ICANN Specific Reviews - Second Security, Stability and Resiliency of the DNS Review (SSR2) Recommendation 24.1 - Implementation Documentation

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SSR2 Final Report https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/ssr2-review-team-final-report-25jan21-en.pdf

Board resolution on SSR2 Final Report https://www.icann.org/en/board-activities-and-meetings/materials/approved-resolutions-special-meeting-of-the-icann-board-16-11-2022-en#section2.d

May 2022 Board resolution on a set of pending SSR2 Recommendations: https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/ssr2-scorecard-01may22-en.pdf

November 2022 Board resolution on a set of pending SSR2 Recommendations: https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/scorecard-ssr2-pending-recs-board-action-16nov22-en.pdf

- Recommendation submitted: January 2021
- Recommendation approved: November 2022
- Implementation completed: n/a

See https://community.icann.org/display/SSR/Implementation for more information on SSR2 implementation.

SSR2 Recommendation 24.1

ICANN org should coordinate end-to-end testing of the full EBERO process at predetermined intervals (at least annually) using a test plan that includes datasets used for testing, progression states, and deadlines, and is coordinated with the ICANN contracted parties in advance to ensure that all exception legs are exercised, and publish the results.

Board Action on SSR2 Recommendation 24.1

The Board approves Recommendation 24.1 and notes it as complete. The Board notes clarification received from the SSR2 Implementation Shepherds that it is not intended for testing to be conducted on currently active TLDs with registrations. The Board notes that ICANN org's previously conducted testing on gTLDs that were in the process of terminating their registry agreements. Although these gTLDs did not have registrants, they could be considered "live." These tests allowed for ICANN to demonstrate the effectiveness and proper functioning of the EBERO process as well as fully review the process for issues and areas for improvement. The Board also notes that, in ICANN org agreements with the EBERO service providers, there is a provision which allows for EBERO Readiness Exercises to be conducted annually. These agreements also contain a full test plan and expectations from the EBERO service provider. Regarding "coordination with the ICANN contracted parties," the Board notes that, since the testing of the EBERO process would not involve a currently active TLD with registrations, as confirmed by the SSR2 Implementation Shepherds, coordination with the contracted parties is not necessary, and, additionally, in the case of an EBERO event, a contracted party would not be willing or able to participate. However, as was the case with the testing exercises noted above, ICANN org would coordinate any future such tests with the Registry Operators. In light of this analysis, the Board believes that the existing agreements, including provisions for readiness

exercises, as well as past tests, meet the requirements and success measures of this recommendation.

Final Implementation Report

SSR2 Recommendation 24.1 is considered fully implemented for the following reasons:
- There are provisions in the EBERO agreement which allow for EBERO Readiness Exercises. This includes a full test plan and expectations from the EBERO service providers, to be conducted when ICANN org notifies an EBERO Service Provider that testing and simulation of EBERO services should be performed. In particular, the EBERO agreement states "[u]pon notification by ICANN, EBERO Service Provider shall be subject to testing and simulation established in Exhibit E-1 and Exhibit E-2 to confirm its ability to provide the EBERO Services as specified in the [Common Transition Process] CTP Manual".
- The "predetermined intervals (at least annually)" requirement in the SSR2 Recommendation 23.1 is satisfied by the EBERO agreement to conduct tests at least one a year: "[a]ll EBEROs will support ICANN in developing a common "Emergency Registry Transition Plan" to be implemented by all contracted EBEROs. Transition services will: [. . .] Test the EBERO capabilities and readiness to accept and act upon an emergency transition at least once per year".
- The EBERO Readiness Exercise is intended to simulate the transfer of critical registry functions from a registry operator to an EBERO Service Provider. The primary objectives of the Readiness Exercise are: "meeting or exceeding service levels described in the Common Transition Process, and ensuring accuracy with respect to identifying and handling discrepancies between the data sources provided for the exercise". Details regarding the EBERO Readiness Exercise can be found in Exhibit E-2 of the EBERO agreement.

ICANN org demonstrated the ability to coordinate end-to-end testing of the full EBERO process with contracted parties. In the future, ICANN org could collaborate with contracted parties and EBERO Service Providers on full end-to-end EBERO exercises. For instance, in a Tech Day presentation at ICANN60 in Abu Dhabi, ICANN org's Technical Services Team provided an overview of the EBERO program, EBERO event triggers, the critical functions EBERO providers aim to preserve, and results from EBERO exercises conducted on three live-TLDs. The live-TLD EBERO exercises were conducted on three gTLDs that were in the process of terminating their registry agreements. The gTLDs only had one name registered and did not involve registrants. These exercises were performed using different EBERO service providers before the TLDs revocation from the root zone. Additional details and results from these exercises can be found in the ICANN60 - Abu Dhabi Tech Day presentation. These exercises help validate that the EBERO process functions as intended.

In its 22 July 2021 action on the SSR2 Final Report, the Board directed ICANN org "to seek clarity from the SSR2 Implementation Shepherds on elements of this recommendation that are not clear". ICANN org asked SSR2 Implementation Shepherds to clarify whether the intent of Recommendation 24.1 was for ICANN org to conduct EBERO testing on "live" gTLDs with registrations. SSR2 Implementation Shepherds' responded that "EBERO testing on "live" gTLDs is not anticipated". As a result, coordination with the contracted parties, as suggested in the SSR2 Recommendation 24.2, is not necessary.

Rationale

This recommendation has been implemented as detailed in the Final Implementation Report above.

Timeline

Expected implementation date: N/A
Final implementation date: This recommendation was considered complete at the time of Board action (16 November 2022).

Milestones

N/A.