Root Server System Governance Working Group
Teleconference #18 | 29 October 2020 | 22:00 UTC

ATTENDANCE

RSS GWG
Luis Diego Espinoza   ccTLD Registries Representative
Ted Hardie   IAB Representative
Hiro Hotta   RSO Representative
Geoff Huston   IAB Representative
Lito Ibarra   Alternate Liaison from the ICANN Board
Peter Janssen   ccTLD Registries Representative
Lars-Johan Liman   RSO Representative
Kurt Pritz   gTLD Registries Representative
Kim Davies   Liaison from the IANA
Tripti Sinha   Liaison from the ICANN Board
Brad Verd   RSO Representative
Duane Wessels   Liaison from the Root Zone Maintainer
Suzanne Woolf   SSAC Representative
Hanyu Yang   gTLD Registries Representative

ICANN org
Paul Hoffman
Wendy Profit
Carlos Reyes
Mary Wong

Observers
Xue Jiang

MINUTES

Call to Order
Ted Hardie called the teleconference to order at 22:03 UTC and reviewed the proposed agenda. There were no objections to the agenda.

Administration
Ted Hardie announced Suzanne Woolf as the new representative from the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC), replacing Joe Abley. Suzanne Woolf introduced herself to the RSS GWG. Kim David also introduced himself. Davies replaced Naela Sarras as liaison from the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA).

Carlos Reyes noted that the current cadence of RSS GWG teleconferences every other Thursday will lead to cancellations due to the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday (in the United States) and December break (worldwide). Having two consecutive teleconferences in mid-November and then reverting back to every other Thursday would avoid this situation and allow for more teleconferences through the end of 2020.

ACTION ITEM: Carlos Reyes to modify the RSS GWG teleconference schedule accordingly.

Carlos Reyes reviewed the draft minutes of teleconference #17 on 15 October 2020. There were no objections to publishing the minutes.

ACTION ITEM: Carlos Reyes to publish the approved minutes on the RSS GWG workspace.

The RSS GWG reviewed and approved the draft of its next report to the ICANN Board Technical Committee (BTC).

ACTION ITEM: Carlos Reyes to publish the approved report on the RSS GWG workspace and send it to the BTC.

Carlos Reyes noted that the RSS GWG work plan will be updated to reflect the current state of discussions. Ted Hardie proposed pushing out the work by roughly six months, targeting March 2021 as the publication date of a proposal for Public Comment.

ACTION ITEM: Carlos Reyes to modify the RSS GWG work plan on the RSS GWG workspace.

Financial Considerations
Geoff Huston provided an update of the discussions on the financial considerations of the Public Root Services (PRS) paper. Geoff Huston and Kurt Pritz considered three approaches to funding per RSS GWG discussions: a need-based model, a service-based model, and a grant-based model. The need-based model presents several questions for how to demonstrate need through auditing. The service-based model highlights the differences in organizational structures and operations of the Root Server Operators (RSOs).

The grant-based model would allow the PRS to determine the funds available and would dispense funds to RSOs. Geoff Huston stated that he did not believe an RSO accepting a grant would have to demonstrate a change in service delivery. The grant would be preconditioned on the RSO having a signed contract with PRS. The grant would be an expression of support for that RSO meeting is service obligations to the Internet community. However, a commitment from the RSO to performing according to established service levels would exist regardless of a grant. The grant would be disbursed through annual installments over a three-year period, providing predictability to the RSO and PRS. The amount would be determined by PRS within the framework of the ICANN budget process. An RSO would have to give a two-year notice if it would like to participate in the funding mechanism.

Kurt Pritz encouraged the RSS GWG to publish a rationale for whatever funding model it proposes, noting that some RSOs have faced challenges funding their operations. Ted Hardie emphasized the impact of funding discussions on the Designation and Removal Function. Lars-Johan Liman expressed support for the grant-based model. Paul Hoffman remarked that the three-year planning horizon will be important as the Strategy, Architecture, and Policy Function (SAPF) determines the number of RSOs. Duane Wessels asked if the grant would come from PRS or ICANN. Geoff Huston suggested that the grant would come from the contracting organization. Geoff Huston and Ted Hardie commented on the importance of flexibility in how NewOrg responds to different scenarios involving RSOs. Lars-Johan Liman agreed with the need for an operational buffer.

Ted Hardie asked the RSS GWG to review the PRS paper and consider dependencies for future discussions.

Any Other Business
There were no additional agenda items.

Adjournment
Ted Hardie adjourned the teleconference at 22:59 UTC.