

Chris Weber
Letter of Motivation
ICANN Call for Independent Experts
Preserving Security, Stability and Resiliency of the DNS Review (AoC)
September 6, 2010

Dear Mr. Rod Beckstrom and Mrs. Heather Dryden:

I would like to volunteer my time and experience as an independent expert serving ICANN's review process for 'Preserving Security, Stability, and Resiliency of the DNS'. I am motivated to apply my expertise, experience, and wisdom as an Internet security professional to ICANN's goal of preserving the safety of our DNS and the future of the Internet for current and coming generations. In particular I want to put my capability in Internet attacks and defenses, business, privacy, Unicode, and IDN to work for the well-being of ICANN and its policies.

I purchased my first domain names in the early 1990's when Network Solutions operated as the sole registry and registrar. Since that time I have worked professionally as a technical consultant and business executive in the Internet security and privacy industry. After investigating the current state of IDN and its handling in modern user-agents, I had the opportunity to present my findings to the SSAC at their 2009 ICANN Mexico meeting. With a firm understanding of the IDNA specification and practical threats to the DNS, I led my company Casaba to create a product that could detect attacks on IDN and Unicode string similarity.

In my technical work I constantly scrutinize Internet protocols and applications to find weakness and vulnerability that could be exploited for malicious gain. I utilize and build indicators and tools to identify findings and analyze them to draw overall conclusions and prepare reports for review by stakeholders. I've contributed to security-related standards discussions with governing bodies including the Unicode Consortium and W3C.

As a businessman, I look forward to working closely with people, rallying the support and encouraging the spirit of the team, explaining and debating my perspective, absolving my preconceptions and letting down my own defenses to hear an intelligent argument and negotiate agreements. I have built security programs aimed at reducing Internet-based threats including fraud, protecting individual privacy and protecting application infrastructure for global organizations.

As a volunteer for this Review Team, I'm prepared to give my time performing the required tasks during the review process. I see ICANN at a great crossroads with mounting pressure to allow innovation by opening up the Internet to new TLD's and IDN, while at the same time ensuring security through initiatives like DNSSEC and the string similarity review process. I hope to be of service and help in Internet security objectives at ICANN.

Sincerely,

Chris Weber