



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

**ICANN**

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

16 August 2008

*Meredith*

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary Baker

As you are aware, ICANN recently released a paper that articulated ICANN's initiatives toward operational readiness for Domain Name Security Extension (DNSSEC) signing. We did this because our strategic and operating plans call for ICANN to be operationally ready to deploy DNSSEC at the root level.

However, both the need and the interest in digitally signing the root zone has been made more acute by the reporting of two domain name system (DNS) vulnerabilities (with which I know you are familiar) by a prominent security researcher. Full deployment of DNSSEC would be a solution to these vulnerabilities. The first step in attaining this solution is making specific plans for, then implementing DNSSEC at the root level. Ultimately, securing the DNS infrastructure will require implementing DNSSEC at every level. This larger piece of work will be enabled and energized by signing the root.

Implementation of DNSSEC of course requires approval by the United States Department of Commerce through the IANA functions contract that ICANN operates.

Recognizing this, ICANN intends to provide a detailed proposal to the Department this month.

The USG has a clear and demonstrated commitment and interest in the security and stability of the Internet. I am providing advance notice to you so you have confidence that ICANN shares that interest and is moving swiftly to develop a proposal. This proposal will preserve the tripartite relationship between the Department, Verisign and ICANN by which the root zone is presently published; it will consider the range of possible solutions and will ensure that experts on this issue are engaged and have confidence in what is proposed so that it can be reasonably and practically implemented.

I look forward to discussing the proposal with you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

*Paul D. Twomey*  
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President and CEO

cc Ms Fiona Alexander, NTIA

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