



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

07 July 2017

Mr. Patrik Fältström
Chair, Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)

Re: ICANN Board Advice Register and Update on Recommendations from SAC047 and SAC048

Dear Mr. Patrik Fältström and Members of the SSAC:

This letter serves to provide an update on two outstanding advice items from SAC047 and SAC048. As you are aware, in 2016 ICANN reviewed historical advice to the ICANN Board to ensure that it had been processed and to identify items that had not yet received Board consideration or that had not been otherwise addressed. We provided an update on the historical advice items reviewed by ICANN in a letter dated 19 October 2016 (<https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/correspondence/crocker-to-faltstrom-19oct16-en.pdf>). In that communication, there were several historical advice items that were identified as “Open – Prior to Board Consideration,” including SAC047 Recommendation 5 and SAC048 Recommendation 2. ICANN decided not to implement these advice items, and to support transparency and consistency with the Board Advice process, we have provided our rationale in the attached table.

Thank you for your attention. We look forward to your continued engagement and collaboration on the improvement of the Board Advice process. If you have any questions or comments about the information shared here, we encourage you to share them with Steve Sheng, Senior Director, SSAC & RSSAC Advisories Development Support at ICANN.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stephen D. Crocker
Chair, ICANN Board of Directors

Appendix 1. Update on SAC047 and SAC048

Advice Document Reference ID	Name of Advice Document	Recommendation	Status	Action(s) Taken
SAC047	<p>SSAC Comment on the ICANN gTLD Registry Transition Processes Model</p> <p>15 April 2011</p>	<p>Recommendation 5: The SSAC notes that in certain operating circumstances, registry functions, especially critical services such as DNS resolution and DNS security (DNSSEC), may be separable from other functions (registry database maintenance). The SSAC asks whether in such circumstances critical functions can be transitioned separately.</p>	<p>Closed</p>	<p>ICANN considered the comment in SAC047 during the development of the Registry Transition Process. However, ICANN did not implement Recommendation 5, which suggested that critical registry functions could be operated by different registry operators during the emergency registry transition process. Execution of an Emergency Back-End Registry Operator (EBERO) takeover is a complex exercise. Additional EBERO providers operating individual registry functions would increase the complexity of the EBERO process, without a clear objective or benefit.</p> <p>As the EBERO program is now operational, ICANN has additional evidence to support its implementation. To date, ICANN has simulated emergency failures of two TLDs voluntarily en route to termination (.DOOSAN and .MTPC) using the existing Registry Transition Process of a single EBERO provider operating all critical registry functions. These simulations have confirmed the complexity of the existing process.</p> <p>ICANN notes that in standard registry operations, there are instances where gTLDs use multiple registry operators to run the critical registry functions. However, in these instances, ICANN has observed that there is always a primary registry service provider that coordinates the critical functions to ensure consistency.</p>

Advice Document Reference ID	Name of Advice Document	Recommendation	Status	Action(s) Taken
SAC048	<p>SSAC Comment on the Orphan Glue Records in the Draft Applicant Guidebook</p> <p>12 May 2011</p>	<p>Recommendation 2: Orphaned glue can be used for abusive purposes; however, the dominant use of orphaned glue supports the correct and ordinary operation of the DNS. Thus it is inappropriate to include the management of orphaned glue under the rubric of "abuse prevention and mitigation" and we suggest that it be removed.</p>	Closed	<p>ICANN considered the comment in SAC048 during its consideration of the New gTLD Applicant Guidebook. It did not implement Recommendation 2, which suggested that the management of orphaned glue be removed from the rubric of "abuse prevention and mitigation." The final version of the Applicant Guidebook acknowledged the existence of orphaned glue in the criteria for abuse prevention and mitigation and suggested processes for handling it when associated with malicious conduct.</p> <p>The New gTLD Program was approved and the Applicant Guidebook was adopted by the ICANN Board on 20 June 2011. The 2012 round of the New gTLD Program has been implemented with the processes for orphaned glue referred to above.</p>