

CSC Effectiveness Review

Initial Draft Report

Overall Findings

- The CSC is effective.
- Of the 14 metrics identified to conduct the review 8 were achieved, 3 were not applicable and 3 were not achieved.
 - Annual consultation with PTI and ICANN, the primary customers of the naming services, and the ICANN community regarding the performance of PTI was not conducted by the CSC. This was due to the pandemic.
 - Meeting attendance requirement in the Charter for CSC members was not achieved.
 - Meeting attendance requirement in the Charter for CSC Liaisons was not achieved.

Meeting Attendance

Requirements from the CSC Charter:

- The CSC shall meet at least once every month via teleconference at a time and date agreed upon members of the CSC.
- CSC appointees must attend a minimum of nine meetings in a one-year period, and must not be absent for more than two consecutive meetings. Failure to meet this requirement may result in the Chair of the CSC requesting a replacement from the respective organisation.
- The full membership of the CSC must be approved by the ccNSO and the GNSO. While it will not be the role of the ccNSO and GNSO to question the validity of any recommended appointments to the CSC they will take into account the overall composition of the proposed CSC in terms of geographic diversity and skill sets.

Requirements from the Guideline: CSC Practices

- A CSC meeting shall be quorate if the 4 (four) Members are present at the meeting. The notes will state if the meeting was quorate, or, if only quorate for a part of the meeting, state which items of business were discussed when quorate. This internal rule will be reviewed in conjunction with the first review of the CSC charter.

Meeting Attendance

Review Team findings:

- The composition of the CSC is geographically diverse.
- Meeting times are rotated to accommodate the time zone challenges associated with the geographic diversity.
- This rotation of meeting times makes it difficult for the CSC to achieve the attendance requirements prescribed in the CSC Charter.
- This rotation can also impact the ability of the CSC to meet their quorum requirement.

Meeting Attendance

Recommendations:

- The ccNSO and RySG should each appoint one alternate representative that can attend a CSC meeting on behalf of an appointed member for any reason. This is intended to address both the attendance and quorum requirements.
- The Liaison appointing organisations should also appoint an alternate representative. This is intended to address the attendance requirements.
- The CSC, in consultation with the appointing organisations, should decide how to implement this recommendation.

Chair of the CSC

Requirement from the CSC Charter:

- The Chair of the CSC will be elected on an annual basis by the CSC. Ideally the Chair will be a direct customer of the IANA naming function, and cannot be the IANA Functions Operator Liaison.

Review Team Findings:

- At the time this review was conducted, the Chair of the CSC was a Liaison of the CSC appointed by RSSAC.
- While the Charter notes that the Chair will ideally be a direct customer of the IANA naming function, the RT did not find the current arrangement in any way detrimental to the operation or effectiveness of the CSC.

Recommendation:

- The existing arrangements for appointing the Chair of the CSC work well.

Frequency of Meetings

Requirement of the Charter:

- The CSC shall meet at least once every month via teleconference at a time and date agreed upon by members of the CSC.

Review Team Findings:

- CSC meetings have become routine, are rarely controversial, and generally take less than 30 minutes to complete.
- The rotation of meeting times to accommodate the geographic diversity of the CSC is negatively impacting attendance levels.
- Regular meetings are considered important to maintain good working relationships and cohesion within the CSC, but also with PTI.
- The CSC suggested that meetings be held at least once every two months.

Frequency of Meetings

Recommendation:

- The CSC keeps the regular cadence of meetings.
- To address the negative impact on attendance levels, the Review Team recommends the appointment of alternate members and liaisons by the relevant appointing organisations.

Attracting capable volunteers

Requirement for the Charter:

- All candidates will be required to submit an Expression of Interest that includes a response addressing the following matters:
 - Why they are interested in becoming involved in the CSC.
 - What particular skills they would bring to the CSC.
 - Their knowledge of the IANA Functions.
 - Their understanding of the purpose of the CSC.
 - That they understand the time necessary required to participate in the CSC and can commit to this role.
- Each appointing organization is responsible for developing their own selection process.

Attracting capable volunteers

Review Team Findings:

- Interest in the work of the CSC seems to be diminishing.
- One of the organisations that originally appointed a liaison, declined to do so at the completion of the first term as the work of the CSC is of lesser priority than other work.
- Decreasing level of interest during the annual call for nominations.
- The description of qualifications may be a barrier to attracting candidates and should be reviewed.

Recommendation:

- Seek specific input from appointing organisations during the public comment consultation period on this issue.

Role of the CSC

Requirement from the Charter:

- The mission of the CSC is to ensure continued satisfactory performance of the IANA function for the direct customers of the naming services. The direct customers of the naming services are top-level domain registry operators, but also include root server operators and other non-root zone functions.
- The CSC's role is limited to monitoring "... PTI IANA Naming Function performance for the benefit and on behalf of the direct customers of the IANA Naming Function Services".

Role of the CSC

Review Team Findings:

- The limited role/scope of responsibility of the CSC may be detrimental in the future to attracting capable volunteers as the work of the CSC has become routine.
- The limited role/scope of responsibility of the CSC is considered a strength by the CSC, PTI and the PTI Board. They all expressed a concern that broadening the scope of responsibility of the CSC may compromise the strength and the reason for the CSC's success to date.

Recommendation:

- The role/scope of responsibility of the CSC should not be expanded.

Periodic review of PTI SLAs

Issue:

- The current SLAs were developed as part of the IANA Stewardship transition Process and reflected in the 2016 IANA Naming Function Contract. Given the passage of time the adequacy of the current SLAs may need to be reviewed.

Review Team Findings:

- The question of whether the SLAs should be reviewed periodically was a recurring theme of discussions with the CSC, PTI and PTI Board.
- It is unclear if a periodic review should be conducted as part of the IANA Function Review or by the CSC under its current mandate.
- The CSC and PTI each have specific roles in amending individual SLAs as part of the IANA Naming Function Contract and reflected in the CSC- PTI Process for Amending the IANA Naming Service Level Agreements.

Periodic review of PTI SLAs

Recommendation:

- A regular review of the SLAs would be appropriate to ensure that the SLAs remain current and relevant.
- The CSC, in close cooperation with PTI, develop a framework for regular reviews of the SLAs. The starting point for such a framework could be based on the Process for Amending the IANA Naming Service Level Agreements, specifically the mechanisms to ensure the involvement of the direct customers in the process.

Out of Scope of the Review

- The Team discussed the fact that the CSC is only responsible for monitoring IANA's performance as it relates to the naming functions and that IANA has other similar structures in place for the numbering functions and protocol parameter functions.
 - For the numbering functions IANA is accountable to the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) who establish an annual review committee to review IANA's performance for the previous year.
 - For the protocol parameter functions primarily provided for the IETF community, there is an IETF IANA Leadership Group that meets regularly and is also responsible for reviewing IANA's performance.
- The Team is of the view that given the import of the IANA function it may be beneficial for the CSC and their counterparts monitoring IANA's performance for the numbering and protocol parameters to meet on an annual basis to discuss their respective roles and provide an opportunity to discuss any concerns or issues that may have come to light during the year.

Recommendation:

- That the ccNSO and GNSO Councils, in consultation with the PTI Board, discuss the merits of this suggestion and pursue accordingly.