

The Africa Domain Name System Forum and DNS Capacity Building

By Kevin Chege (ISOC)

Background of the Africa DNS Forum

- The ISOC Africa Regional Bureau has a ccTLD program that aims to strengthen the ccTLDs in the continent by improving their sustainability, encouraging the implementation of automation solutions at ccTLDs and use of technology like DNSSEC
- As part of the program, the Africa DNS Forum aims to provide a platform where large and small registries and registrars can:
 - ✓ collaborate
 - ✓ share
 - ✓ learn from each others' experiences
 - ✓ learn from successful registries and registrars from outside the continent

Objectives of the Africa DNS Forum

- increase the number of Domain Names registered in African registries
 - promote cross border registration opportunities
- develop the capacity of domain name registrars in Africa by exposing them to global best practices
 - encourage deployment of current best technological practices
 - Encourage good governance
- provide a platform for registries and registrars in Africa to learn share and discuss ways to grow the Africa Domain Name Space

Past Forums

- Two forums have been held so far:
 - Durban, South Africa in 2013 - 105 attendees
 - Abuja, Nigeria in 2014 – 110 attendees
- The event has been replicated in other regions across the world including the Middle East and Latin America
- The 2015 Africa DNS Forum will be held in Nairobi, Kenya in July 2015 and is hosted by KENIC

Benefits to the localhost ccTLD

- The event brings together all the stakeholders to address barriers to the growth of the Domain Name space in the country
- Marketing – the event presents an opportunity to the ccTLD to market itself to a local and international audience
 - Stimulate business growth by encouraging more registrations from within and out of Kenya
- The localhost ccTLD gets an opportunity to learn from experts on the best current business, technical and operational practices for ccTLD registries

This year's forum

- Will be held in Nairobi, Kenya from the 6th to 8th of July at the Panafric Hotel
- Event has received Government endorsement via the Ministry of ICT in Kenya
- There will be a two hour DNSSEC round table session as part of the agenda chaired by ISOC CTO Mr. Olaf Kolkman
- Event website is www.aftld.org/afdnsforum2015
- All are invited

Technical DNS Capacity Building in Africa

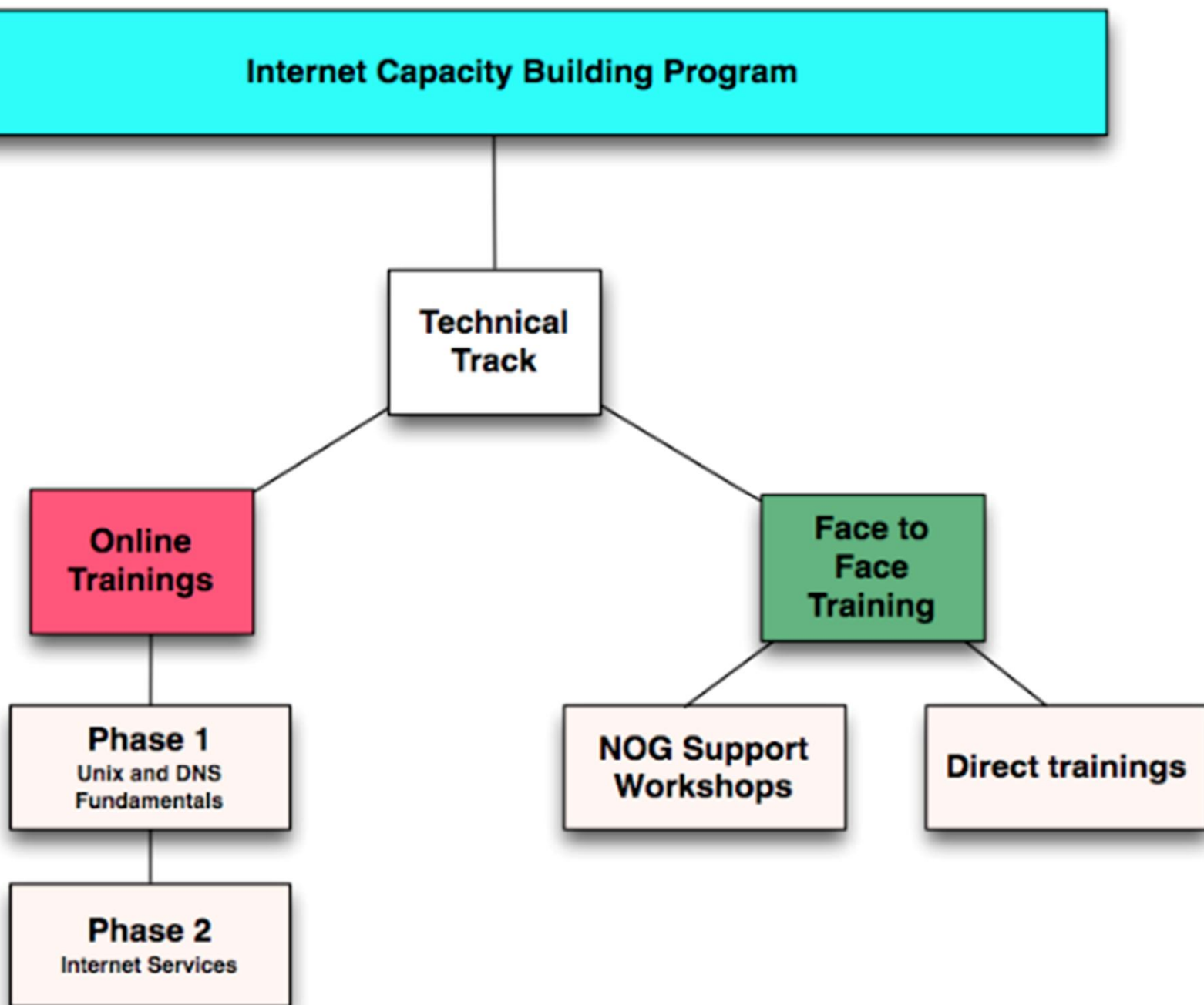
Technical Capacity Building in Africa

- ISOC has been involved in Capacity Building in Africa since 2008 in partnership with AfNOG and NSRC
- Objective was to teach UNIX and DNS deployment to upcoming engineers
- More than 31 trainings since 2008 in 15 different countries
 - Trained over 1,000 participants (English + French)
- Facilitators from ISOC, NSRC and AfNOG community
- Trainings have been well received and there is demand for the content
- Have also supported Network Operator Groups

Objectives of Technical Capacity Building

- Take the training where its most needed (localize)
 - Covered entry level topics on UNIX/Linux, DNS and Networking
 - Aimed at novice or intermediary level engineers wishing to run basic DNS and other DNS services
- Increase the technical skill levels in Africa on skills such as DNS, Email and Web services

The Program Outline



Phase 1: Intro to Net Ops Online Course

- The online course took 9 months to develop
 - Several experts involved in material preparation
- The course covers technical topics on DNS services run on UNIX and Linux servers
- Online platform was successfully piloted in late 2014
- The Online course has been launched as of March 2015 – over 100 enrolled and another 100 awaiting enrollment
- Objective is to train participants over the course of 4 weeks in a moderated online course
- On Completion, participants are given a “Certificate of Completion” from ISOC

Objectives of the Course

The objectives of the online course are to increase the technical hands on skill levels among upcoming Network and System Engineers - fresh graduates, new recruits or job seekers in Network and System Administration. The topics and concepts covered in the course include:

- How to install a UNIX/Linux OS in a Virtual environment
- Networking concepts – IPv4 and IPv6
- How to install 3rd party software on a UNIX or Linux platform using Software management tools
- How to edit files in UNIX and Linux and create simple scripts
- How to build and activate a caching DNS Server and
- Introduce trainees to the IETF and standards

The course intends to provide trainees with real world skills useful to them in their careers and which will improve Internet services available in the continent

Plans for the online course

- Currently it is only available in English and we are looking for partners to help in the production of a French version
- The course is Phase 1 and the intention is to build on this course with another online course that covers advanced topics



Any Questions?

Thank You!

chege@isoc.org

<http://internetsociety.org>