

From: Andrew McConachie andrew.mcconachie@icann.org
Subject: DNSSEC Signing root-servers.net
Date: 11 April 2025 at 15:44
To: Geoff Huston gih@apnic.net
Cc: Rssac-admin-committee rssac-admin-committee@icann.org, Lars-Johan Liman liman@netnod.se

The message below is sent on behalf of the RSSAC and its Chair.

Dear Geoff,

Thank you for the RZERC correspondence of March 7, concerning the DNSSEC signing of root-servers.net. The RSSAC has discussed this letter and would like to better understand the context and background of the RZERC's recommendation to sign root-servers.net. Thus, the RSSAC would like to hold an online session for members of the RSSAC and RZERC to discuss this proposal.

In preparation for the call, we identified five discussion points we would like to discuss and understand better.

1. Signing root-servers.net mitigates the risk of a redirected query traffic attack only when authoritative queries are made for the root server identifier addresses. According to the May 2024 NLnet Labs / SIDN Report, this risk reduction is estimated at 1.2%. However, this must be weighed against potential operational risks that require careful evaluation. The RSSAC wonders whether the benefits outweigh the risks.
2. Is RZERC the right body at ICANN to be advocating for the signing of root-servers.net? The charter of the RZERC is limited to the evolution of the root zone as we understand it.
3. According to page 22 of the May 2024 NLnet Labs report, signing root-servers.net could result in an additional 30% more queries to root servers if resolvers began revalidating root server address RRsets. Was this concern considered?
4. There is a concern among some members of RSSAC that more closely aligning the fate of root server addresses with the fate of root-servers.net and the .net zone might lead to decreased stability.
5. RSSAC028 proposed multiple schemes for root server naming. It might be better to devise a more comprehensive plan for root server renaming before deciding if and how the names need to be signed as otherwise we may be duplicating the signing effort..

Please let us know if you and other members of the RZERC would be able to attend a joint call with RSSAC so staff can begin scheduling it. It would also be useful if there are any additional discussion topics the RZERC would like to discuss for this call.

Sincerely,
Jeff Osborn
RSSAC Chair