

Analysis: Root Zone Administrator Proposal

The document is an implementation of the implied recommendation of Design Team F that nothing be changed in the RZMS code prior to or during transition. It follows the golden rule that you should make as few changes at the same time as possible.

In my mind, this proposal carried that rule to a ridiculous extreme.

Currently:

1. IANA reviews change requests and if they are requested by an authorized source and meet specific policy and technical requirements
2. IANA sends the change request to Verisign
3. IANA sends the change request to the NTIA
4. Verisign performs its own validation
5. The NTIA, if satisfied that the changes are appropriate (ie policy has been followed), authorizes the change (with messages to IANA and Verisign).
6. Verisign incorporates any changes into the root zone twice daily, DNSSEC signs the resultant root zone, and uploads it for distribution.

Proposal:

1. Replicate the entire Root Zone Management infrastructure (RZA2)
2. Changes that enter the system also go to RZA2.
3. A group at ICANN authenticates that the changes are appropriate and sends out a signal equivalent to that sent by the NTIA, but this goes ONLY To the cloned RZA2. [Note this step]
4. RZA2 also creates a new DNSSEC signed root zone twice daily.
5. The “official root zone from Verisign and the RZA2 root zone are compared.
6. If there are no differences for 3 months, the cloned RZA2 is declared to be working. If there is a failure, the cause is determined and the 3-month timer starts over again.
7. At transition, the signal from step 3 above is redirected to the production Root Zone Management components.
8. At some point in the future, the code delaying implementation of a change by Verisign until the magic signal is received (originally from the NTIA, now from RZA2) is removed.
9. On implementation of the change, RZA2 is decommissioned.