

Root Server System Governance Working Group
Teleconference #22 | 17 December 2020 | 22:00 UTC

ATTENDANCE

RSS GWG

Kim Davies	Liaison from the IANA
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
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
Carlos Reyes
Mary Wong

Apologies

Tripti Sinha Liaison from the ICANN Board

Absences

Luis Diego Espinoza ccTLD Registries Representative

MINUTES

Call to Order

Ted Hardie called the teleconference to order at 22:04 UTC and reviewed the proposed agenda. There were no objections to the agenda.

Administration

Carlos Reyes reviewed the draft minutes of teleconference #21 on 3 December 2020. There were no objections to publishing the minutes.

ACTION ITEM: Carlos Reyes to publish the approved minutes on the RSS GWG workspace.

Resourcing for PRS

Geoff Huston reviewed recent discussions about accountability of funds. Per its 501(c)3 status, ICANN requires more information for disbursement of funds. Geoff Huston added text to the paper to capture this requirement. Any Root Server Operator (RSO) that accepts funds from Public Root Services (PRS) would have to disclose how those funds have been put to use in support of the Root Server System (RSS). Kurt Pritz agreed that the accountability requirements were vital, and recipients of any funds will provide the necessary information to ensure ICANN meets its fiduciary obligations. Geoff Huston cautioned against multidirectional accountability relationships to ICANN org and PRS for an RSO. This scenario leads to confusion. Geoff Huston emphasized that PRS represents the RSS in its relationship with ICANN. Further requirements between RSOs and ICANN would be inappropriate, infringing upon RSO independence. Ted Hardie summarized the discussion, and Suzanne Woolf agreed.

ACTION ITEM: Ted Hardie to seek legal advice on an appropriate collective noun for various agreements RSOs may sign with PRS.

Mary Wong suggested separating the conversations of accountability, legal structures, and finances.

Rationale for RSO Funding

Ted Hardie noted that understanding the rationale for funding is important. The obligations of an RSO have assessments to determine whether or not an RSO continues. These assessments are separate from funding. Receiving funding requires disclosure. Geoff Huston expressed concern with the fourth assumption that funding from ICANN is a last resort. RSOs should have the option to cover expenses in various ways. ICANN should be helping and not underwriting. Paul Hoffman noted that there could be two states for RSOs in the future: meeting the obligations or exceeding the obligations. Kurt Pritz stated that the fourth assumption was not intended to create a requirement. Ted Hardie suggested removing the fourth assumption; Lars-Johan Liman agreed. Kurt Pritz noted that it is preferable to start with a simple model and consider changes if necessary.

Geoff Huston said that the funding mechanism deliberately avoids referring to need or quality of service to ensure RSO independence. Suzanne Woolf advised staying away from passing judgment on the various funding models and sources of funding that exist among RSOs.

Next Steps

Ted Hardie stated that Duane Wessels will merge the PRS and SAPF papers into a single document. This new document along with the rationale paper will be shared with relevant

communities for review. The next step will be to share the documents and requirements with ICANN org. The RSS GWG agreed with this approach.

Any Other Business

Paul Hoffman provided an overview of the latest publication from the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO). OCTO-021 explains the operations of root service at an accessible technical level. Paul Hoffman welcomed comments. Geoff Huston noted his concerns had been addressed except for the section on potential outcomes of the RSS GWG work. Ted Hardie agreed that more context would be helpful.

Adjournment

Ted Hardie adjourned the teleconference at 22:53 UTC.