bit because as Tripti said, I was in the same meeting. Liman said, they don't stop us in the hallways. Why don't they stop you in the hallways? And I think in the discussion we had, they came to us and ask for this data, not to the individual roots of operators. And I think maybe there is an indicator there that is more to be done, to become approachable.

I know this has become a lot better recently, but I think there could be more done. Make it approachable, make people stop you in the hallways, make yourself advertised. I am the letter A or whatever, please talk to me if you want to find out about the data. I think that's something that could be done to really open that creation up to get that input that Liman talked about.

WES HARDAKER

Let me add to that a little bit. The Root Server operators publish a lot of numbers and data about how much traffic we receive, from where it is, over what protocols. It's in a very geeky form right now. It is not super designed for average lay person consumption. And

internally, we have been talking about how can we improve that? How can we better represent that data that more average people that aren't experts bring into their understanding. And I think what I just heard from you, Kurtis, is that we really need to ramp that up, and I think that's a really good idea. Excuse me. Anybody else have comments on this topic?

TRIPTI SINHA

You know what? I have an idea. Take it or leave it. But to make yourselves more accessible, why not have an evening, have coffee and donuts with the root server operators. Come meet with us maybe on the showroom floor where all the organizers are, have a little booth called the Root. Come to the Root.

WES HARDAKER

Jeff.

JEFF OSBORN

For those of you who know me, I love being asked questions in a public setting about which I care deeply, and this is one of those. We used to have information sessions and kind of nobody would show up. And Wes just turned to me and said, why don't we have information sessions anymore? I think you've hit on it though.

So I'm going to buy donuts, and the next time we have one, we'll advertise the free donuts. But I'm all ears, if you know who to ask about getting a space, and I'm serious about the donuts, and we would love to do that. I think its not, for lack of better word, there's

nothing sexy about the root server system. It's like, we're like the plumbing in a stadium. It's only interesting when it fails. So I'd love to figure out how to do that. We're all ears.

TRIPTI SINHA

You know what? I have a a better idea. How about wine and cheese and beer?

JEFF OSBORN

Again, we'll literally buy it if you can help us structure-

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN

I'm definitely coming down. Meeting organizer Lynn, Chris, will help you find this booth for next time, I promise.

JEFF OSBORN

Excellent. Thank you, sir.

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN

So, root beer?

WES HARDAKER

You did not really say that. This is called Know Your Audience. Wine and Cheese and Beer is knowing your audience. Those are all excellent ideas. I will say that on Sundays we do have a tutorial about the root server system and how it works, and they're typically fairly well attended and a lot of interesting questions happen. So we actually do have a forum where that happens, but

it's at the beginning of the week before the week really starts, and we should think about that.

Any other dialogue on this particular topic. Okay. With that said, we're going to go on to what I actually think will be a very interesting set of dialogue. A lot of times, we don't dive into highly technical topics on what's going on with the root server system. This is going to be a little different. We're diving deep a little bit today.

So the question from the ICANN Board to RSSAC, I'm going to read them both because we'll handle them in pieces, is, "As root server operators, what keeps you up at night? What are your biggest challenges in operating root server? What's the hard part?" And then, "As root server operators, what does not keep you up at night? What service challenges do you face with confidence?" And Jeff's going to start with that.

JEFF OSBORN

I was privileged to be able to speak to the ICANN Board out in Marina Del Rey in January, and this question came up. And it's the kind of question you wish you had time to think about it, but I was asked it in real time, and fortunately, it led to a good discussion and we thought it would be a good one for a few of us who felt comfortable answering the answer. So I'm going to repeat the way I answered it then for the benefit of those who weren't there.

The thing that keeps me up at night is money. Not everybody on the RSSAC is the business president, but two of us are. And so that's

something we worry about. I don't think it's obvious to everybody that the root server system is entirely a volunteer organization that buys its own equipment, pays for its own bandwidth, pays for its own staff, and makes no money from it at all, there is no end user payment system.

So we're volunteers doing this, and we do it, I'll speak for myself at least, we do this for the good of the internet because we believe the internet is a force for good in the world, and I think this is important to do it. So for my own purposes, we spend most of millions of dollars doing this, and I run a nonprofit open source software company that, for a living, writes software and gives it away. So coming up with a couple of million bucks is actually a lot of work.

The second half is what doesn't keep me up is the one that I think surprises most of the people. What doesn't keep me up is the failure of this system. The root server system is the most absurdly redundant system I've ever had the pleasure of being involved with. It is just kind of shockingly available.

And the twists and turns you have to go through to imagine anything happening to it that would affect an end user is just really torturous. It's shockingly invulnerable to shocks. So that's my having said it. And then I asked a couple of people who would like to speak next. So I'm going to hand off and I put a two next to Hans Petter's name.

HANS PETTER HOLEN

Thank you. So when you asked me, what keeps me up at night? And I said, no, this doesn't keep me up at night. Now maybe I should modify that and say reading all the emails related to ICANN and so on, is what keeps me up at night. And also, since you mentioned money, I would say that well, RIPE NCC is a membership organization with 20,000 members, so of course, we discuss funding from time to time.

But it's a pretty diverse funding, they all pay a small share to operate a root server for their behalf, which is a pretty good funding model for us. So that's not really it either. And it's to some extent it's linked to the last one looking at the rather small engineering team, and if you want to look at the finances for operating K-root, it's all open and transparent in our budget and, and plans. The reason where it's not keeping me up at night is that it's a highly automated and distributed system.

So we have kind of two models for this. We have our own nodes that we are fully responsible for, but we also have hosted nodes that are fully remotely managed that we have partners out in our service region, and that can be regions that are not that well served yet, getting root servers out there is something that they bring hardware and housing and we operate it, and that's co collaboration. And hard automation is what makes this really stable for K-root and RIPE NCC. Thank you.

JEFF OSBORN

I meant to say thank you, Hans Petter. New paragraph. Liman.

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN

Thank you, Lars Liman. I would like to concur that there's really not a lot to worry about in this system. As already stated, it's extremely stable, it's extremely, extremely automated, and I don't even worry about the failure of Netnode because I know that if Netnode as one of the roots of operators fail, you wouldn't even notice because the system is so actually redundant that just automatically, our resolvers would move to another one of the root server operator's nodes.

So that doesn't worry me. What worries me sometime, and I wouldn't say it keeps me up at night, but I think about sometimes is the potential that there is disagreement about this zone content. We are fortunate today that everybody around this table, and as far as I know, pretty much everybody on the internet agrees that IANA is the source for the root zone, and that works as long as we do agree.

But if we end up in a situation where it's no longer obvious that there is a single source for the data, and that's a big political change. I'm not talking about technical things here, I'm talking about a major shift on the internet, we could end up in a situation where it's not obvious for the roots of operators that there is a single source of data, that would lead to bad things. If we have a split between the roots of operators, that would be a bad thing.

So I am very glad for all the efforts that work to maintain the single unique root that we have, and I'm very glad that it is that way. So I would like to encourage everyone, wherever you walk, wherever

you go, make sure that you work in that direction because if there is a split there somewhere that is allowed to evolve, that might be a bad thing. It's nothing I see on my horizon, but it's a thought in the back of my head that that wouldn't be good. Thanks.

JEFF OSBORN

Thank you, Liman. I have been asked by a colleague to mention that the root server system serves the accurate IANA root, that's what we do, that's all we do.

WES HARDAKER

Published a statement in RSSAC005 to that extent, that that is the source of all of our truth.

JEFF OSBORN

And we stand by it, absolutely. Wes.

WES HARDAKER

So I'm going to flip it around and tell you what doesn't keep me up at night. Because of any cast and because of our extensive monitoring systems, we know when problems occur, things happen all the time, that simply don't affect the stability of the root server system. The stability is amazing. About a decade ago, I didn't sleep as well at night when I first took over, we had a single site with low bandwidth.

We've come a long way, now we have extensive monitoring, we have multiple sites. And as a demonstration of this, I took one of

our instances down this morning, who noticed? Raise your hand. Veni, I'm going to make you tell me which site it was if you raise your hand. Because that's the reality of the system is that even if an entire route went down or a root operator went down or any particular sites, my guess is there's more than one down right now, and you just don't notice because it just doesn't affect you.

The stability of the system is just amazing. I'll be honest, 15 minutes ago during this meeting, I got a storm warning for my house. I am now more concerned about my house than I am about my root server system. So my wife is home, my dog is home, and I'm concerned about them. I have no concerns about the operation of our root server. The thing that does worry me are the things that are out of our control, the things that I have no ability to control or manipulate.

And so what that means is there are things that are not our fault, that still become our problem. And the quintessential problem that that amounts to is frequently routing. Other people make networking configuration mistakes, they're not intentional out in the rest of the world that cause reachability issues for some other people to reach a particular root server.

And even though you don't need to reach them all, and this happened to me two weeks ago where somebody reported to us on a chat channel that our root server was not available, they couldn't reach it. And we didn't understand why we looked into it, everything was operational from our perspective, from all of our

management points, it looked just fine. It turned out to be a routing issue that somebody else caused.

Again, not our problem. We still had to figure out where the problem was, what we could do about it, even though it was completely outside of our control. So that's sort of where we are, is I'm not concerned about our equipment and our operations. It's very well monitored and very well stable, and any cast is amazing. I'm concerned about what other people do to impede access to our service that we are outside of our control.

JEFF OSBORN

Thank you, Wes. That concludes the survey of--

TRIPTI SINHA

No, it doesn't conclude. Full disclosure, Tim and Kevin report to me in my day job. Tim, come on, tell me what keeps you up.

JEFF OSBORN

I am so sorry, Tripti.

TRIPTI SINHA

I want to hear from my own team, what keeps you up at night, what doesn't?

JEFF OSBORN

Oh, my God. They volunteered, they've been practicing, they change shirts at lunch. I'm really sorry. What happened was, I have

a couple of other people who didn't make it, and then I just-- my apologies, I'm sorry. Too many mics.

TRIPTI SINHA

You don't need to apologize. I want to hear from them. They need to tell me.

TIM SHORTALL

Guys, thanks. No, that's perfectly fair. When I first was asked the question, I thought more and more about it, because it wasn't as much as keeping up at night as more as challenges. And part of the challenges was a most recent event. So we recently had someone that's been on root ops for 25 years, and so it was a recent retirement, so mine was staffing.

And also, I was looking at it and other folks helped me reframe this a little bit and said, well, what are the real challenges associated with staffing? And it was retention and recruitment. And I thought that was a good framework. And so what I was looking at was, right now we're fine. Of course, Carl's been backfilled and everything's great, but if we're looking 10, 15 years out, what is our roadmap for that?

And one of the challenges I see is that currently right now, and this is not discrimination as much as that we have folks that are closer to retirement than they are to the beginning side of the world. And I understand that retirement is just one thing because if I look over the last 20 years, some of our operators left for other opportunities. So focusing on how do we ensure we have the right folks at the right

place at the right time is a concern, and it's just one we have to address.

We do very well with training the people up, but it's a concern and doesn't keep us up at night, but it is a challenge. On the other side, with Tripti leadership, it was something like 15 years ago, we went from one instance and we started partnering and distributing out.

So as Kevin says, he's leading the root ops effort and that we know we're fully distributed around the world, 500 plus instances. So again, like everyone else, if something happens, it's not recognized. It's felt, we deal with it, but we're able to survive and we continue on. So fortunately to be on that fireman. That's it.

TRIPTI SINHA

Thank you, Tim. And actually, Tim makes a good point, just, I don't know if the other operators are experiencing this, but the new generation of kids who are graduating from college, this is not so exciting for them. They want to do layer seven kind of work. Anyway, just an observation we've made.

WES HARDAKER

Okay. So that is the end of the people that were-- oh, Liman, please. I was getting to that.

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN

Liman here. I was just going to reflect, I made that observation with my own children who are now just over 20 years old that they've

never lived without the internet, so to them, internet's infrastructure is just as exciting as the sewer network.

WES HARDAKER

All right. With that, does anybody else have questions, especially from the Board, follow on questions based on what you've heard, you feel confident that the stability of the root server system is stable, secure, and all that?

Or is there any other root operators that want to add to the dialogue? All right with that, I think that we're going to fall into Any Other Business. Is anybody at the table, or...? Jim.

JIM GALVIN

Jim Galvin speaking as the SSAC liaison to the Board. I was a little slow earlier on when we had the topic about information sessions about the root server. I'd be remiss from my SSAC responsibilities if I didn't point out our experience in this space. It was a little over a year ago that SSAC opened up its meetings throughout ICANN so all of our sessions are here. But we also added two interesting sessions to our complete set that we have.

One is an SSAC informational session. So there's always a slot where that is, where it's all about SSAC and the set of issues that we deal with and care about, and I know that RSSAC has done those kinds of things. We also have a session called SSAC Open Mic which is quite literally open mic, just as you might expect in vernacular

anywhere. People can come and ask any question they want, say anything that they want, and we're just there to take questions.

I will admit the first couple of those were pretty lightly attended. I think we only had one or two people the first time, so they take a little while to sort of get into the community and get to be known. But it might be something for RSSAC to think about to try and do something like that and give it a little time. I think we're doing a little better now with that session. You get a few more people, it takes a while for those things to sink in, but there's an opportunity for you too to think about.

WES HARDAKER

Yeah, thanks Jim. A quick follow on to that. So just as a word of warning, RSSAC meetings have been open for 7, 8, 9 years, I've lost track, and it took even five years after we made all the sessions open, I still had people come up to me and say, why are your meetings closed? And I'm like, they haven't been closed in five years. So it does take a while. How successful has the open mic been? Do you get a lot of good comments and questions besides attendance, do you feel an hour?

JIM GALVIN

Yeah, I think the questions have been good, even when it was only a couple of people, you had a good question. Somebody was interested, and some beginning questions, but we actually, I'm trying to remember, I don't remember what it was actually last time, haven't been to this one. But I was trying to look and see real

quick when the open mic was, it might actually have already passed and I missed it this time. But yeah, you get detailed questions.

We had a whole learning session last time in Istanbul about helping someone who had a security problem. So we had a little back and forth with a bunch of members trying to help somebody deal with their particular security problem. I don't think you really want that to be what the open mic is, but we had time, it was there, you just get interesting questions and stuff going on. So I would say yes, it was successful. Oh, please.

WENDY PROFI

Go to the mic, please.

MAARTEN AERTSEN

Hello. So this is Maarten Aertsen, member of SSAC. So just to compliment James's point, I was at today's SSAC open mic, we have two running work parties and one that is about to be chartered, and people came in and asked us about all three of them. So yeah.

WES HARDAKER

Yeah, thank you very much.

JIM GALVIN

Yeah, thank you, Maarten. So yeah, people are paying attention to us and they noticed and now they how to use the time, so. Thanks.

WES HARDAKER

And I'll repeat, we do run a information session on Sundays that we do get a lot of questions. It's not labeled as open mic, but essentially it turns into that for the last half. All right. And we actually will be having a caucus meeting next Sunday in Thailand at the beginning of the IETF too, where we also attract further conversation and dialogue. Sajid.

SAJID RAHMAN

Very different topic. If it this close, I was thinking of Jeff's point and I was thinking, is there any other model like that? So you know Norwegian Sovereign Wealth Fund, so they don't allow a Norwegian government to touch that. So Norwegian government can touch that fund to make their deficit. So I was thinking, so innovative is quite prudent that we have kept that money aside and bring that discipline within the Org to ensure that the budget is balanced. So that's a good example.

WES HARDAKER

Good analogy.

HANS PETTER HOLEN

So as a Norwegian, I need to throw in a comment there because that's only partially true. The agreement when this was set up was only to use a small percentage of the fund. Now, the problem now is that the fund is so big that that percentage is huge when you translate it to the monetary value. So it is really inflating the

government sector in Norway. So, it's a good analogy, but you need to be a bit careful with that because if your reserves get too big, you get too much money and you have a problem with that.

SAJID RAHMAN

True.

WES HARDAKER

All right. So we're still in Any Other Business slash follow on clash questions slash let's go back to question one. Anybody else have other things to add at this point? There's 15 minutes left, so we have plenty of time. Hearing none, I think I will go ahead and adjourn the session so that the root server operators can go back to managing their networks, and I appreciate you all for coming. Do come find us in the hallways. Everybody at this table actually loves to have deep technical conversations or high-level conversations about the system. So thank you very much.

[END OF TRANSCRIPTION]