

SAC048 SSAC Comment on the Definition of Orphan Glue in the Draft Applicant Guidebook

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Background

SSAC consider a specific issue in the April 2011 Draft Applicant Guidebook
In Question 28 the DAG states
(among other things):

A complete answer should include, but is not limited to: ... proposed measures for management and removal of orphan glue records for names removed from the zone;
... .

Findings

- Policies regarding orphan glue vary across registries. At least three are known to exist.
 - Direct registration of orphan glue is permitted
 - Orphan glue is permitted until last association is removed
 - Orphan glue is not permitted
- SSAC proposes a definition of orphan glue.

Comments

- SSAC makes three comments
 - The phrase “orphan glue” is ambiguous because no definitive definition exists.
 - Orphan glue can be used for malicious purposes but the dominant use supports the correct and ordinary operation of the DNS.
 - To mitigate *actual* abuse orphan glue should be removed when presented with evidence

Success

- The May 2011 gTLD Applicant Guidebook has accepted the SSAC's findings and includes them by reference.

Next Steps for the SSAC

- The SSAC is continuing its study of orphan glue and will provide a complete report that includes a definition of orphan glue, how it comes in to existence, how it can be abused, and how it is managed.