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New DNSSEC Signing Facilities Live at ICANN

Washington, D.C… March 17, 2010… ICANN's commitment to the deployment of Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) continues with the launch of the Generic Signing Infrastructure (GSI).

After several months of testing the operational aspects of the GSI, ICANN engineers executed the maintenance procedure to publish a signed ICANN.ORG domain on March 11, 2010 at 0400 UTC.

The GSI has been designed as a high-security, high-availability service suitable for use in managing the DNS zones that ICANN maintains. Built around the community-driven "OpenDNSSEC" project, the GSI includes the use of "FIPS 140-2 level 4" validated Hardware Security Modules (HSMs) with signing hardware protected within "class 5 GSA-rated" safes. These certifications are defined by the US Government to specify some of the highest levels of operational and physical security generally available.

The GSI is split between two locations, one on each coast of the USA, with either site available to perform signing operations in the event that other site is unavailable.

Once reliable production service with the ICANN.ORG domain has been confirmed, the GSI will be available to sign the other zones ICANN maintains such as IN-ADDR.ARPA and IP6.ARPA.

To read a presentation on OpenDNSSEC from ICANN's 2009 Sydney meeting, go here:
http://syd.icann.org/files/meetings/sydney2009/presentation-open-dnssec-22jun09-en.pdf

To read the transcripts and presentations from a session on DNSSEC at the Nairobi International Meeting on March 10, 2010, go here: http://nbo.icann.org/node/8924.

About ICANN:
To reach another person on the Internet you have to type an address into your computer - a name or a number. That address has to be unique so computers know where to find each other. ICANN coordinates these unique identifiers across the world. Without that coordination we wouldn't have one global Internet. ICANN was

formed in 1998. It is a not-for-profit public-benefit corporation with participants from all over the world dedicated to keeping the Internet secure, stable and interoperable. It promotes competition and develops policy on the Internet's unique identifiers. ICANN doesn't control content on the Internet. It cannot stop spam and it doesn't deal with access to the Internet. But through its coordination role of the Internet's naming system, it does have an important impact on the expansion and evolution of the Internet. **For more information please visit: www.icann.org.**