At-Large Workspace: Recommendations for Early Warning for Root Zone Scaling

Public Comment Close	Statement Name	Status	Assigned Working Group	Assignee (s)	Call for Comments Open	Call for Comments Close	Vote Open	Vote Close	Date of Submission	Staff Contact and Email
23 November 2020	Recommendations for Early Warning for Root Zone Scaling	ADOPTED 13Y, 0N, 0A	CPWG	Abdulkarim Ayopo Oloyede Holly Raiche	18 November 2020	20 November 2020	23 November 2020	26 November 2020	23 November 2020	Paul Hoffman paul. hoffman@i ann.org

Hide the information below, please click [here](#) **>>**

Brief Overview

Purpose: To seek input from the community on recommendations for early warning of issues that might arise from root zone scaling.

Current Status: The recommendations have been published.

Next Steps: Either implementation of the recommendations as-is, or a new version of the recommendations will be published.

Section I: Description and Explanation

ICANN's Office of the CTO (OCTO) has recently published the document titled "[Recommendations for Early Warning for Root Zone Scaling](#)," which details earlier concern about root zone scaling and proposes methods to get early warning if the root zone is growing faster than the public DNS can handle. With this request for Public Comments, ICANN is asking for community input on the proposed methods.

Section II: Background

A decade ago, it became clear to the community that the root zone might grow significantly larger due to the addition of many more generic top-level domains (gTLDs). Discussions in the community led to various concerns, including:

- Root server operators (RSOs) might not be able to handle the anticipated zone growth
- The Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) might become overwhelmed with requests for additions and changes to the root zone
- Recursive resolvers could run out of cache space
- Anti-abuse communities and law enforcement agencies could have trouble dealing with a greatly increased number of new gTLDs
- ICANN processes could be severely impacted by the increased number of gTLDs

To mitigate these risks, ICANN stakeholders, including the Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC), At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), and Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), proposed an early warning system to alert the community that the growth of the root zone was proceeding too quickly. Discussions on what such a system would entail did not lead to the deployment of such a system due to a lack of agreement on what should be measured, and how those measurements could be made.

It is important to note that the topic of this document is the rate of scaling the root zone, not determining a maximum size for that zone. The RSOs as a group have not expressed any concern about a particular root zone size. However, the speed of additions and changes to the root zone might be an issue for RSOs that are not prepared.

This document describes the initial desire for an early warning system, outlines proposals that were ultimately abandoned, and details a new proposal for a non-technical means for providing an early warning that the root zone is growing too rapidly. The document assumes a medium amount of understanding of the root server system (RSS) and the various parties who manage it.

ICANN seeks input from the community about the recommendations in this document.

Section III: Relevant Resources

https://www.icann.org/octo-015-en.pdf

Section IV: Additional Information

Section V: Reports

FINAL VERSION SUBMITTED (IF RATIFIED)

The final version to be submitted, if the draft is ratified, will be placed here by upon completion of the vote.

AL-ALAC-ST-1120-02-01-EN.pdf

FINAL DRAFT VERSION TO BE VOTED UPON BY THE ALAC

The final draft version to be voted upon by the ALAC will be placed here before the vote is to begin.

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DRAFT SUBMITTED FOR DISCUSSION

The first draft submitted will be placed here before the call for comments begins. The Draft should be preceded by the name of the person submitting the draft and the date/time. If, during the discussion, the draft is revised, the older version(S) should be left in place and the new version along with a header line identifying the drafter and date/time should be placed above the older version(s), separated by a Horizontal Rule (available + Insert More Content control).

ALAC Statement on Recommendations for Early Warning for Root Zone Scaling

The At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC) appreciates the opportunity to submit this statement. We agree with the recommendations in the document as it is the right way to go giving the challenges of associating measurements with scaling.

The ALAC would like to reiterate the following:

1. Early warning signs from the anti-abuse communities should be taken seriously.
2. Proper consultation/feedback channel or mechanism should be put in place between ICANN and the various stakeholders should there be any future RSS scaling concerns.
3. In the event that any ICANN process is severely impacted as a result of the proposed scaling, there should be a mechanism in place to pause the process.