

**\* DRAFT UNDER REVIEW \***

## **The Roles and Responsibilities of ICANN's Security and Stability Advisory Committee and Root Server System Advisory Committee**

The Advisory Committees for Security and Stability (SSAC) and for the Root Server System (RSSAC) were established to channel technically expert advice to the ICANN Board, ICANN Community, and Internet technical communities. The SSAC has a particular focus on the internet identifier systems, and this is interpreted broadly to include such subjects as internet addressing, domain name system abuse, domain name system security, internationalized domain names, registration services, root server system, WHOIS, and ICANN planning. The RSSAC members are root server operators who bring their expertise on the root server system and the root zone to their advisory work.

Both the SSAC and RSSAC select non-voting liaisons to the ICANN Board. They participate in Board considerations providing their own technical knowledge as well as acting as channels of communication between the Board and the Advisory Committees.

The SSAC forms internal work parties that focus on self-selected issues of security and stability and prepare reports to share with the larger Internet community, as well as specific technical groups and the ICANN Board. They will prepare reports on ICANN policy questions when the committee shares a rough consensus that they have useful information to add to the policy process.

### **The Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC)**

The SSAC is made up of technical experts from a wider range of Internet specialties. Their bylaws-defined role is to advise the ICANN community and Board on matters relating to the *security and integrity of the Internet's naming and address allocation systems*.

The SSAC's bylaws-defined responsibilities include:

1. To communicate on security matters with the Internet technical community and the operators and managers of critical DNS infrastructure services, to include the root name server operator community, the top-level domain registries and registrars, the operators of the reverse delegation trees such as in-addr.arpa and ip6.arpa, and others as events and developments dictate. The Committee shall gather and articulate requirements to offer to those engaged in technical revision of the protocols related to DNS and address allocation and those engaged in operations planning.
2. To engage in ongoing threat assessment and risk analysis of the Internet naming and address allocation services to assess where the principal threats to stability and security lie, and to advise the ICANN community accordingly. The Committee shall recommend any necessary audit activity to assess the current status of DNS and address allocation security in relation to identified risks and threats.
3. To communicate with those who have direct responsibility for Internet naming and address allocation security matters (IETF, RSSAC, RIRs, name registries, etc.), to ensure that its advice on security risks, issues, and priorities is properly synchronized with existing standardization, deployment, operational, and coordination activities. The Committee shall monitor these activities and inform the ICANN community and Board on their progress, as appropriate.
4. To report periodically to the Board on its activities.
5. To make policy recommendations to the ICANN community and Board.

## The Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC)

The role of the RSSAC is to advise the ICANN community and Board on matters *relating to the operation, administration, security, and integrity of the Internet's Root Server System*. It is composed of representatives from each of the root server operators. Included in regular meetings are liaisons from the root zone administrator (NTIA), root zone maintainer (Verisign), IANA Functions Operator, the IAB, and the SSAC.

The RSSAC's responsibilities include:

1. Communicate on matters relating to the operation of the Root Servers and their multiple instances with the Internet technical community and the ICANN community. The Committee shall gather and articulate requirements to offer to those engaged in technical revision of the protocols and best common practices related to the operation of DNS servers.
2. Communicate on matters relating to the administration of the Root Zone with those who have direct responsibility for that administration. These matters include the processes and procedures for the production of the Root Zone File.
3. Engage in ongoing threat assessment and risk analysis of the Root Server System and recommend any necessary audit activity to assess the current status of root servers and the root zone.
4. Report periodically to the Board on its activities.
5. Make policy recommendations to the ICANN community and Board.