



Addressing the global Internet

Rod Beckstrom
CEO and President

Sent via email:

To: Mr. Chris Disspain, Chair, ccNSO
Mr. Chuck Gomes, Chair, GNSO
Ms. Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Chair, ALAC

cc: Mr. Axel Pawlik, Chair, NRO Executive Council

30 November 2010

Dear Chris, Chuck and Cheryl:

Thank you for helping to organize and launch the Joint DNS Security and Stability Analysis Working Group ("Working Group").

We are pleased to see that the Working Group now has a draft charter and will be meeting in Cartagena. The Working Group's activities, and proposed report on DNS threats, mitigation and security response gaps, can help advance the Internet community's understanding of DNS security, stability and resiliency. As the Working Group considers its work plan, we thought it might be useful to reiterate suggestions we've shared in the past on activities that could contribute to ICANN's long-term efforts in this area. Some of these may be appropriate for the Working Group's consideration:

- Documenting known risks to the DNS;
 - Gathering data on trends of DDoS and other attacks and gaps in the current security response to those threats, including security reports across domains;
- Documenting the current work to mitigate DNS-related threats and identifying gaps;
- Providing recommendations on the development of risk management models (and risk metrics) for the DNS;
- Gathering data on the global volume of the DNS, including traffic volume and flows;
- Mapping the topology of systems within the DNS; and
- Providing recommendations on DNS security coordination.

Given your continued interest in obtaining objective data on DNS security and stability, we also wanted to take this opportunity to update you (and the Working Group) on several relevant efforts that were initiated earlier this year.



A survey was distributed to all national computer security incident response teams in late August. To date we have received 26 replies. We appreciated the ccNSO's help in encouraging responses and any further assistance would be greatly appreciated. As we have discussed, help is needed to provide ICANN with information from the ccTLD community. With ccTLDs operating more than 270 of the 290 top-level domain registries, any concrete disclosures they can provide will be important contributions to our shared DNS security and stability objectives. As Nominet indicated in their comments on the FY11 SSR Plan, we would like to improve our collaboration with the ccTLD community to learn more about their engagement with local incident response teams and see whether there is data and examples of best practices that can inform future decisions.

The Working Group also may be interested to know that, after consulting with then GAC Chair, Janis Karklins, in April, we sent a letter to all GAC members asking them for information on security activities in their countries. We will keep the Working Group apprised of responses we receive.

Finally, we recognize that publishing certain data is a sensitive issue. Perhaps the Working Group could discuss this, and suggest an approach that respects both the proprietary nature of data and the requirement for hard information to inform the discussion. Anything the Working Group can do to help move the community forward on sharing threat information, while respecting necessary confidentiality, will help establish a much needed baseline and background on prior attacks and impacts on DNS operations.

Thank you for your efforts, and for sharing potential work plan items with the Working Group for their consideration, as appropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Rod Beckstrom", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Rod Beckstrom
CEO and President