

**ICANN San Francisco Meeting
SSAC
TRANSCRIPTION
Saturday 12 March 2011 at 10:30 local**

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Patrick Falstrom: ...that we're already 15 minutes late. And that of course a little bit difficult as ICANN (unintelligible) get started so I wonder where you were on Friday.

Coordinator: Your recording is now live.

Patrick Falstrom: Thank you. Well thank you very much for inviting me to present (on something) what we have done and what we're doing in the Security and Stability Advisory Committee.

What I will try to explain a little bit is an overview over our activities. If it is the case that you have further questions on the content of the reports, the various work parties that we have for future work or anything else, you can try to contact me or directly any other SSAC member that you see around here at the ICANN meeting.

First of all, I'm Patrick Falstrom. I'm employed by Cisco. I have been now the Chair for SSAC since end of January. I'm replacing Steve Crocker that had been the Chair for since SSAC was formed ten years ago. Many of the people in the room I know.

I have sort of been away from ICANN for a couple of years but I was at the first couple of years of ICANN I was involved - I'm originally from one can say

from the Internet Engineering Task Force where I've been very active for many, many years.

The actual work that I'm working on apart from it's of course (B&F) but I'm the Editor for the Standards for Internationalized Domain Names and ENOM and a couple of those which means that I work with specially in (standardization) issues.

The Vice Chair that is appointed is Jim Galvin that unfortunately could not come because he had a conflicting meeting. He is employed by Afilias and is appointed as the Vice Chair.

The work plan that we have for 2011 include the following activities that we're working with. And one can divide these into two groups. We will start with the first four. These are work orders that we have where the goal is to come up with some document or thinking about these topics.

And the register transition is something that you might have heard about before because it's something that we have been dealing with for a while. We are currently doing a review in SSAC to ensure that the quality of document is such that we feel comfortable releasing it. So it's very close to be done.

The other three source (unintelligible) (validation) which has to do with ICAD revalidation and filtering; DNS zone risk analyzers to see what kind of risks there are with various records in the DNS - in the DNS zone specifically records that sort of - what kind of risks are they with the various transports and various movements of the zone file back and forth.

The orphan DNS records is something that might be interesting - more interesting. It has to do with what to do with name server records in a zone that exists after a domain name is removed. Because one attack scenario that was discovered in Japan a couple of years ago was that you had a domain name with name servers in a second domain.

If the second domain was removed and then registered by a second - another party, it is possible to take over the content of the domain - of the zone. So that is something that we are - that we are looking into. And that might be something that at the end of the day should result in or might result in a recommendation for what records are removed from the zone part from the domain name when the domain is expired.

It's a little bit technical maybe for some of you in here. But it's - but I would like you to keep your eyes a little bit on orphan DNS records because - and we might do an outreach to you because it has to do with what to do when a domain name expire. Let me phrase it that way. Okay.

The three other groups, membership recruitment, SSAC improvements and outcomes and (unintelligible) collaboration are processes that I started up in January when I started.

So the first one, membership recruitment, is that we are reviewing our membership appointment process and the review of SSAC membership. We are planning to come up with - we already - we are pretty far in this discussion already even though we have only been discussing a month or two.

The whole goal with the membership recruitment is to ensure that SSAC as a whole do have all skills and needs and contact need to be able to write high quality documents. So because what we discovered is that we don't really have any good knowledge about for example what skills do SSAC lack if you see what I mean.

So when appointing a new person, we say well when we are looking for a new person, it is necessary for us to know what kind of skill sets we are lacking. So the membership recruitment process is sort of both looking at how to do the actual approval process - review process but also the way for us to

measure whether we actually cover all the areas which we are supposed to cover according to our charter.

The next internal thing we're working with the SSAC improvements and outcomes is sort of something that I also think is very important specifically now when sort of lot of things in ICANN has changed.

We are trying to come up with better ways of meshing whether what we are producing actually is valuable for sort of our customers, let me use that term, and you're one of them. Because a high quality document is not high quality just because of the words in the document. It's high quality if the words in the document actually responds to questions or issues and helps the people that are reading it.

And that is sort of a connection between the two that we have not really been looking at. In that fact we have been extremely focused on getting the documents themselves extremely correct. But part from correct may be it indicate that we should word the documents a little bit different so it actually answers some questions instead of - and the biggest risk of course that luckily I haven't heard so much about but I'm happy to hear more about that.

Worst-case scenario is of course that we produce a report that actually raises more questions than it answers just because it has some parts which are open ended. So this leads to the last thing, which is very important for me. That is - and this is one of the main reasons why I thank you for allowing me to come here.

That is that for me it is extremely important that we are working on topics and prioritize our work so that we answers questions that for example you have on the table.

So regardless of whether there are new topics or new questions reached that you have or whether it is the case that for example if you go back to the oops

- these current activities, the four first, if it is the case that some of this are sort of really, really urgent which means that you would like us to sort of prioritize and work harder on a specific topic or maybe don't answer the question.

Generic space however can be an (extra) because just try to focus on this small space and maybe deliver faster because it's important for you, let us know. Because we are supposed to be - support your organization for all the other groups in ICANN including you. And to be able to do that we need to know what you - what kind of information you need.

So I told all the SSAC and Jim and myself are very strongly our message - very strongly this ICANN meeting is to you and everyone else is that we are here in listening mode this week.

So the actual result of the outreach that we do in SSAC is of course the - are the publications. So here are some examples of recent publications we have done. And the two ones which might be the most interesting one for you is Number 44 and 40.

Forty-four which is the registrant's guide where we did quite a large outreach and discussion together with registrars to come up with a guide for registrants on what to think of regarding domain name management for the - from a registrant's perspective.

And the SAC 40 that talks about how the actual registration services can be protected. And that document goes through what kind of additional services we recommend ready source to have.

And that has to do with the ability of using certain security mechanics so there is - so we - so the risk of for example social - hijacking domain names to be a social engineering minimized, et cetera. So 44 and 40 sort of is a

good pair of documents which have to do with the registration process all the way up to the registrants.

And then of course we have these working groups that just because I'm new it might be the case that of course that you in this room know more about (unintelligible) in general all of the working groups than I do. Personally I know more about the ones that I actually participate and can follow myself in detail.

But part of the collaboration and outreach that we do in SSAC is of course to participate as much as we can in the shared working groups because that is a very, very important part for information flow to us. Because this part from of course participating in the groups and injecting as much good information as we can, it's also the case by listening what is discussed in this working group, it's a really good source for us to know what kind of questions are - other parties are looking for.

So we are actually catching quite a lot of information from these shared working groups and bring these outstanding issues back into work that we are doing.

For example, we are at the moment thinking about once again on what we can do to help regarding internationalized registration data because one thing that we see from SSAC is that there's still I think it - but maybe I'm starting to lose it but we think that it's still too much known separation between internationalized registration data and internationalization of the WHOIS protocol which means that there's not enough we think in ICANN - enough separation between discussion of the WHOIS service and the WHOIS protocol.

We have written a couple of documents on that there but unfortunately there's more than one. They are scattered all over the place. IETF has written

a couple of documents as well. And obviously that pile of things has not really helped or has not helped as much as we would like.

So maybe there is something more for us to do with regarding internationalized registration data part from participating in this working group. But that is first number one issue that we are listening this week to see what can help you.

So with that, I - it's not my - was not my goal to talk much more than this but instead once again thank you and happy to answer the questions.

Stephane Van Gelder: Thank you very much Patrick. Congratulations to you for being made a knight of the (unintelligible) or whatever it is that you've just been awarded as a title from that country. Do we have questions for Patrick?
Marilyn.

Marilyn Cade: Thank you. Patrick, I'll join everyone here in welcoming you as the Chair of the SSAC. I'm particularly - my name is Marilyn Cade and I Chair the Business Constituency. I'm particularly pleased to see the list of topics and also your very clear commitment that the SSAC is here to also provide support to the full GNSO.

So there is of course the policy work that goes on managed by the Council. But within each of the constituencies there's also ongoing examination of some of these topics.

And I know you're primarily having a chance to meet and get acquainted with people here. Will you be looking at regularizing and interaction with the GNSO for yourself and the SSAC in future meetings that so that we could plan ahead if we wanted to have more extensive discussions?

Patrick Falstrom: These answers it's of course absolutely. But on the other had, you also understand that that is a political answer that I would say to everyone that

asks me. So in reality of course - in reality of course, these weeks are packed for all of us. But one of the things that (Julie) and I have been working on is trying to come up with a little bit better - sort of better scheduling of meetings in general.

It's also the case that we chair - so the SOs and ACs met yesterday and my input from that meeting - (I'm afraid you can sit with) was that we all agree that having those kind of meetings between the SOs and ACs was extremely valuable because we're only seven people in the room. And one of the things we were talking about is how to make it easier for people between the various groups to meet more efficiently.

One of the things I'm trying to do to help with specific SSAC work is that one of the things we are trying to do in restructuring SSAC work is, as you know, many of the SSAC members work - gets paid both in the IETF and in SSAC. And sorry - and in ICANN.

So one of the things we are trying to do is to come up with a model of working that sort of moves more of the face-to-face participation of SSAC to ICANN meetings. Okay. We are - it's still important for us at SSAC to of course meet with all parties which means that we try to also sort of meet people at the IETF meeting, at the IRR meeting, et cetera, which is all sort of related to ICANN.

But we are - have (ordered it start) along trying to make sure that everyone understands that the main focal point for SSAC meetings is also at the ICANN meetings.

And just by having more people here, I think that kind of outreach that you're asking for will be easier specifically when we do work in the various work parties like the first four ones, we actually have appointed small group in work parties which are five or six people including one Chair for that work party.

And for example believe it is the case that one of the groups of GNSO specifically looking at one of those topics for example and really diving into those issues.

My goal is to have someone or one or two people from each work party at the ICANN meeting and then they should come. So not me personally and not being sort of a weakling here because I don't have time. So we are trying but we're not done. But if you have ideas on how to improve this, please let us know.

Stephane Van Gelder: Thank you very much. Any further questions of Patrick. Alan.

Alan Greenberg: Alan Greenberg. Just a comment on your last point on internationalization. Yes, please do something. Do something short. Point to the other documents but make a short concise statement. As the person who carries messages back and forth between At Large and here, I have a bunch of scars from when I've tried to refer to the internationalization issues and people thought I was starting another WHOIS discussion.

So yeah. Something short enough that people actually look for - look at it, explain what you're talking about and point to the other documents would be really useful. Thank you.

Patrick Falstrom: Thank you very much. This is exactly the kind of input we would like to - would like to have. Thank you.

Stephane Van Gelder: Thanks. Kristina.

Kristina Rosette: Kristina Rosette. And it occurs to me that I don't know if we had a Council since I've been on the Council formally or requested in any way SSAC advice on a particular issue that we are considering. And I guess my question is if we had, how did we? And in the future kind of going forward, is - do you have any thoughts about the most efficient and effective way for us to do that?

I mean would that be something that would have to come as like a formal letter from Stephane as Chair or to your? Could it be, you know, a request to have one of the members come and participate in one of our Council meetings where we're talking about a particular issue?

I mean are there - have you given - are there any ideas that you may have as a way that we do that and ensure that we are getting the input that we need earlier in the policy development process than later?

Stephane Van Gelder: Can I just interject please? This is one of the discussions that we had yesterday was - and this is very useful that you bring this up. Was understanding the roles and the flowchart between each of the SOs and the ACs. And the question you asked I don't think that's a written process anywhere, you know, to actually map that out and explain how we should do that should we want to.

So I don't want to intrude on what you're going to answer Patrick but that was one of the points that - one of the informal discussions that we had yesterday which was useful for all of us.

Patrick Falstrom: Yeah. I was on my way to saying approximately that; slightly different words so I completely agree. What I can say though is that until we have that written down because that is something that might take a little bit of time to actually resolve. And I see - I have seen immediately since January two different ways to get responses from SSAC or three.

One, you can just talk to an SSAC member. And then evaluate the response as this is a person, and individual but gives his personal opinion but with the experience in working in SSAC. And maybe that is good enough for some of the questions you ask.

The other one - the other way of getting a response from SSAC formally is in one or another getting the question to me. It could be the Chair contacting me. It could be your staff or something. And in some cases, which we have already had I think two since January, we have responded directly; that is like a two-day process something. Really quick.

But the real formal way for SSAC to say something is actually to come up with a document but that is something that is a longer process. And - but that's also why the actually drawing the map for the communications is a little bit complicated because it's sort of dependent on the internal process in various organizations.

And if SSAC has one process of coming up with sort of completion of review with SSAC and GNSO has another one, the mapping between the two processes is what impact - making things complicated.

Stephane Van Gelder: Thanks. Any further questions? Michele.

Michele Neylon: Yeah. I'm - it's Michele from - I was in contact with the SSAC because the IRTF recommendations were making reference to various SSAC documents. And it would have been helpful to get some feedback and input from the SSAC. And unfortunately that didn't really happen. I'm just wondering what the best process would be moving forward so that we don't end up kind of meeting with a wall of silence.

Patrick Falstrom: It's absolute not the intention to - that we should be a wall of silence. We should absolutely immediately respond. At least give you - we should at least use a (PM), send back an ack. And then we can - then so it's easier for you to remind us if it's the case that we are not delivering.

If it is the case that the ball is dropped, can you please send a note to me and (Julie) and we figure out where it is. Because as the Chair I would just say that no, that should never happen. We'll fix that.

Michele Neylon: So basically the best thing to do would be possibly to talk to (Julie) and then - and cc you or - what is the best actual way to do this? It just - since we've had this - because several of the SSAC documents would have a direct and tangible impact on various working groups. Other ones would have a direct and tangible impact on our businesses as well.

And just sometimes it's been quite hard. We're given this document and then we were trying to get - kind of feed some input back in. It kind of seems to vanish, fall by the wayside. Now this - couldn't this probably going to predate (you) being there but...

Patrick Falstrom: Our internal process in SSAC at the moment is that to get really, really hands on is that you ensure anyone that would like to have a response from SSAC, contact (Julie) and make sure that you get a response. It's that easy. Okay. So if it is the case that you haven't heard anything, ping her again and please cc me on those messages because then it's sort of two of us that makes sure that things happening. (Julie) maybe you want to say something.

(Julie): Yeah. I just want to mention that part of the improvements process is that in the last year we've developed very specific procedures on, you know, getting input, doing outreach and making sure we're responsive. And so we've really just started to put in place more procedural types of ways of dealing with inquiries that we get and I am the conduit for that. You can get in touch with me and (Kayla) and anybody else and we'll make sure you get a response.

Patrick Falstrom: Because internal SSAC we actually have a very simple process. We have in the executive committee in SSAC we have weekly conference calls and we go through the list of action items every Friday. So - which means that for us to respond, it should be on that list of action items. So we just have to ensure that nothing is dropped. Thank you.

Stephane Van Gelder: Thanks very much. I'm going to have to cut this short now. We have, you know, running out of the time. We asked everyone one to talk about the implementation of the registration of use policies now and the recommendations on those.

So I just want you thank you very much Patrick for taking the time to come and talk to us today. And I hope we'll be seeing plenty more of each other in the days to come. Thanks very much.

Let me just take five seconds to ask the recording to be switched over to the next session and we'll start again as soon as I get the go ahead.

END