COPENHAGEN - Joint Meeting: ICANN Board & Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)
Tuesday, March 14, 2017 - 12:00 to 13:00 CET
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STEVE CROCKER: It's now afternoon, right? So, good afternoon. Welcome, everybody.

Brad, this is your meeting. Is Tripti behind you right there? Hi there. Take it away.

TRIPTI SINHA: In turn, I hand it over to our liaison, Kaveh.

KAVEH RANJBAR: Thank you very much. Thank you, everyone, for attending the RSSAC session.

So, before I continue, may I ask from Wes, to start, to have a quick roll call?

WES HARDAKER: Sure. I'm Wes Hardaker from the University of Southern California.

DANIEL MIGAULT: I'm Daniel Migault, IAB RSSAC liaison from Ericsson.

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN: I'm Lars-Johan Liman. I work for Netnod and I'm head of root server operations there.

CHERINE CHALABY: Cherine Chalaby, ICANN Board.

ASHA HEMRAJANI: Asha Hemrajani, ICANN Board.

KAVEH RANJBAR: Kaveh Ranjbar, RIPE NCC, K root, and liaison to the ICANN Board.

TRIPTI SINHA: Tripti Sinha, University of Maryland and RSSAC co-chair.

BRAD VERD: Brad Verd, VeriSign, and co-chair of RSSAC.

TERRY MANDERSON: Terry Manderson, ICANN, in charge of root server operations.

JONNE SOININEN: Jonne Soininen, ICANN Board.

STEVE CROCKER: Steve Crocker, chair of the ICANN Board.

AKINORI MAEMURA: Akinori Maemura, ICANN Board member.

FRED BAKER: Fred Baker, F root.

DUANE WESSELS: Duane Wessels from VeriSign. I am root zone maintainer liaison
                         to RSSAC.

KAVEH RANJBAR: Thank you very much. So, I think the best would be to dive into
                         the question. I will start with the questions from RSSAC to the
                         Board and we will see how we continue with that.

                         So, the first one is about the Board or staff's best assessment of
                         the timing of the next round of the new gTLDs, because we as
                         root operators, we think it might have some effect on us and we
                         would really like to know if the Board envisions when and how
                         the new round of gTLDs are going to run, and if they have an

estimate or goal about the size, because -- the size of the next round, because we think the size of new gTLDs, if there is a goal, that might have an effect on our performance, so we want -- we want to know if there's any effect on that.

And I guess I will pass to Asha to answer that.

ASHA HEMRAJANI: Thank you, Kaveh, and thank you, RSSAC, for this question.

Right now, there is really no general agreement in the community on the prerequisites and the timing for the next round. We note that there are about 11 upcoming and ongoing reviews related to gTLDs alone, so this is not the community review. These are separate 11 reviews just on gTLD.

And I think from a very minimum, from an operational perspective, two out of these 11 are very critical -- oops. Okay. Sorry. Two are pretty critical in terms of needing to be completed. So, these are the new gTLD subsequent procedures PDP, and they're projected to complete the third quarter of 2018, and the second one is the rights protection mechanisms PDP. The first phase is projected to complete the last quarter of 2017. Quarter 4.

So, while the Board, we are committed to opening a new round, we would really like to see the output of these two activities by the community, and we can't really control the timing of this, although I would very much like to -- from a personal perspective, would like to recommend that this work is done as expeditiously as possible.

And then from that, we will also continue to monitor the work of the community, and then at that phase I think would be a more appropriate time to comment on the -- on the timing of the next round. Thank you.

KAVEH RANJBAR: Thank you, Asha.

To be very clear, especially on the second part of the question, does the Board have any goal, for example, set when a new round is going to open up? For example, to say "We are aiming for 5,000 new gTLDs," or is there a ceiling or cap in mind or is it even being discussed in the community that you're aware of?

ASHA HEMRAJANI: No, not right now. No specific date. But I don't see this happening, as I mentioned, before the completion of the reviews, and that's why I specifically mentioned the date. So,

really it's also a matter of how expeditiously these reviews can be completed. Thank you.

JONNE SOININEN: So, if I understood the question correctly, it was said do we have some kind of like goal in mind, how many TLDs should be there and that the RSSAC could get ready for that.

No, we don't have a goal in mind right now the number of TLDs, and the thing is, like Asha said, the whole process is ongoing and we'll see what comes out of that.

KAVEH RANJBAR: Thank you very much.

ASHA HEMRAJANI: Sorry. I didn't get the word about the -- the part of the question on size, but I agree with what Jonne just mentioned. Thank you.

KAVEH RANJBAR: Thanks. Brad, please.

BRAD VERD: The only thing I'd add there is, in those discussions as they're happening, just keep that in mind that we're interested and would like to be made aware as soon as possible. That's all.

JONNE SOININEN: Yeah. Thank you very much for that, and of course any kind of like input that RSSAC can give to that process, that would be very helpful.

KAVEH RANJBAR: So, Question 2 was originally actually part of the Question 1, so directly related to new gTLDs, but I would like to, first of all, if -- if there is any answer from that perspective, from new gTLDs, that does the Board see any- -- anything, basically, that might affect root server system load or might cause significant changes to the system? And if -- if you're open -- if you have any other comments not focused on new gTLDs but also like more generic, I would also like to hear from that.

Steve?

STEVE CROCKER: Just to cover what has already been discussed multiple times, we obviously have a KSK rollover coming, and it's going to go

absolutely smoothly, have no effect on anything, and we can all just go to sleep while that happens, so that -- that's a nonevent, unless you talk to David Conrad.

The other thing is sort of less a single point in time and more general.

We've been watching DDOS attacks, and the betting is that they're going to increase and become more -- you know, bigger over time, and so that's a natural question as to what the impact is going to be on the entire root server system.

So, far, the root server system has withstood the -- all the attacks very, very well and has not really changed -- you know, been any effect on service as seen by the end users.

Related, but somewhat distinct, is evolutions in the way root service is obtained. We have this large constellation -- I think we're over 600 nodes now and growing at some rate, but in parallel, there's been some discussion about hyper-local root service where an ISP or an enterprise or virtually anybody could download the root and operate it out of -- download a copy of the root zone and operate it locally.

And I don't know -- I haven't seen anything definitive about how much -- how fast that's progressing, but one could imagine that

ICANN 58
COMMUNITY FORUM
COPENHAGEN
11–16 March 2017

at some point it could become a major factor rather than just an incidental factor that it is today as the protocols and as the experience are gained and then people sort of make a decision.

So, at least a scenario is that one could imagine very large numbers of copies of the root zone that are refreshed twice a day just like the regular authoritative copies and are providing service locally, and that would be a game changer, I think, in terms of capacity and resilience. And it might have other effects, too.

I don't foresee -- even if it took off like wildfire, I don't foresee that it would cause an immediate downturn in the operation of the root server system. It takes a very long time for that kind of effect to take -- happen.

So, that's kind of a meandering answer through the -- through the question. I -- it's not an official Board answer. It's -- it's -- you know, it's my answer, if you will.

KAVEH RANJBAR: Thank you very much. Anyone else wants to add on that?

BRAD VERD: I would just add that we are in conversations with OCTO around the KSK and RSSAC is facilitating work between the root operations and OCTO during the KSK work, just to reassure you that there's lots of dialogue happening.

KAVEH RANJBAR: Thank you very much.

Okay. I will move to the third question. So, has the Board or the OCTO identified any issue that might possibly benefit from information or statistics that can be provided by the RSSAC members?

Basically, we are asking if there's any information in addition to what we are already providing, like with RSSAC 002, that might be beneficial for decision-making in the Board. We already had a session with the office of the CTO, so we discussed from the CTO part, but I would like to hear from the Board.

And Jonne?

JONNE SOININEN: Yeah. Thank you.

So, I think the right discussion partner maybe at this point is the office of CTO. I mean, like we don't as a Board right now have

any information or statistics that would help in addition to that, what we have today, but of course we can think about that over time as well.

KAVEH RANJBAR: Thank you. Any other comments regarding to that question?

Okay. So, may I ask to have the other set of slides, which is -- the next slide, which is the questions from the Board to the RSSAC?

Yes. Thank you.

So, first question from the Board is basically to what degree is our constituency actively participating in CCWG accountability WS2, and if there's anything that Board or ICANN org can do to facilitate this work.

I guess I will pass it to, yeah, Brad.

BRAD VERD: I think our take on this has been that we are an observer and we continue to observe and monitor, but right now there's no direct action from RSSAC around the CCWG accountability Work Stream 2.

KAVEH RANJBAR: Thank you. And next question is: What policy or advice issues are top priority for your group, from the Board, for RSSAC? Tripti?

TRIPTI SINHA: At this moment in time, there is nothing that's at the very top in terms of policy and advice. However, we have tremendous work going on in the form of workshops and internal dialogues on doing a deeper dive on current state of the root server system and its evolution. So, we do expect that once this work is complete in the coming months, we will issue a series of advice on what should come next.

And, Steve, it does look into the issues that you were highlighting earlier with regard to hyper-localization and the future of the system itself. So, stay tuned for more advice to come in the coming months.

KAVEH RANJBAR: Thank you.

And I want to add to that, that during that work, we are also producing documents which is coming down from that process. And some of them are small but very useful. For example, a recent one which will be published in a few hours, I guess, called

RSSAC lexicon, which have -- which actually doesn't cover that many words. I think around 30, or less than 50 for sure, yes. And it defines, like, so when you refer to a node or a root server instance or a root server system, so this can help -- this can help so we all understand each other properly, so we use same language.

Or another work was the work related to the RSSAC history, which again has a lot of small pieces which is very useful to understand where we are coming from and where we are headed. So, all of that continues.

I have Cherine.

CHERINE CHALABY: Tripti and Brad, thank you. Regarding the deep dive you're doing for the current state, we had a discussion the other day talking about the governance and financial stability. Will that be included in any reporting you're going to produce on that or...

TRIPTI SINHA: Yes, we are having discussions along. And, yes, there will be a report issued regarding that, Mm-hmm.

BRAD VERD: The only piece I'd add is the lexicon, the crux of that was we were -- as we were working through a lot of these deep, deep, deep dives and these deep discussions, we were learning in the community and even with ourselves that there was different interpretation of what the words meant. So, we thought it prudent to create a glossary of sorts so that when we talk about root servers, we're all talking from the same sheet. And that will be a living document. We will add to that as needed going forward.

KAVEH RANJBAR: Thank you. So, with that, I would like --

CHERINE CHALABY: Can I just have a follow-up on Tripti's answer?

KAVEH RANJBAR: Please.

CHERINE CHALABY: So, again, I think just for the benefit of the people, your report will have recommendations -- advice to the Board but also requests from the Board to do things or how -- what?

TRIPTI SINHA: So, that discussion is in the future. So, we haven't quite decided in what form we will present our advice. So, it's unknown at this time. But we will certainly issue a report.

CHERINE CHALABY: Okay, thank you.

KAVEH RANJBAR: Thank you very much. Thanks, Cherine.

So, if there are no other questions from the panel or the Board, I would like to open the mic for -- if there's any questions on the floor.

None? Okay. Then I guess you will get -- yeah, almost half an hour of your life -- oh, we have Rinalia. Please.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Hi. Rinalia Abdul Rahim, member of the ICANN Board. I chair the Organizational Effectiveness Committee that oversees organizational reviews. And the RSSAC review is scheduled to happen this year. I just wanted to get feedback or input on how you feel about the review, whether you are ready, whether you think you need more time, or whether you're rearing to go. Thanks.

TRIPTI SINHA: Thank you for the question, Rinalia.

We did have internal discussions, and we're feeling quite ready to go with the report -- with the review. And so, yes, we'd like to proceed.

RINALIA ABDUL RAHIM: Thank you. The response is noted.

KAVEH RANJBAR: Yes. So, if there's no questions, I will give you half an hour of your life back, yes? Thank you. Cheers.

[Applause]

[END OF TRANSCRIPT]