Root Server System Governance Working Group
Teleconference #19 | 12 November 2020 | 22:00 UTC

ATTENDANCE

RSS GWG
Luis Diego Espinoza   ccTLD Registries Representative
Ted Hardie   IAB Representative
Hiro Hotta   RSO Representative
Geoff Huston   IAB Representative
Lito Ibarra   Alternate Liaison from the ICANN Board
Peter Janssen   ccTLD Registries Representative
Lars-Johan Liman   RSO Representative
Kurt Pritz   gTLD Registries Representative
Kim Davies   Liaison from the IANA
Tripti Sinha   Liaison from the ICANN Board
Brad Verd   RSO Representative
Duane Wessels   Liaison from the Root Zone Maintainer
Suzanne Woolf   SSAC Representative
Hanyu Yang   gTLD Registries Representative

ICANN org
Adiel Akplogan
Xavier Calvez
Paul Hoffman
David Olive
Wendy Profit
Carlos Reyes
Mary Wong

Observers
Akinori Maemura

MINUTES

Call to Order
Ted Hardie called the teleconference to order at 22:03 UTC and reviewed the proposed agenda. There were no objections to the agenda.

Administration
Carlos Reyes reviewed the draft minutes of teleconference #18 on 29 October 2020. There were no objections to publishing the minutes.

<u>ACTION ITEM:</u> Carlos Reyes to publish the approved minutes on the RSS GWG workspace.

Financial Considerations
Geoff Huston provided an update noting that the draft text contains both the "what" and "why". The five paragraphs dedicated to resourcing for Public Root Services (PRS) have not changed much. PRS would provide an expression of support to Root Server Operators (RSOs) via a grant, available in an equal amount.

Geoff Huston disagreed with many of the reasons provided in the rationale section. Furthermore, it should not be up to PRS and ICANN to provide emergency funding. Geoff Huston acknowledged that sound and healthy funding would enhance the stability of the Root Server System (RSS), but it is not absolutely critical now given the decades of consistent root service. The role of funding is to support a neutral, fair, and impartial root service infrastructure that allows RSOs to operate with attributes of independence, autonomy, and integrity.

Ted Hardie noted that there is no change in need from RSOs but rather how to manage the source of funding for RSOs. Brad Verd referred to an inflection point for identifying the level of acceptable risk for the RSS as the motivation for availability of centralized emergency funding. Brad Verd also asked about how accountability would work through a grant-based funding model. Geoff Huston emphasized that an RSO's commitment to meeting service levels should be independent of funding. Ted Hardie reframed the discussion by proposing that the PRS is designed to provide support for the RSS through grants.

Brad Verd reiterated the point about the availability of emergency funding in extraordinary circumstances. Paul Hoffman raised the scenario of an RSO shutting down, and Brad Verd noted that the Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC) has published a document outlining that the unavailability of a single RSO does not impact the RSS. Lars-Johan Liman agreed that PRS could provide funding outside of the grant program when the RSS environment changes dramatically to ensure RSOs can provide a new level of root service.

Suzanne Woolf suggested that setting up the structure and basic principles of the Financial Function should be the level of guidance the RSS GWG provides, leaving the details for implementation by PRS. Kurt Pritz explained that the assumptions for funding create the set of conditions enabling RSOs to meet the conditions; the assumptions are not barriers. Ted Hardie suggested recasting the assumptions to support the grant-based model.

Geoff Huston stated that there are two roles for PRS: PRS has to advocate to ICANN the amount of money for the grant program, and PRS has to undertake contingency arrangements for funding outside of the grant program. Suzanne Woolf noted that the second role could be risk management. Luis Diego Espinoza agreed.

Tripti Sinha raised a concern about the word "grant" because it minimizes global root service. Geoff Huston noted that there is no common understanding how much it costs to operate root service. Diversity is an intrinsic strength of the RSS.

Ted Hardie proposed having a structural document about PRS and SAPF and a rationale document for PRS and SAPF. Ted Hardie stressed that the job of PRS is to support the RSS by making grants and having contingency funds available, reacting when there is a problem for the whole RSS. Furthermore, the grant-based model focused on the needs of the RSS rather than the needs of an individual RSO.

ACTION ITEM: Geoff Huston, Kurt Pritz, and Suzanne Woolf to address the issue of contingency funding in their discussions about resourcing for PRS.

Any Other Business
There were no additional agenda items.

Adjournment
Ted Hardie adjourned the teleconference at 22:59 UTC.