

Root Zone Evolution Review Committee (RZERC) Meeting Minutes 17 January 2023 | 19:00 - 20:00 UTC

Attendance

ccNSO	Peter Koch
ICANN Board	Wes Hardaker
PTI	Kim Davies
GNSO RySG	Kalina Ostalska
RSSAC	Daniel Migault
Verisign (RZM)	Duane Wessels

Staff Danielle Rutherford, Steve Sheng

Apologies Tim April (IETF), Geoff Huston (SSAC)

Action Items from this Teleconference

- **ACTION ITEM: Danielle Rutherford to provide an update on the implementation of RZERC003 Recommendation 4 to ARR**
- **ACTION ITEM: All RZERC members to review Version 4.1 of the Draft Plan for Deploying ZONEMD in the Root Zone.**
- **ACTION ITEM: Danielle Rutherford to invite appointing organizations to optional feedback sessions on the draft initial report of the RZERC charter review**

Call to Order

Danielle Rutherford called the teleconference to order at 19:02 UTC.

Roll Call

Danielle Rutherford conducted a roll call.

Agenda Review

There were no amendments to the agenda for this meeting.

Administration

Welcome to Wes Hardaker

Danielle Rutherford introduced the new representative from the ICANN Board to the RZERC, Wes Hardaker.

RZERC Chair Election Timeline 2023

Danielle Rutherford provided an update on the RZERC Chair Election procedures for 2023. Tim April's first term as chair will conclude in April 2023. A nomination period for the next Chair will open on 18 March 2023 and close on 11 April 2023. The RZERC will hold a meeting on 18 April 2023 and nominees for Chair will accept or decline their nominations. If there is only one

candidate for Chair, The RZERC may select the Chair by acclamation. If there are two or more candidates, then staff will organize an online, anonymous vote to select the next Chair. At this time, all RZERC members are eligible to run for Chair.

Meeting time for 2023

Danielle Rutherford asked committee members if keeping the meeting time consistent for 2023 would still work for everyone. No one objected or made any comments. The meeting time will remain the third Tuesday of each month at 19:00 UTC.

Work Items

Update on ZONEMD Deployment Plan

Duane Wessels presented an updated draft of the plan for deploying ZONEMD in the root zone.

The first update is in the section titled “Verisign RZMS & Distribution System.” There is a new sentence that states “Note: there is a pending update to Verisign’s implementation to support ZONEMD in presentation format as described later in this document.” Peter Koch asked if this sentence would be removed once Verisign completes the update. Duane Wessels confirmed it would be removed once Verisign is complete with its work.

The second update is in the section titled “Root Server Operators.” The deployment plan now includes a reference to the August 2022 statement from root server operators that their systems are ready and able to receive and serve root zones that include a ZONEMD record. The deployment plan also now includes a commitment to communicate to the Root Server Operators the intended date when ZONEMD will be added to the root zone with at least two months advance notice. There were no questions or comments on this update.

Duane Wessels stated there were no updates to the section titled “Hash Algorithm,” and the plan is still to the SHA-384 hash algorithm. Daniel Migault asked if the plan is to use the hash algorithm right away or if there are any steps with a non-existing hash algorithm. Duane Wessels responded that the deployment plan includes a period of time with a private-use hash algorithm that cannot be verified.

The third update is in the section titled “Presentation Format.” The previous deployment plan stated the ZONEMD record shall appear in the unknown / generic format as defined in RFC 3597. The updated deployment plan the ZONEMD record shall appear in its native presentation format on the internic.net servers. Duane Wessels stated the reason for this is that Verisign and ICANN take the position that although there may be some short-term challenges, in the long term, it would be better to have the native format. Peter Koch asked an additional question about the rationale for this update. Duane Wessels responded that in the discussions of this plan, both approaches have similar concerns of lack of software support. It’s hard to know if the native presentation format or the generic format would be more broadly supported. Ultimately, it was decided that going straight to ZONEMD native presentation format would reduce additional complexity in the future.

Duane Wessels asked RZERC members to review the updated plan before the next RZERC meeting. Danielle Rutherford asked Duane Wessels if he was looking for explicit approval from the RZERC on the deployment plan or if he was sharing it as an opportunity to provide feedback without the expectation for a formal endorsement. Duane Wessels stated he assumed the RZERC would have to formally approve of the document. Kim Davies stated that the language in RZERC003 states that “Public Technical Identifiers (PTI) and the RZM should jointly develop a plan for deploying ZONEMD in the root zone, and make this plan available for review by RZERC,” which does not necessarily require a formal approval. Peter Koch stated that RZERC should probably provide a written communication that states the RZERC has reviewed the ZONEMD deployment plan and has no objections or no further comments.

Duane Wessels asked Danielle Rutherford if there were any required actions for the ICANN Action Request Register (ARR) that tracks the implementation of recommendations to the ICANN Board.

- **ACTION ITEM: Danielle Rutherford to provide an update on the implementation of RZERC003 Recommendation 4 to ARR**
- **ACTION ITEM: All RZERC members to review Version 4.1 of the Draft Plan for Deploying ZONEMD in the Root Zone.**

Update on RZERC Charter Review

Danielle Rutherford provided an update on the RZERC Charter Review. As of 17 January 2023, all of the current RZERC members have signaled their support for the current draft of the initial report of the RZERC charter review. The next step in the process is to offer individual feedback sessions with each of the appointing organizations. The RZERC is on schedule to publish the draft report and proposed changes to the RZERC charter for public comment prior to ICANN76. There will also be a public information session during ICANN76 to share the proposed charter changes to the ICANN community and allow questions and feedback.

Kalina Ostalska asked if there were plans to hold a regular RZERC meeting in-person during ICANN76. Danielle Rutherford stated there were not, but the RZERC could schedule such a session if there was interest. Kalina Ostalska asked if RZERC members are expected to attend the public session on the RZERC charter review. Danielle Rutherford stated that attendance was expected as long as the timing of the session did not conflict with members’ appointing organizations. The RZERC does not support funded travelers to ICANN meetings, so there is not an expectation that RZERC sessions will take priority over funding organizations.

- **ACTION ITEM: Danielle Rutherford to invite appointing organizations to optional feedback sessions on the draft initial report of the RZERC charter review**

Adjournment

The RZERC concluded the teleconference without objections at 19:37 UTC.