AT-LARGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ALAC Statement on the Continuous Data-Driven Analysis of Root Server System Stability Draft Report

Introduction

John Laprise, Member of the North American Regional At-Large Organization (NARALO) and Seun Ojedeji, ALAC Member of the African Regional At-Large Organization (AFRALO) developed an initial draft of the ALAC Statement on behalf of the ALAC.

On 29 November 2016, the first draft of the Statement was posted on the At-Large Continuous Data-Driven Analysis of Root Server System Stability Draft Report Workspace.

On that same date, Alan Greenberg, Chair of the ALAC, asked ICANN Policy Staff in support of the At-Large Community to send a Call for Comments on the Statement to the At-Large Community via the ALAC Announce Mailing List.

On 18 December 2016, a version incorporating the comments received was posted on the aforementioned workspace and the Chair requested that Staff open an ALAC ratification vote.

In the interest of time, the Chair requested that the Statement be transmitted to the ICANN public comment process, copying the ICANN Staff member responsible for this topic, with a note that the Statement is pending ALAC ratification.

On 22 December 2016, Staff confirmed that the online vote resulted in the ALAC endorsing the Statement with 11 votes in favor, 0 vote against, and 0 abstention. You may view the result independently under: https://www.bigpulse.com/pollresults?code=6471FpP4wAeEHI8c3xvgnmjp.

ALAC Statement on the Continuous Data-Driven Analysis of Root Server System Stability Draft Report

We concur with the report's recommendations including gradual delegation of new gTLDs, continuous monitoring of the impact of new gTLDs, and continuous monitoring of the identified risk parameters as well as its recommendations regarding areas of potential risk.

Additionally, special note should be taken of the report's warning about the impact on stability of removing new gTLDs from the root. This may be an area of future research.

Finally, the report notes that the report was unable to identify causes for a number of related phenomena such as the growth in the total number of queries that are sent to the root, specifically in the growth of the invalid queries which we believe should pose a concern. While acknowledging the complexity of the DNS root system, nevertheless these problems merit further research including but not limited to referral to SSAC and RSSAC as appropriate. We would recommend to explore possible provisioning of a dedicated space on the ICANN website that tracks the performance status/health of the root going forward.