rm -rf SHA-1: Algorithm Rolls En Masse

Howard Eland
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Background

- Over 50 million resource records pre-DNSSEC
- Started DNSSEC operations in 2008
- NSEC3 with Opt Out, Algorithm 7 (RSASHA1-NSEC3-SHA1)
- Type 1 and 2 DS records
- Hash Iterations = 1, static salt, next KSK pre-publish
Driving Factors

Scope

While removing risk of using SHA-1 was the impetus behind this project, we took this opportunity to also:

• Examine original DNSSEC implementation choices
• Reassess: does what made sense then still make sense now?
• Evaluate signer capabilities with newer algorithms

Zones In Scope

• 209 TLDs
• 208 nic.$TLD zones, second level and sub-zones
• 417 zones total

Bonus Challenges

• Many TLDs were also mid-KSK roll
• Many Customers are the IANA Administrative contact
• ICANN knocking on our door
• Tools starting to warn about SHA-1 (DNSViz, etc.)
Research

Learned from others’ strife

With MANY thanks to all:

- DNSSEC Algorithm Roll-over | RIPE Labs

- Keep 'm rolling: monitoring .se's DNSSEC algorithm rollover

Lab Testing

- Algorithm tests
  - SHA-256 ran without issues
  - ECDSA took too long for production signing

- Other testing:
  - Hash iteration increase to 100
  - Stop KSK pre-publish
  - Dropping DS type 1
  - RFC 6781, Section 4.1.4, conservative
  - Signer operations at each stage
Focus on Education and Notification

• Account Managers: KSK & algorithm roll processes, timelines
• Customers: what we’re doing, and why
• IANA: Flood Warning

• Tracking in Notion!
  • Zones in table, with current status
  • Kanban and Gantt chart views

Zone Batches

For a given zone, finish KSK rolls, then proceed directly into algorithm rolls.

• TLD Batches
  • Proof of Concept (small subset of Afilias zones)
  • Afilias
  • PIR
  • newTLDs
  • ccTLDs
  • Australia

• nic.$TLD batches in parallel with parent zones
Away We Go!

- Process start on Batch 1: 31 Aug 2020
- Most zones completed process in about 54 days
  - Each zone required 1 or 2 RZM requests
  - Re-signs on 1, 9, 17, 25 of each month
  - Most relevant TTLs were 86,400
- Current status: 416 / 417 completed
  - Last TLD is finishing first KSK roll
- Expected finish: 30 Jun 2021
Results

- All zones now on algorithm 8
- Single DS, digest type 2
- Salt changed
- Hash iterations ultimately reduced to 10
- KSK pre-publish removed
- ZSK no longer signing DNSKEY RRSet
Before and After - red TLD
Challenges

- One zone had some signatures drop for short period of time
  - Signer bug triggered by configuration change
- “Auto-manual” RZM changes
  - Scripts to generate request data, check request before lodging, confirmation emails
  - Manual Q/C after each step, Notion updates
  - Couple of “odd” RZM process states - self-cleared?
- Delays waiting for ROs to confirm RZM requests
  - Some needed contact changes, “letterhead” style
- Plus something about a global pandemic...
Recommendations / Lessons Learned

• Keep IANA contacts current!
  • Role accounts, with group email addresses

• Watch timings carefully
  • Ensure you leave enough time between steps
  • Know which TTLs affect which steps

• Communications key
  • Inform everyone impacted - no avoidable surprises

• Know your systems limitations
  • Lab test every step
Shoutouts

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Thank You - Questions?

I can be reached at: heland@afilias.info ^H^H^H howard@donuts.email