

Root Server System Governance Working Group

Teleconference 48 | Thursday, 25 August 2022 | 22:00 UTC

ATTENDANCE

RSS GWG

Fred Baker	RSOs
Wes Hardaker	RSOs
Hiro Hotta	RSOs
Geoff Huston	IAB
Peter Koch	ccTLD Registries
Kurt Pritz	gTLD Registries
Ashwin Rangan	RSOs
Ken Renard	RSOs
Karl Reuss	RSOs
Tripti Sinha	Liaison from the ICANN Board
Ryan Stephenson	RSOs
Brad Verd	RSOs
Paul Vixie	RSOs
Duane Wessels	Liaison from the RZM
Suzanne Woolf	SSAC

Excused

Jim Reid	IAB
Kim Davies	Liaison from the IANA
Lars-Johan Liman	RSOs

Absent

Luis Diego Espinoza	ccTLD Registries
Akinori Maemura	Alternate Liaison from the ICANN Board
Kaveh Ranjbar	RSOs
Barbara Schleckser	RSOs
Hanyu Yang	gTLD Registries

Observers

John Augenstein	RSOs
Robert Carolina	RSOs
Erum Welling	RSOs
Paul Hoffman	ICANN org
David Olive	ICANN org
Wendy Profit	ICANN org
Carlos Reyes	ICANN org

MINUTES

Call to Order

Brad Verd 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 for teleconference 47 on 11 August 2022. There were no objections to publishing the draft minutes.

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

Carlos Reyes reviewed the schedule for the planned GWG sessions during ICANN75 and provided an update on planning for a GWG workshop in late November/early December 2022.

Defining RSS Capture

Carlos Reyes reviewed the proposed definition of root server system (RSS) capture:

RSS capture is a situation where a single entity or a group of entities intentionally exert undue, external influence and control over the decision-making processes or service (e.g., data content modification) of a critical mass of RSOs to the disadvantage of the RSS and against the principles of RSS governance.

Carlos Reyes also provided a summary of the discussions of the small team, which consisted of Luis Diego Espinoza, Hiro Hotta, Peter Koch, Lars-Johan Liman, and Paul Vixie. Peter Koch noted that the small team discussed the concept of intent and the risks associated with different scenarios such as organizational capture without operational impact. Brad Verd asked about the content modification example. Paul Vixie mentioned that another long-standing concern has been different understandings of public interest. Brad Verd stated the importance of root server operator (RSO) independence and shared acquisitions as another example.

Geoff Huston asked if the proposed definition has been applied to the current situation, particularly with regard to the influence of national interests. Wes Hardaker noted that the Internet Architecture Board has a statement on the need for a global, unified namespace. Peter Koch said the small team discussed the chain of command issues with three United States (US)-based RSOs and the regulatory pressure from the European Union.

Fred Baker cited the US Securities Act of 1933 definition of control. Robert Carolina asked why “to the disadvantage of the RSS and against the principles of RSS governance” and the concept of intent were included in the definition. Furthermore, Robert Carolina cautioned that including intent is a risk because capture should be avoided regardless of intent. Suzanne Woolf agreed that it makes sense to refine the issue of intent. Robert Carolina stated that having multiple legitimate interests is better than centralized control. Geoff Huston suggested that the scope of the discussion should also consider political independence. Paul Vixie agreed that this topic should be considered.

Brad Verd asked why the number of RSOs necessary to maintain RSS operations is out of scope. Peter Koch explained that the small team did not want to define a threshold for capture. Paul Vixie advised the GWG to proceed carefully because the world will want to understand what happens in the event of capture and who has the responsibility to respond.

Hiro Hotta led the GWG through three hypothetical scenarios. Wes Hardaker asked about the risk of financial capture from one source. Robert Carolina distinguished capture by a single source of funding from capture by a controlling organization. Ashwin Rangan stated that diversity in financial, political, and technical domains serves as a counterweight to capture. Brad Verd stated that governance implies some level of capture is acceptable. The GWG should define those checks and balances.

Any Other Business

There were no additional agenda items. The next teleconference will be Thursday, 8 September 2022 at 22:00 UTC.

Adjournment

Brad Verd adjourned the teleconference at 22:57 UTC.