07 April 2010

Chris Disspain
Chair
ccNSO

Dear Chris,

Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of the ccNSO Council regarding my comments to the ICANN Board of Directors and the Governmental Advisory Committee on the vulnerability of the DNS to attack. The letter’s forceful tone conveyed the seriousness with which you clearly take the underlying issue of DNS security, stability and resiliency and, I believe, reflects your dedication to our shared goal of a stable and secure global Internet.

As I stated, my comments were based on strong, consistent and widespread concern expressed to me and to ICANN security staff by registry and registrar operators and others in a position to have relevant information and insights on threats to the DNS.

We agree that DNS security must be “a core strategic and operational priority”, and I appreciate the ccNSO’s interest in contributing to improving security, stability and resiliency efforts. Your willingness to assist us in conducting a survey of your community on their cyber security experiences is a constructive approach that would allow all interested parties to address this critical issue on the basis of objective information.

Specific data on the number and type of known attacks, performance degradation or outages, the level of investment in cyber security and related issues would deepen our understanding of the risks and provide the foundation for fact based policy development.

We would be happy to assist you in this effort and look forward to continuing dialogue with the ccNSO on this vital issue.

Warmly,

Rod Beckstrom