

RSSAC Statement on Entries in DNS Root Sources

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As a requirement for the function of the DNS protocol, “root servers” must be defined and available to client systems. The necessary technical information for the root servers is maintained by the IANA Functions Operator in three key sources:

1. The root hints file¹
2. The root zone²
3. The root-servers.net zone³

The DNS root server information contained in these sources are attributes of an organization responsible for the operation of a DNS root server. In particular, the names used for the root service are mapped to specific IP addresses (IPv4 and IPv6) under the control of the Root Server Operators (RSOs).

For an RSO to implement DNS root services for the global DNS client systems, the RSO’s DNS root server information needs to be included in these sources. Conversely, the inclusion of DNS root server information in these sources identifies DNS RSOs.

¹ See Root Hints File, <http://www.internic.net/domain/named.root>

² See Root Zone File, <http://www.internic.net/domain/root.zone>

³ See RSSAC023, Section 2.6, <https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/rssac-023-04nov16-en.pdf>