

Root Server System Governance Working Group

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Report to the ICANN Board Technical Committee (BTC)

29 October 2020

Overview

Since early August 2020, the RSS GWG has focused its discussions on the community composition of the Strategy, Architecture, and Policy Function (SAPF) and on the structure of Public Root Services (PRS) of its emerging proposal called “NewOrg”. Two writing teams composed of RSS GWG members produced papers for RSS GWG discussion.

The RSS GWG has agreed that:

- SAPF is a community-based group that is focused on the management of the strategy and architecture of the Root Server System (RSS).
- This includes the development of policies related to this function that are to be communicated to the PRS Board for implementation.
 - The SAPF role encompasses both the study of technical aspects of the provision of the root service and the broader consideration of the overall architecture of root service provision and the strategies that will align the root service to these architectural principles.
- SAPF will also be the focal point for community engagement with these tasks and should ensure that its actions are supported through stakeholder engagement.
- SAPF is chartered by the PRS Board, and the terms of reference for this group are provided by the PRS Board.
 - These terms of reference may be amended by the PRS Board according to the processes adopted by NewOrg.
- PRS is a non-profit corporation whose purpose is to coordinate and oversee the entities providing resolution services for the root zone.
- PRS has an operational role. It does not develop policy, but rather, carries out policies developed by the Strategy, Architecture, and Policy Function (SAPF).
- PRS is constituted as an affiliate of ICANN, modeled after the relationship between Public Technical Identifiers (PTI) and ICANN.
 - As a legal entity, PRS is a Limited Liability Corporation (LLC), whose single member is ICANN. As such it will have its own articles of incorporation, bylaws, board of directors, and budget. Directors are elected by ICANN as the single member of the corporation.
- PRS is tasked with fulfilling the following roles and services:
 - The Performance Monitoring and Measurement Function (PMMF)
 - The Finance Function through contracts and/or agreements with Root Server Operators (RSOs)
 - Secretariat Function for SAPF, PRS Board, and the RSOs
- PRS maintains relationships with other bodies involved in RSS governance, including:

- RSOs
- PTI
- SAPF
- Root Zone Maintainer (RZM)

Joint Meetings

The RSS GWG met with the Root Server System Advisory Committee (RSSAC) on Thursday, 8 October 2020. The two groups provided updates to each other about their recent work, including a proposed Memorandum of Understanding/Letter of Intent that RSSAC developed as input to the RSS GWG. The two groups also met with the ICANN Board on Wednesday, 14 October 2020.

Membership

Kim Davies replaced Naela Sarras as the liaison from the IANA, and Suzanne Woolf replaced Joe Abley as the representative from the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC).

Next Steps

The RSS GWG will consider how to integrate the SAPF and PRS papers and will elaborate the relationship between NewOrg and ICANN, focusing on financial considerations. The RSS GWG intends to provide a document for ICANN org feedback in the coming weeks for ongoing discussion. The RSS GWG will also review and update its work plan.