



2 September 2008

Ms Meredith A. Baker
Acting Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information
United States Department of Commerce
National Telecommunications and Information Administration
WASHINGTON, DC 20230

Dear Hon. Assistant Secretary Baker,

Attached, please find ICANN's proposal to sign the root zone file with DNSSEC technology. This proposal has been written by ICANN staff, as authorized by ICANN's Board, with the goal to proceed with appropriate speed and deploy DNSSEC at the root level as a step towards improving the overall security of the DNS.

As mentioned to you in my letter of 16 August 2008, to ensure a technically sound proposal, this document has already been reviewed by a group of DNSSEC experts. These include members and liaisons of ICANN's Board (including Steve Crocker, Suzanne Wolf, Harlad Alvestrand, and Thomas Narten), and externally include Vint Cerf, Olaf Kolkman, Russ Housley, Patrik Falstrom and Steve Bellovin. The feedback ICANN received from this group indicates that the proposal is technically sound, and appropriate.

The proposal envisions that ICANN, VeriSign and the NTIA all have an ongoing role in producing and distributing the signed root zone. Based on the chain of trust notion at the core of DNSSEC, the proposal suggests modifications to the current roles.

While this proposal strives to be clear and direct, inevitably there will be some items that require clarification and discussion. It may well be useful to have an early teleconference or in-person meeting with NTIA (and its designees) and ICANN representatives to provide this clarification; if helpful, I will make ICANN staff available at your earliest convenience.

As you will see from the attached proposal, ICANN's community has also called for ICANN to take action with respect to DNSSEC-signing the root zone file. At the core of ICANN's processes is the notion of community consultation. In some weeks, ICANN will, of necessity, seek community feedback on this proposal, as evolved in consultation with NTIA.



This is a moment of challenge and opportunity in addressing the overall stability and security of the DNS system; the mission around which ICANN was formed. Working with the NTIA, ICANN looks forward to take action that will fulfill on that promise for all those around the world who depend daily on the Internet.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul D Twomey".

Paul Twomey
President and CEO

cc: Fiona Alexander
Suzanne Senne
Vernita Harris
ICANN Board
Vint Cerf
Doug Brent
Paul Levins