

Don M. Blumenthal



Application for Membership on Second ICANN Security, Stability, and Resiliency Review Team  
Letter of Motivation

I am seeking appointment to SSR2 because furthering the security, stability, and resiliency of the Internet are essential to its existence. Issues with any of the three elements undermine operations of the systems and, perhaps more importantly, consumer trust in it. A perfect system is worthless if individuals and companies will not use it. I have backgrounds in DNS SSR security, stability, and resiliency outlined in the announcement and also a strong interest in ICANN efforts. I have been involved with the Internet since the early 1980s, initially as a user and then through my operational and enforcement responsibilities with the US Federal Trade Commission, work for the Public Interest Registry, and projects for clients. These efforts have required knowledge of Internet operations, abuse of the 'net, and experience in enterprise security matters. This project is particularly interesting because it requires that kind of breadth of experience.

I understand the ICANN multistakeholder model through working in the community. While my ICANN projects have not included an RT, I have been involved in a number of Working Groups, including leadership roles in the Privacy and Proxy Services Accreditation Issues and Thick Whois PDP WGs. My favored working style is collegial, interested in working with others and learning from them as I share my contributions. I strive to be objective and to work toward compromise and consensus.

I also am motivated to apply by the substance outlined in the announcement. I have strong knowledge of unique identifiers and the DNS root system through my work from the 1990s until now, starting in the 1990s with operations and law enforcement roles at the FTC and continuing through responsibilities for clients and PIR. Internet abuse, including fraud, malware, bots, DOS, and other problems, were my focus at the FTC as the director of the Internet Lab, its Internet investigations center. I have continued working with those issues since my FTC days in professional and volunteer roles. Finally, I have worked on corporate security matters and incident response for consulting clients, and even taught a course on enterprise security planning in the University of Michigan School of Information. I also taught a course on cyber crime and cyber security for the Michigan State University School of Criminal Justice.

Again, I am very interested in serving on SSR2 because of the general subject matter, the range of specific questions to address, and my commitment to ICANN. I believe that my combination of technical, policy, and legal approaches will be valuable to the group's work. Thank you for your consideration.

Best regards,

Don Blumenthal