Release of Interisle and TNO reports on Modeling and Scaling the Root

In February 2009, with Resolution 2009-02-03-04, the ICANN Board requested the Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC), the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC), and the ICANN staff, including the IANA team, to study the potential issues regarding the addition of IDNs, IPv6 addresses, DNSSEC and substantial numbers of new TLDs to the root zone. The Board asked that we pay attention to both the complexity that might arise from the interaction of these several kinds of additions as well as the scaling issues. The Board resolution is posted at http://www.icann.org/en/minutes/prelim-report-03feb09.htm.

The three groups formed a steering group and then commissioned a paid study. The Terms of Reference for this study are at http://www.icann.org/en/committees/dns-root/root-scaling-study-tor-05may09-en.htm. Interisle was selected to perform this study. In the course of their study, they recommended that a modeling effort be undertaken with the assistance of TNO. TNO produced a model and a companion report.

We are hereby releasing the Interisle report as delivered for public comment and analysis.

The steering group will be evaluating the report against the Terms of Reference and preparing recommendations for the Board and the public.

The TNO model, and simulation system is undergoing verification and will be released, with the TNO report, soon.

Approaching these questions in an analytical fashion is important for ICANN. The steering group acknowledges this work by the Interisle and TNO study teams. These reports provide contributions for consideration and planning for next steps in expanding the root zone.

The Root Scaling Study Steering Group

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