



09 October 2012

To: ICANN Board  
From: SSAC Chair  
Via: SSAC Liaison to the ICANN Board

We hereby forward to you an SSAC Advisory: *SAC056: SSAC Advisory on Impacts of Content Blocking via the Domain Name System.*

This Advisory is limited to an exploration of technical impacts related to DNS blocking. The use of Domain Name System (DNS) blocking to limit access to resources on the Internet has become a topic of interest in numerous Internet governance venues. Several governments around the world, whether by law, treaty, court order, law enforcement action, or other actions or agreements, have either implemented DNS blocking or are actively considering doing so. However, due to the Internet's architecture, blocking by domain name can be easily bypassed by end users and is thus likely to be largely ineffective in the long term and fraught with unanticipated consequences in the near term. In addition, DNS blocking can present conflicts with the adoption of DNS Security Extensions (DNSSEC) and could promote balkanization of the Internet into a country-by-country view of the Internet's name space.

In accordance with our usual practice, 48 hours after this document is sent to the Board, ICANN Staff will post the document to the SSAC web site.

The SSAC welcomes comments from the Board concerning this Advisory and thanks the Board for its consideration of this important document.

Patrik Fältström  
Chair, ICANN Security and Stability Advisory Committee