Nick Wenban-Smith, Chair DASC (left)
Bruce Tonkin, Chair DASC Survey subgroup (right)

ccTLDs and DNS Abuse: Join the ICANN77 DASC session

The ccNSO DNS Abuse Standing Committee (DASC) invites you to join its ICANN77 session. You will be informed about ongoing work and the DASC leadership team will seek your input on the proposed next steps. Topics on the agenda include the launch of a DASC repository and email list. The repository aims to be an online information source about DNS Abuse, for the benefit of ccTLDs. After further analysis of the results since ICANN76, the DASC will also share part two of the findings from the 2022 DASC survey at ICANN77.

About the DASC Survey
In the September-November 2022 timeframe, DASC conducted a survey to better understand the ccTLD DNS abuse landscape and explore ways to assist ccTLDs in their DNS Abuse mitigation efforts. The survey targeted ccTLD managers worldwide, regardless of ccNSO membership. The DASC estimates that approximately 100 ccTLDs provided their input, via 57 unique responses. Some ccTLD managers provide services for multiple ccTLDs, but responded for one TLD only. Other ccTLD managers informed DASC they were not in a position to respond to the survey, for various reasons. In case a ccTLDs responded multiple times, the latest submission was treated as the final one. The survey results were shared in an anonymised fashion, as about half of the respondents did not want their ccTLD identified.

The DASC shared the first set of results at the ICANN76 Community Forum, where they pointed out the vast variety among ccTLDs: ccTLDs from different regions, with different registration and governance models, responded to the survey. Respondents included both bigger and smaller organisations, both in terms of domain names under management and staff. DASC furthermore shared insights into what respondents consider to be actionable types of DNS Abuse, and which type of mitigation methods respondents use.
It is worth noting that most respondents reported less than 0.1% of their names under management being affected by DNS Abuse. Finally, the survey results revealed that even ccTLDs with limited resources -

including funding and staff – can effectively mitigate DNS abuse, with the help of DNS abuse policies and procedures and monitoring tools.
Overall, the DASC survey provided valuable insights into the current state of DNS abuse mitigation among ccTLD registries, and identified several areas for improvement, including collaboration, effective use of DNS reporting tools, resource allocation, and education to effective DNS abuse mitigation. This also includes raising awareness among policymakers and the broader public.

Upcoming work items for DASC
The DASC survey provided rich results, and key findings were shared at ICANN76 and ICANN77. What comes next? Is further analysis needed and should there be a follow-up survey? Join the DASC Update session at ICANN77 and let us know.

DASC also seeks community input on proposed upcoming work items. To that end, DASC prepared four questions, potentially to be addressed in targeted sessions, starting with ICANN78:

1. Do data validation and registration policies for ccTLDs relate to DNS abuse, if so how?
2. How can ccTLDs work in collaborative partnerships with registrars to mitigate DNS abuse?
3. What are the tools and measurements ccTLDs can use to measure the amount of DNS abuse in their namespaces, benchmark where they stand in comparison to peers, and gain insight as to whether their procedures and mitigation strategies are effective?
4. Do ccTLD governance models and regulatory frameworks impact DNS abuse?

About the ccNSO DASC
DASC was created as a dedicated forum for ccTLD Managers to discuss the important topic of DNS Abuse and to share information, insights, and practices. In keeping with the nature of the ccNSO, the purpose of the Committee is not to formulate any policy or standards, recognising that policy development in this area is out of scope of the ccNSO policy remit. The overarching purpose is to raise understanding and awareness of the issues pertaining to DNS Abuse, promote open and constructive dialogue, and ultimately to assist ccTLD Managers in their efforts to mitigate the impact of DNS Abuse. Relevant documents are available on its website and workspace.

DASC at ICANN77
Join the DASC Session at ICANN77 on Wednesday, 14 June 2023 | 17:45 - 19:00 UTC (13:45 - 15:00 Washington DC). Read more here.