Public Comment Summary Report

Initial Report on the RZERC Charter Review

Open for Submissions Date:
Monday, 27 March 2023

Closed for Submissions Date:
Monday, 08 May 2023

Summary Report Due Date:
Monday, 22 May 2023

Category: Reviews

Requester: Review Team

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Open Proceeding Link:

https://www.icann.org/en/public-comment/proceeding/initial-report-on-the-rzerc-charter-review-27-03-2023

Outcome:

The Root Zone Evolution Review Committee received three submissions, two from individuals, and one collective statement from eight Root Server Operators (RSOs) which was accepted after closure of the comment submission period. One (1) was from an external organization, and one (1) from an individual. In their submission, the submitters covered 8 topics.

This Public Comment summary report only includes the ICANN org staff summary of the comments. The RZERC will review the comments and consider whether to amend its findings and recommendations.

Section 1: What We Received Input On

The RZERC received input on its findings and proposed amendments of the RZERC Charter. The first review of the RZERC Charter considered whether the Charter is adequate and provides a sound basis for the RZERC to perform its responsibilities as envisioned in the development of the Cross Community Working Group to Develop an IANA Stewardship Transition Proposal on Naming Related Functions (CWG-Stewardship) Proposal.

The scope of the review was to determine whether:
- the Charter enables the RZERC to fulfill its role and responsibilities as envisioned
- there are any aspects of the Charter that are ambiguous and require amendment
- there are any typographical errors in the Charter that require amendment
- there are any elements of the work of the RZERC that should be captured in the Charter, but were not at the time it was originally drafted

Section 2: Submissions

Organizations and Groups:

Name	Submitted by	Initials
N/A		

Individuals:

Name	Affiliation (if provided)	Initials
James Olorundare	Internet Society, Nigeria Chapter and School on Internet Governance	JO
Daniel Getahun	N/A	DG

Section 2a: Late Submissions

At its discretion, ICANN org accepted the following late submission, which has been appended to this summary report (Annex A).

Organizations and Groups:

Name	Submitted by	Initials
Eight Root Server Operators (RSOs) submitted a joint statement: Cogent Internet Systems Consortium Netnod Réseaux IP Européens (RIPE) Network Coordination Centre University of Maryland University of Southern California – Information Sciences Institute Verisign, Inc. Widely Integrated Distributed Environment (WIDE) Project	Andrew McConachie	RSOs

Section 3: Summary of Submissions

- ICANN should provide additional staff support, funding, and access to information to the RZERC so it can fulfill its mission according to the charter. (JO)
- The RZERC Charter should clearly define what constitutes a "major architectural change" to the DNS root zone. (DG)
- The RZERC Charter should include clear and transparent rules and procedures for RZERC membership. (DG)
- The Background section of the RZERC Charter should not be removed as it provides an important description of the role and scope of the RZERC. The Background section provides necessary context to prevent mission creep. (RSOs)
- The RSOs do not support the addition of a general operational aspect to the RZERC charter, as the RZERC was created specifically to address architectural issues. (RSOs)
- The RSOs have no objection to adding the word "significant" to qualify the word "architectural". (RSOs)

Section 4: Analysis of Submissions
The RZERC will analyze the comments received.

Section 5: Next Steps
The RZERC will review the comments and update the Initial Report in areas it deems necessary based on the comments received. The analyses of the comments received will be appended to the Final Report. The RZERC will deliver the Final Report, including a proposal for a revised Charter, to the ICANN Board for consideration.

RSO Comment to the Proposed Changes to the RZERC Charter

The RSOs listed below would like to submit the following comments to the proposed changes to the RZERC charter. We follow the numbering used in the initial report from the review team (RT).

Comments Regarding the Removal of the Background Section
The updated proposal from RZERC removed the background section from the current charter. We believe that the background, as it reads in the current charter, provides an important description of the role that the RZERC was put in place to fulfill. The references to the "old" model, where the NTIA fulfilled a number of tasks, and the "new" model, where the NTIA tasks have been distributed over several different organizations, highlight the fact that the RZERC is a small piece in a much larger machinery. The description of this background gives the motivation for the very narrow scope of the RZERC, and helps the reader to understand that other parts of the system are in place to deal with issues that are outside the scope of the RZERC, for example in the wider top-level domain, root zone, and root server system.

The goal of all ICANN committees should be to keep their focus and to avoid mission creep now or in the future. We see the potential risk that the committee could start to define its own scope by taking on new types of issues that it finds interesting. When future issues arise, they should primarily be dealt with by the appropriate committee whose charter covers it. If none can be found, a broader ICANN discussion should be held to find the appropriate home for it. Keeping the history that clearly describes the original intent of the standing committee helps in achieving clarity around this issue.

We therefore suggest that **the text be left intact as it stands**.

Comments Regarding Significant Architectural or Operational Change
The RT suggests that an operational aspect be added to the charter. We believe that the RZERC was created specifically to address architectural issues, and that operational aspects of the root server systems are well covered by the RSSAC and other organizations. Adding a general operational aspect to the RZERC charter risks creating uncertainty of which committee is expected to deal with such issues. If operational aspects are to be added, they need to be detailed and carefully hammered out in a broad discussion including other committees with responsibilities covering nearby areas. We see no need to add a general operational aspect to the RZERC

charter, and we suggest that **the words "and operational" be removed**. from the proposal. In addition, on the same basis, we suggest that "and operation" be removed from the "Scope of Responsibilities" section of the current RZERC Charter.

We have no objection to adding the word "significant" to qualify the word "architectural".

Comments Regarding Other Parts
In all other parts we support the proposed changes.

Submitted on behalf of the following root server operators
Cogent
Internet Systems Consortium
Netnod
Réseaux IP Européens (RIPE) Network Coordination Centre
University of Maryland
University of Southern California – Information Sciences Institute
Verisign, Inc.
Widely Integrated Distributed Environment (WIDE) Project