

A New Cooperation and Governance Model for the Root Server System

ICANN Board Concept Paper

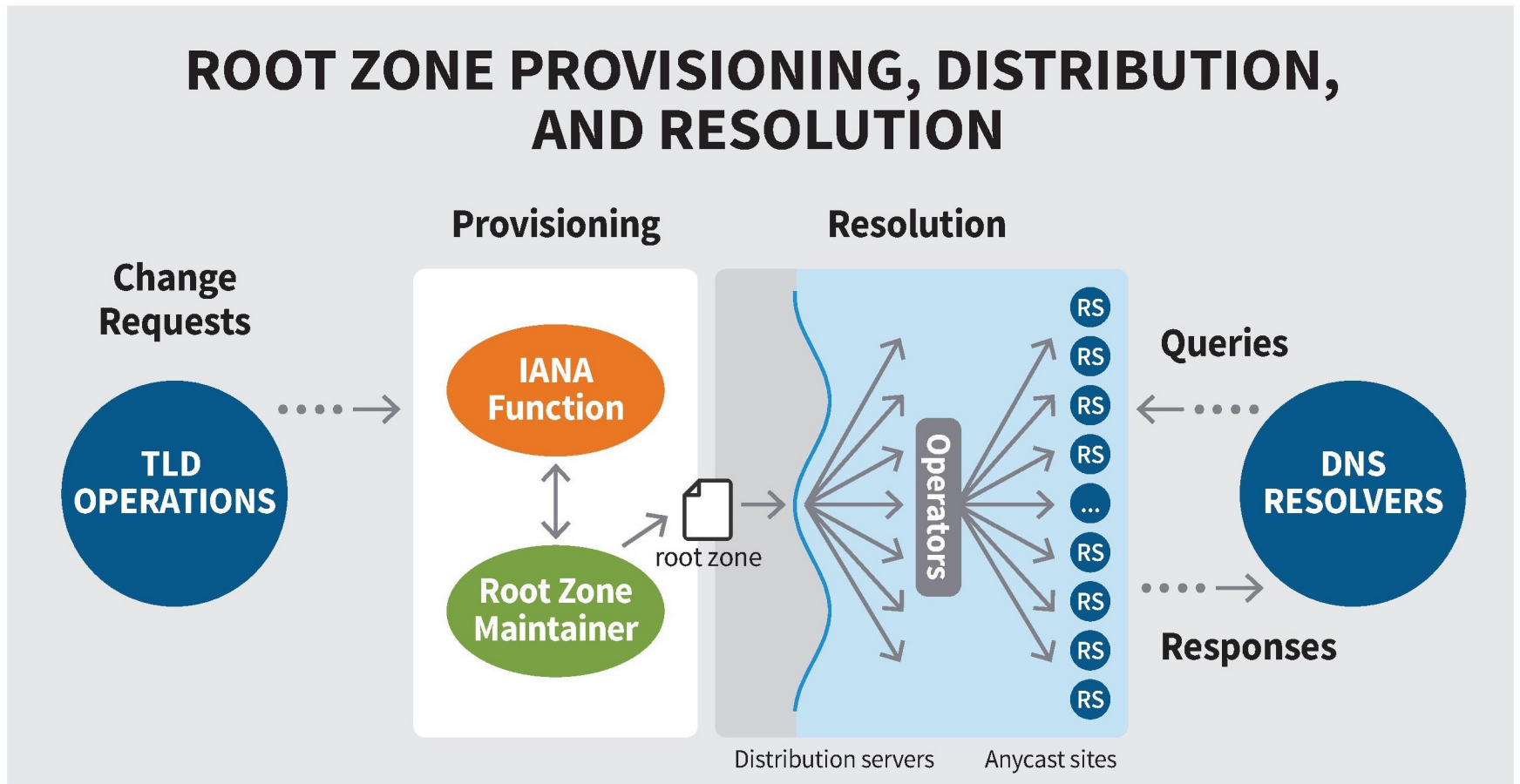
13 March 2019



RSSAC037 Overview

- Defines eleven principles for the operation and evolution of the Root Server System
- Proposes an initial governance model (the Model) for the Root Server System and its operators
- Demonstrates how the Model works through a set of scenarios on designation and removal of operators

Scope of the Model



Root Server System Principles

1

To remain a global network, the Internet requires a globally unique public namespace.

4

Diversity of the root server operations is a strength of the overall system.

2

IANA is the source of DNS root data.

5

Architectural changes should result from technical evolution and demonstrated technical need.

3

The RSS must be a stable, reliable, and resilient platform for the DNS service to all users.

6

The IETF defines technical operation of the DNS protocol.

Root Server System Principles, continued

7

RSOs must operate with integrity and an ethos demonstrating a commitment to the common good of the Internet.

10

RSOs must be autonomous and independent.

8

RSOs must be transparent.

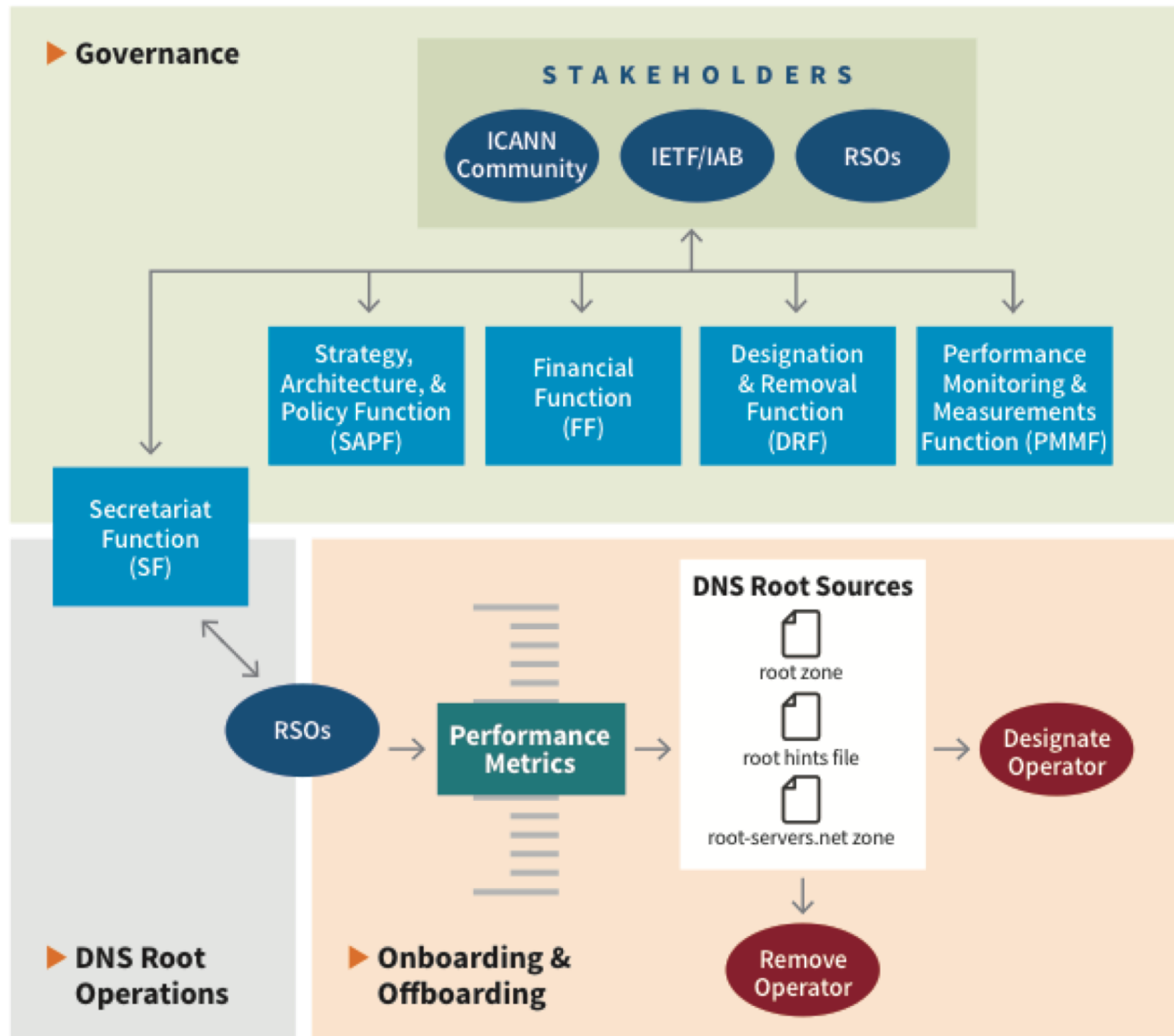
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RSOs must be neutral and impartial.

9

RSOs must collaborate and engage with the stakeholder community.

The Model



Recommendations that complement RSSAC037.

The RSSAC recommends the ICANN Board:

- Initiate a process to produce a final version of the Model based on RSSAC037.
- Estimate costs of the RSS and developing the Model. Initial efforts should focus on developing a timeline.
- Implement the final version of the Model based upon principles of accountability, transparency, sustainability, and service integrity.

Concept Paper: Part I

Envisions a new cooperation and governance model for the RSS based on RSSAC037:

- Root Server System Governance Board (SAPF)
- Root Server System Standing Committee (PMMF)
- Root Server Operator Review Panel (DRF)
- ICANN org as Finance and Secretariat Functions

Concept Paper: Part II

Outlines a process to finalize a new cooperation and governance model for the RSS based on recommendation 1 in RSSAC038.

Phase 1: ICANN org is reviewing and evaluating RSSAC037 at the direction of the ICANN Board.

Phase 2: RSSAC037, a revised version of the Concept Paper, and revised GWG documents are available for public comment.

Phase 3: This is the final phase of developing a new cooperation and governance model for the RSS. The implementation phase has two tracks:

- The *Structural Track* to finalize the cooperation and governance model led by the Root Server System Governance Working Group.
- The *Administrative Track* to plan for implementation of the final cooperation and governance model led by ICANN org.

Phase 1: Design

0. RSSAC, BTC, and ICANN Board engage in informal exchanges and discussions about Concept Paper. **(Now)**
1. After BTC approves, ICANN org presents Concept Paper to RSSAC. ICANN org captures the feedback from RSSAC. **(Post-ICANN64)**
2. ICANN org presents draft GWG documents to ICANN Board and RSSAC for consideration and feedback. ICANN org captures the feedback from ICANN Board and RSSAC. **(Pre-ICANN Board May 2019 Workshop)**
3. ICANN org revises Concept Paper and GWG documents. **(Post-ICANN Board May 2019 Workshop)**
4. ICANN Board considers and approves resolution and directs ICANN org to publish RSSAC037, revised Concept Paper, and revised GWG documents for public comment. **(ICANN65)**

Concept Paper: Feedback from RSSAC

Accountability

- Periodic review of new groups and functions
- Separation of functions and proposed ICANN org roles
- Including RSSAC and all RSS stakeholders in implementation phase

Finance

- Consideration of RSO responsibilities in root service
- Same service requirements for RSOs that accept and forego funding
- Funding for existing capital assets, services, and ongoing operations

Evolution of RSSAC and RSSAC Caucus