

RSSAC RSS Metrics WP Teleconference Call
Thursday, 28 February 2019 | 15:00 - 16:00 UTC

ATTENDANCE

Akira Kato, Dessalegn Yehula, Abdulkarim Oloyede, Kazunori Fujiwara, Paul Hoffman, Ihtisham Khalid, Duane Wessels, Karl Reuss, Brad Verd, Kevin Wright, Shinta Sato, Jaap Akkerhuis, Fred Baker, Ken Renard, Russ Mundy, Ryan Stephenson, Amir Qayyum.

Staff: Andrew McConachie, Steve Sheng and Mario Aleman.

ACTION ITEMS

- Staff to create a Google doc to discuss further the scope of the work party.
- Staff to circulate meeting notes and transcripts of the teleconference.
- Staff to discuss work party leaders on the mailing list.
- Staff to schedule the next RSS Work Party meetings on 11 March 2019 at ICANN64, 25 March 2019 at IETF104, and third week of April 2019 at 15:00 UTC (to be confirmed).

NOTES

Brad: Good morning all. This is Brad, I am the shepherd on this work party.

Brad: Let's begin with introductions.

[introductions]

Brad: Statement work. This is very important piece of work.

Brad: The first bullet is to define the verifiable metrics for the root server system. The second one is to define the measurements for the RSOs. These are interrelated and different.

Brad: The goal here is to define what good look like, for the root server system as a whole, as well as for the individual RSOs. What does good look like?

Brad: the first part of the discussion, what needs to be measures? Those could apply to both the RSS or the operators.

Brad: The second part, people would become much more engaged in. What are the thresholds for the measurement, for a healthy root server system.

Brad: The first two bullets is a heavy lift.

Brad: The third bullet is to refine to BPQ. Those are associated with funding. Once you define what good looks like, you would then at funding.

Brad: With that, I would like to open up the discussion.

Brad: It comes down, do we break it into small groups or work sequentially.

Russ: Between bullet 1 and 2. Probably in people's head, is how those two bullets tie in with each other, measurements for the system and measurements with individual operators. We need to give some thought on how those two tie together?

Brad: Could you expand on tie together a bit?

Russ: Yes, one of the challenges we have is many organizations take measurements of individual RSOs, but put them together in a meaningful way has always been a challenges. If we use the existing measures for existing RSOs, and figure out how we combine some of them into a overall measurement for the system. Then we can say, perhaps we can tackle bullet 2 first, before going to bullet one. On the other hand, if we try to figure this out from the system perspective, then we work on bullet one and then bullet two.

Paul: The first bullet has a list of three things: online, serving correct, and timely. Under deliverables it talks about updating RSSAC001/2. Online and correct is measurable, but timely is what other efforts failed addressing RSS as a whole. My question is are we defining timely?

Paul: So my question is are we inventing new things? Or just go by what's that's already done?

Brad: Thank you Paul. My two cents. If we need to invent something, then let's invent it. While the SOW calls a set of deliverables and scope, if the scope and deliverable needs to be changed, that's ok. We just need to explain the change to the RSSAC. The SOW is not meant to be 100% perspective. It is a guideline. If things need to change, they need to change.

Brad: Do we take what we've done? I think that's a starting point. But RSSAC001, in conversation with couple of people, there is really not a lot of teeth into 001, so we need to more detailed driven and more specific. Hopefully, this body of work is really really important. This is really defining the technical accountability for the root server operators and root server system as a whole.

Brad: There is a set of measurements root servers operators need to perform at X. We can define X here. We need to come up with that, we have not done that in the past, either in previous RFCs or in RSSAC. It is going to be challenging conversation, and we have to find a balance for everybody.

Brad: The measurements for the system. We need to focus on individual performance to the RSOs, but view is holistically. If I am a customer of RSO, what's a good service looks like. The RSS's performance from an end user perspective, so that they have a good experience. Whether it is 200ms, 2ms, or 2 seconds.

Duane: A couple of things. When Paul was talking about the first bullet, I am agreeing with him that some of these could be hard. I was thinking about distributing of the zone, rather than serving the zone, so already we have different understandings. So let's fix that along that.

Brad: Agree.

Duane: The other thing I want to state is I have a pretty strong feeling about the RSSAC001/002, to me what we are proposing is very different from those document. The output of this work party would be a new document that would update or obsolete RSSAC001/002.

Duane: Because here we are talking external metrics.

Brad: Thank you Duane, any other comments?

Steve: For the work party leader, the responsibility is work with staff to develop a timeline for the work, as well as a set of interim deliverables. The work party leader would run the meetings. Here is a 3:1 principle would work. For one hour teleconference, the work party leader need to spend three hours, 1 hour to prepare, one hour to follow up on action items. Finally, the work party leader

Brad: The intent of the SOW is not perspective. If a new document is created, great. If documents are updated, it is ok. We all agree finding what good looks like for RSOs and RSS is important and overdue.

Paul Hoffman: I am concerned with the last thing you just said. That it is imperative that we do this and that we have a tight deadline. People have thought about this for decades, and haven't come to any numeric conclusions. I think saying we can do this in 2 months is challenging.

Brad: Agreed. And I have no expectation that this will happen in 2 months. I think it's been hard for a number of reasons. I feel like thinking of trying to reinvent the wheel is the wrong way to think about this. There are lots of ways to measure this, so us trying to reinvent the wheel is not how I view this. I would like to review what is out there. This is my 2 cents. I think it's really important and needs to be done. I'm not saying this needs to be done in 2 months. However,

long this takes is however long this takes. The timelines we have now are to plan a little and do not constrain the output.

Paul: You just threw in a new word, Healthy. That we need to deal with. My group in ICANN is responsible for the Internet Health Identifiers and that word is also loaded.

Brad: These are just my opinions, not specific words that we need to notice and take down. Let's stay flexible.

Russ: I wanted to also note that many people on the call are familiar with RSSAC037/38, maybe not everyone. This particular piece of work is crucial to the success of RSAC037/38 and how we go about establishing that. One of the points of RSSAC037/38 is that there is some way to measure the RSS as a whole. That is one of the crucial aspects from an ongoing perspective in terms of how do we go about doing the RSSAC037/38 recommendations. They need a technical foundation and I believe that this is what is intended to provide.

Brad: I have to take off. I'm boarding an airplane in 2 minutes. Steve will take over moderation. To add to what you are saying, this body of work is the technical accountability of the RSS. Ultimately in my eyes will just be a plugin to implementation of 37/38. Without this work party's output I don't know what to do with 37/38. Rather than defining where we are today, if we were to build this thing anew what would good look like? Let's not re architect the RSS, I'm just talking about the measurement pieces that are out there. Those are my thoughts. I have to go board an airplane now.

Steve S: We talked about a bit earlier about how we go about this work. I would like to have a quick discussion about how to approach this work. Bullet 1-2 are related, and for these bullets does anyone have an idea of what to discuss on the next meeting?

Duane: It's a bit daunting because it's a big operation. Maybe just collect some opinions of people. If the work party participants could write 1-2 sentences on these proposed metrics. That would be a start.

Steve S: So you suggest each WP member try and give some ideas on these bullets.

Duane: Yes. How do people interpret the 1st bullet? What does it mean for the RSS to be online?

Russ: I was going to suggest something similar. Maybe no identical. The hardest one to tackle is the first one, for the system as a whole. Maybe staff can build a thing in a Google doc where it's easy for each WP member to comment on each of the aspects in the 1st bullet. Timely response. What does that mean? The reason I suggest the 1st bullet first is because we don't have a very good handle today on what the aspects of the system are as a whole. So let's try

and get an idea of what these bullets mean to people today. Something that would be easily filled out in a Google doc; here's what I think timely response means, etc. 1-3 sentences

Brad: I want to validate that this is a daunting task and I like to break it up into smaller exercise. Like we put post-its on the window and start organizing them. Like a brainstorming exercise. I think then we can group them into RSS vs RSO metrics. If you try and boil the ocean, I would like to avoid that. Let's just brainstorm on what the measurements are and come up with catalogue. Then we can group them into RSS and RSO, and take it further.

Steve S: Your proposal is to get all the measurements on the table, and don't worry about thresholds.

Paul H: I want to support what Brad just said, let's not worry about the actual numbers. But I think I will be more successful if we start with what Russ suggested. Let's start with the RSS as a whole, from the PoV of an end-user. I think if we do the idea that Russ said, first start with the RSS as a whole, get some ideas down. That will help us to then relate any aspects to individual RSOs. We know that resolvers work by picking one and then sticking with it for some time. I think we will have rapid movement on some and meandering on others.

In the past we have decided to use the Caucus mailing list and so I hope we can do that again for this brainstorming.

Steve S: It is agreed to engage the whole Caucus list to the whole Caucus list.

Ken Renard: It might be useful to add information about how that we might measure them. Does it apply to the RSS or to the RSOs. There are different things you could fill out per measurement.

Steve S: A quick summary. I heard a general agreement for a brainstorming summary on the metrics. And also on what people think what those criteria should be given the measurement. Let's quickly run through the last items.

Would anyone like to lead this group?

Duane: I would consider putting myself up for WP leader. Especially if there was a co-leader.

Russ: I would also be willing to help as a co-leader. But not by myself.

Steve: Let me circulate both names on the list and ask for anyone else. In the last minutes I will go over the next meetings. [walks through upcoming meetings]
[Akira Kato requests times be written in UTC]

I think we are at the top of the hour. Any last comments.

Duane: We have the RSSAC workshop starting on April 23rd, so that may be a travel date for people.

Mario: That is correct, Duane.