



6 October 2017

RE: Postponement of upcoming changes to root zone DNS Security Extensions

Dear Sir or Madam.

I want to refer to my previous letter to you dated 6 June 2017 related to upcoming changes to root zone DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC). I am writing to you today to share our recent decision to postpone the [cryptographic key](#) change that helps protect the Domain Name System (DNS) which was planned to occur on 11 Oct 2017 (as expressed in my last letter in June).

In my initial correspondence, I explained the importance of the planned change to this crucial security configuration parameter related to the root zone.

The DNS root zone is digitally signed using a security protocol called DNSSEC, which adds a layer of trust on top of the DNS by providing a way to authenticate DNS data. DNSSEC enables network operators to protect their users from a form of malicious attack known as “cache poisoning,” that could redirect their users’ traffic to an incorrect website to, for example, steal passwords or financial information. DNSSEC deployment is optional and not all network operators have enabled it, but operators who have deployed it could be affected by the upcoming change.

The DNS is organized in a hierarchy and ICANN manages changes to the top-most level of the DNS, known as the root. ICANN also manages the top-most cryptographic key in the DNSSEC protocol, known as the root zone key signing key, or KSK. ICANN will change this key in a process called a key rollover. This is the first time the key will be changed since DNSSEC was enabled in 2010. This change must be widely and carefully coordinated with network operators that have enabled DNSSEC to ensure that the rollover does not interfere with normal operations.

Some recently obtained data shows that a significant number of resolvers used by Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and Network Operators are not yet ready for the Key Rollover.

Because the security, stability and resiliency of the domain name system is ICANN's foremost responsibility towards the global Internet community, the organization decided to delay the rollover. We announced the delay on 27 September (<https://www.icann.org/news/announcement-2017-09-27-en>).

A new date for the Key Roll has not yet been determined but we are considering rescheduling it during the first quarter of 2018.

ICANN is informing you about the delay so you can encourage Internet operators and user communities in your country to use this additional time to be certain that their systems are ready for the Key Roll. If an operator fails to update systems with the new KSK, end users in your country could encounter errors when using the domain name system.

We encourage you to share the information related to the postponement of the KSK rollover and ICANN's testing platform as an easy way for your operators to confirm their infrastructure is ready to handle the rollover. The testing platform can be found at <https://go.icann.org/KSKtest>.

I would also like to point out that we will be conducting a webinar on 11 October 2017 to afford more information on the delay of the KSK rollover and to discuss our plans going forward. More details about the webinar will be posted on the ICANN website (<https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/ksk-rollover>).

Approximately 750 million people are on DNSSEC deployed networks and we want to make sure as few as possible are affected by the KSK rollover worldwide. It is critical that we coordinate our efforts to keep the Internet users in your country from experiencing difficulties with domain name lookups.

If you or your operators have any questions, you can contact my team by emailing globalsupport@icann.org with the subject line "KSK Rollover."

Thank you in advance for your support,

Göran Marby
President & CEO, ICANN
cc: ICANN Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) Representatives

The letter was sent to the attention of the individuals and organizations listed below through merge mail (via bcc), and does not include the addressees directly in the letter. This is to facilitate our communication of the postponement in an expedient manner, given that the postponement announcement date is close to 11 October 2017.

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Tonga	Mr.	Paula P	Ma'u	Chief Executive Officer	Ministry of Information and Communications	Siaosi 'Ofakivahafolau Sovaleni
						Paula P. Ma'u
Trinidad and Tobago	Hon.	Maxie	Cuffie	Minister	Ministry of Public Administration and Communications	Shelley-Ann Clarke-Hinds
						Karel Douglas
						Tracy Hackshaw

Tunisia	Mr.	Hichem	Besbes	President	Instance Nationale des Telecommunications	Wajdi Garali
						Sihem Trabelsi
Turkey	Mr.	Ömer Fatih	Sayan	President	Information and Communication Technologies Authority	Sezen Yesil
						Onur Gencer
Turkmenistan	Mr.	Ovezov Bayramgeldi	Orazgeldievich	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Communication	Hajmyrat Shihmyradovich Hudaygulyyev
						Ovezov Bayramgeldi Orazgeldievich
Tuvalu	Mr.	Falasese	Tupau	Permanent Secretary	Ministry of Communication and Transport	Falasese Tupau
						Opetai Simati
Uganda	Mr.	Godfrey	Mutabazi	Executive Director	Uganda Communications Commission	Gloria Atwine Katuuku
						Simon Bugaba
						Irene Kaggwa
						Silas Ngabirano
Ukraine	Mr.	Olexander	Ryzhenko	Head	State Agency for e-Governance of Ukraine	Oleksandr Vasylovych Tsaruk
						Olexander Ryzhenko
United Arab Emirates	Mr.	Hamad	Almansori	Director General	Telecommunication Regulatory Authority	Abdulrahman Al Marzooqi
						Mohammad

						Alkhamis
United Kingdom	Ms.	Sharon	White	Chief Executive	UK Office of Communications	Mark Carvell
						Gary Hunt
United States	Ms.	Fiona	Alexander	Associate Administrator for International Affairs	National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce	Ashley Heineman
						Ryan Carroll
Uruguay	Ing.	Gabriel	Lombide	President	Regulatory Unit of Communications Services	Jose Clastornik
						Alejandra Erraspume
Vanuatu	Ms.	Dalsie	Baniala	CEO	Telecommunications and Radiocommunications	Gerard Metsan
						Andrew Molivuræ
Venezuela	Lic.	Ernesto	Villegas	Minister of People's Power for Communication and Information	National Telecommunications Commission	Ing. Jesús Rivera
	Lic.	Andrés Eloy	Méndez	Director General	National Telecommunications Commission	Ing. Jhonder Depablos
Vietnam	Dr.	Phan	Tam	Deputy Minister	Ministry of Information and Communications	Le Thi Ngoc Mo
						Min Tan Tran
						Minh Thang Nguyen

						Anh Tu Hoang
Yemen	Mr.	Mohamed Abdullah	Al Dahbani	General Manager of Data Network & Internet	Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technology	Mohamed Abdullah Al Dahbani
						Mohamed Rashed Al-Dhaifi
Zambia	Mr.	Patrick	Mutimushi	Director Technology & Engineering	Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority	Milner Makuni