DSSA Update

Costa Rica – March, 2012



Goals for today

- Update you on our progress
- Raise awareness
- Solicit your input



Charter: Goals and Objectives

Report to participating SO's and AC's on:

- Actual level, frequency and severity of threats to the DNS
- Current efforts and activities to mitigate these
- -Gaps in the current response to DNS issues
- Possible additional risk mitigation activities that would assist in closing those gaps

Activity since Singapore

- The working group has:
 - Developed a protocol for handling confidential information
 - Selected, and begun to tailor, a methodology to structure the remaining work
 - -Begun the risk assessment



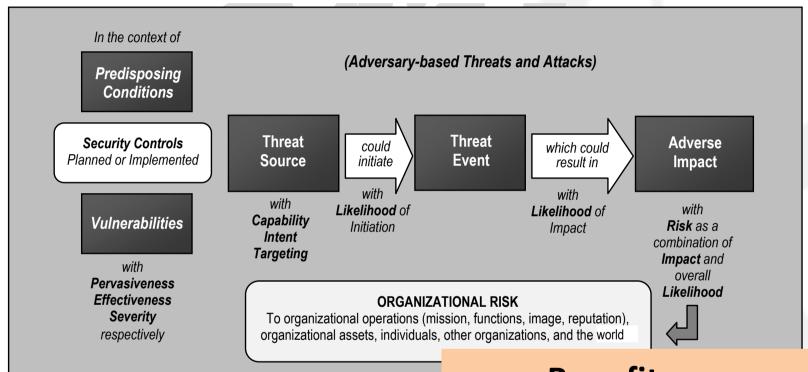
Methodology – NIST 800-30

Rationale

- Using a predefined methodology will save time and improve our work product
- Reviewed several dozen alternatives
- We selected this one because it's:
 - Available at no cost
 - Actively supported and maintained
 - Widely known and endorsed
 - Reusable elsewhere in ICANN

Methodology – NIST 800-30

Example – Adversarial Risk Model



Benefits:

- Consistent terminology
- Defined process
- Sample deliverables



Where we are...

Approach

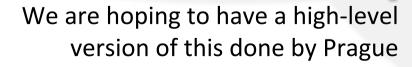
Launch

Identify Threats & Vulnerabilities

Analyze
Threats & Vulnerabilities

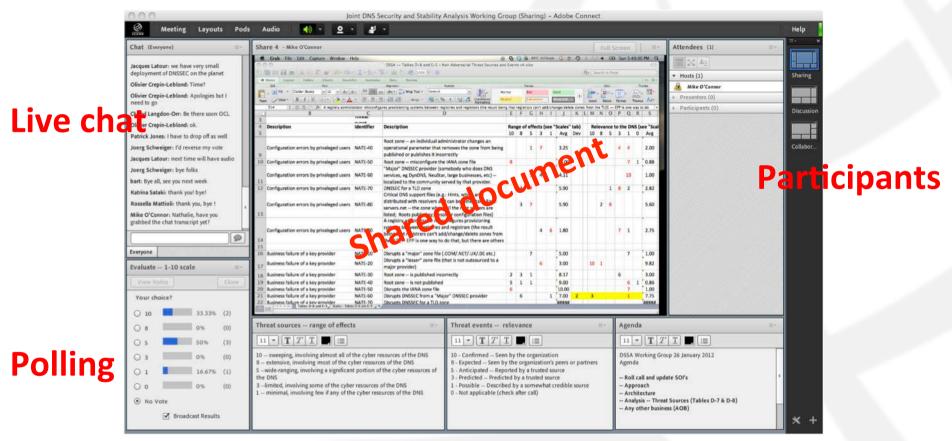
We are here – getting started with this phase of the work

Report





How we work



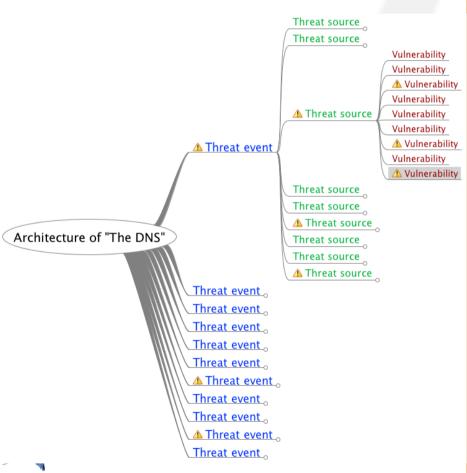


Definitions

Agenda

Problem: the evaluation per NIST methodology does not scale

It's all about choices.



- Threat tree could easily grow to over 1000 permutations
- Prune the tree along the way, in order to focus on the highest risks
- Leave a framework that can be used to address:
 - New things
 - Changes
 - Greater detail

Where we are...

How to cope with an exploding analysis tree

Threat events:

- Zone does not resolve
- Zone is incorrect
- Zone security is compromised

Level of Impact:

In the worst case there would be broad harm/consequence/impact to operations, assets, individuals, other organizations and the world if any of these threat-events occur.

In all cases there would be significant problems for registrants and users in the zone.



Where we are going

- 43 weeks (or 43 hours)
- We've developed substantial (and reusable)
 - Data
 - Methods
- ... but given our resources, we can't analyze in detail and accuracy and do so fast:
 - Identify every threat source and event or analyze high-risk scenarios first
 - 6 months vs. say 36

Where we are going

- Vulnerabilities severe and widespread?
- Predisposing conditions pervasive?
- Controls and mitigation effective and deployed?
 - Threat sources how broad is range of impact, what are their capabilities, how strong is their intent, are they targeting the DNS?
 - Initiation what is the likelihood that a threat-event will happen?
 - Given all of the above what are the highrisk scenarios?



Questions?

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Charter: Background

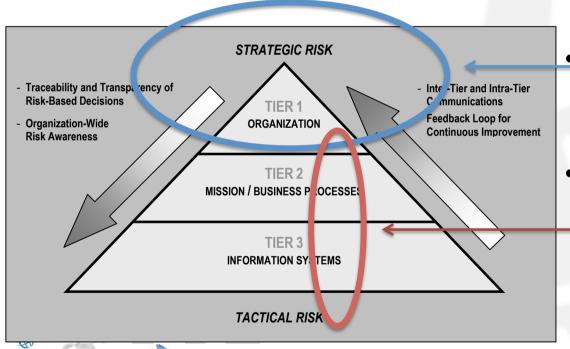
At their meetings during the ICANN Brussels meeting the At-Large Advisory Committee (ALAC), the Country Code Names Supporting Organization (ccNSO), the Generic Names Supporting Organization (GNSO), the Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC), and the Number Resource Organization (NROs) acknowledged the need for a better understanding of the security and stability of the global domain name system (DNS). This is considered to be of common interest to the participating Supporting Organisations (SOs), Advisory Committees (ACs) and others, and should be preferably undertaken in a collaborative effort.



Methodology – NIST 800-30

Risk Management Hierarchy

The methodology presumes a tiered approach to the work



- DSSA is chartered to look at the broadest, most general tier
- However it may be useful
 to pursue one or two
 deeper, narrower analyses
 of specific threats once the
 "survey" work is complete

Confidential information

Note: Sensitivity, attribution and	Sensitive		Not sensitive
release to public are determined by info-provider	Schistive		TWO C SCHISICIVE
Not attributed to source	Type 2:		Type 3:
(transmitted through trusted 3 rd party or	Distributed to sub- groups only.		Distributed to DSSA and public
summaries of Type 1	(Info-providers	Info-provider	("sanitized" info from sub-
developed by sub-group)	determine ultimate	authorizes release	groups and other non-
	distribution)		attributed information)
Attributed to source	Type 1:	Confidential	Type 4:
Attributed to source	Distributed to sub-	info must	Distributed to DSSA and
	groups only	never pass through this	public
	(under NDA, most- protected)	path. This is	
	protected	the exposure of	
		information	
		we're trying to prevent.	



Unpacking some terms

Our charter speaks to "Threats"

Threat-events (what happens) should not be confused with:

- Adverse impacts that may result
- Vulnerabilities that allow them to happen
- Predisposing conditions that help prevent them
- Threat-sources that initiate them
- Controls and mitigation that reduce likelihood and impact

Where we are...

Determinations – Nature of impact

- Damage to a critical infrastructure sector
- Damage to trust relationships or reputation
- Harm to individuals
- Harm to assets
- Harm to operations

