

Joint letter from Chairs of the gNSO, ccNSO and ALAC

25 March 2010

To:

Mr Peter Dengate-Thrush
Chair - ICANN Board

Mr Rod Beckstrom
CEO & President

Dear Peter and Rod,

Comments on the establishment of a "DNS-CERT"

We are writing in response to ICANN's call for public comments regarding ICANN's proposal for the establishment of a global Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT) to address DNS-specific security issues.

We are concerned ICANN's proposal for the establishment of a DNS-CERT lacks detail regarding:

- the perceived problems the DNS-CERT would be established to address;
- the operational structure of the new CERT body;
- ICANN's role; and
- the budget, staffing and funding model for the initiative.

We would welcome the opportunity to develop a better understanding of these issues before offering more substantial comment.

In general terms, ICANN plays a coordinating, non-operational role in managing Internet naming and numbering resources. However, we are concerned that, in this particular case, ICANN's proposed role remains unclear.

We welcome the extension of the current public comment periods on ICANN's proposed strategic initiatives for improved DNS security, stability and resiliency and the global DNS-CERT business case document to 14 April 2010.

The establishment of a DNS-CERT is a significant undertaking and its consideration, in our view, requires the joint input of ICANN's Security and Stability Advisory Committee and Root Server System Advisory Committee, governments, CERT operators and ccTLD and gTLD managers.

We recommend that, at the end of the extended public comment period, ICANN establish a joint SO/AC Working Group to draw upon their collective expertise and to solicit their input on:

- the broad concept of a DNS-CERT;
- the current work being undertaken to mitigate DNS-related threats;
- the actual level, frequency and severity of these threats;

- the gaps (if any) in the current security response to DNS issues;
- whether or not a DNS-CERT is a proposal they support; and
- if so, the logistics of the proposal.

The Working Group should have the option of inviting participation from experts from a number of CERTs and other relevant organisations, and could be formed at the ICANN meeting in Brussels in June, if not sooner. The GNSO, ALAC and ccNSO look forward to contributing their expertise and experience to this dialogue.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Disspain
Chair – ccNSO Council

Chuck Gomes
Chair – GNSO Council

Cheryl Langdon-Orr
Chair – ALAC