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AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ALAC Statement to the Board Regarding Security and Stability Implications of New gTLDs

Introduction

Julie Hammer, ALAC Liaison to the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) and At-Large member from the Asian, Australasian and Pacific Islands Regional At-Large Organization (APRALO) composed an initial draft of this Statement after discussion of the topic within At-Large and on the Mailing Lists.

On 9 May 2013, this Statement was posted on the [ALAC Statement to the Board Regarding Security and Stability Implications of New gTLDs Workspace](#).

On that same day, Olivier Crépin-Leblond, Chair of the ALAC, requested ICANN Policy Staff in support of ALAC to send a Call for Comments on the draft Statement to all At-Large members via the [ALAC Announce Mailing List](#).

On 20 May 2013, a version incorporating the comments received was posted and the Chair requested that Staff open a five-day ALAC ratification vote on the Statement.

On 31 May 2013, Staff confirmed that the online vote resulted in the ALAC endorsing the Statement with 11 votes in favor, 0 votes against, and 1 abstention. You may review the result independently under: <https://www.bigpulse.com/pollresults?code=3145rdzTJ96ez4SHnYeK2lwQ>

The Chair then requested that the Statement be transmitted to the Public Comment process, copying the ICANN Staff member responsible for this Public Comment topic.

Summary

1. The ALAC recognizes the achievements of the ICANN Security Team working in conjunction with the CAB Forum to limit the period of vulnerability of internal networks holding certificates which conflict with new gTLDs.
2. The ALAC urges the Board to closely monitor the work being done by the ICANN Security Team with the CAB Forum and ensure the Board's decisions are informed by the progress of this work to reduce risk. Request from the ICANN CEO an interim mechanism that can yield appropriate solutions efficiently and on an urgent basis that may involve the following:
3. The ALAC urges the Board to take full consideration of relevant SSAC advice and recommendations to ensure that residual risk is minimized and specifically that residual risk is not transferred to third parties such as current registry operators, new gTLD applicants, registrants, consumers and individual end users.

The original version of this document is the English text available at <http://www.atlarge.icann.org/correspondence>. Where a difference of interpretation exists or is perceived to exist between a non-English edition of this document and the original text, the original shall prevail.

ALAC Statement to the Board Regarding Security and Stability Implications of New gTLDs

The recent ICANN 46 Meeting in Beijing gave visibility to a number of issues of concern related to security and stability of the DNS in the context of the rollout of new gTLDs. The majority of these issues have been highlighted in past SAC Reports, specifically:

- SAC042 – SSAC Comment on the Root Scaling Study Team Report and the TNO Report
- SAC045 – Invalid Top Level Domain Queries at the Root Level in the Domain Name System
- SAC046 – Report of the Security and Stability Advisory Committee on Root Scaling
- SAC057 – SSAC Advisory on Internal Name Certificates

The ALAC notes that expressions of concern have also been raised by PayPal on 15 March 2013 in a letter to the CEO and by Verisign on 28 March 2013 in a letter to the Chairman and CEO.

Following on from SAC057, the ALAC recognizes the achievements of the ICANN Security Team working in conjunction with the CAB Forum to limit the period of vulnerability of internal networks holding certificates which conflict with new gTLDs. The ALAC urges the Board to closely monitor the work being done by the ICANN Security Team with the CAB Forum and ensure the Board's decisions are informed by the progress of this work to reduce risk.

The ALAC also recognizes that the Board, in making decisions related to the rollout of new gTLDs, must take into account factors other than security and stability, including commitments made to new gTLD applicants. However, the ALAC urges the Board to take full consideration of relevant SSAC advice and recommendations to ensure that residual risk is minimized and specifically that residual risk is not transferred to third parties such as current registry operators, new gTLD applicants, registrants, consumers and individual end users.