

## Board Technical Committee (BTC) Activity Report – 1 January through 30 June 2020

### Section I – Completed Activities

Item	Description	Committee Completion Date	Accomplishments/Outcome
<b>IDN-UA WG Report</b>	Review the Recommendations for Technical Utilization of Root Zone Label Generation Rules by the Board IDN-UA WG	25 January 2020	Approval of the Recommendations and submitted to the Board for adoption. ( <b>Board Resolution - 2020.01.26.03</b> )
<b>interactions between the Technical Expert Group (TEG), the Technical Liaison Group (TLG) and the BT</b>	The BTC to work with ICANN Org to streamline interactions with the two formal and informal Board technical groups that exist before its creation (i.e the TEG and the TLG).	5 February 2020	The BTC decided to continue to interact with the TLG when needed during ICANN face to face meetings. The BTC will however no longer hold regular meetings with the TEG but proposed to transition the group into an open space (a Special Interest Forum on Identifiers Technology) for the community to share and discuss identifier technology relevant topics.
<b>Name Collision Analysis Project (NCAP)</b>	Oversee the NCAP execution, and regularly update the Board on its evolution. During the period under review, the work was focused particularly on Study 1.	30 June 2020	The report from Study 1 is completed and submitted to the BTC for review and subsequently advise the Board.
<b>Other Updates and Forward-Looking Activities</b>	The Committee to receive regular updates from ICANN org on key technical projects and on trends and evolution of the Internet Identifier System landscape.	Recurring Activities	<p>The BTC has received updates from ICANN org over the period on several technical projects and technology trends including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Update on ICANN IT infrastructure in the context of the pandemic lockdowns and facilitation of working from home.</li> <li>● Progress update on the Information Transparency Platform (ITP).</li> <li>● Update on measurements conducted to capture the impact of COVID-19 on domain name registration abuse.</li> </ul>

## Section II – Activities in Progress

Item	Description	Target Completion date	Accomplishments/Outcome
<b>Root Zone Management (RZM) Evolution Study</b>	<p>In accordance with requirements in the IANA functions stewardship transition agreement, ICANN org (via OCTO) will conduct analyses of whether and how to revise the existing RZM through two studies, which would be the subject of RFPs. The first study would evaluate the process as it is today and provide possible recommendations on incremental changes that could be made to make the process more robust. The second study would not be limited to making incremental changes to the current approach but would instead consider a potential new radical approach for making changes to the content of the root zone.</p>	Q2 2021	<p>OCTO has published a Request for Proposal (RFP) to study the current Root Zone Management process and make recommendations on areas for improvement. The outcome of the study will inform both the evolutionary and the revolutionary roadmaps of this project.</p>
<b>Root Server System Crisis Communication Plan</b>	<p>The BTC to propose a consolidated and coordinated Root Server System crisis communication plan for the Board's review.</p>	N/A	<p>Root Server Operators (including IMRS) have documented and shared their communication process with the BTC. The information will now be used to develop an integrated communication plan for ICANN org.</p>
<b>DNS Security Facilitation Initiative</b>	<p>The BTC to recommend to the Board a plan to setup a DNS Security Facilitation Initiative.</p>	TBC	<p>A community technical working group is setup to further study and propose a plan for the facilitation function with input from the community.</p>
<b>Evolution of the Root Server System governance: RSAAC037/038 implementation plan</b>	<p>The BTC to oversee the implementation of RSSAC037/037.</p>	TBC	<p>The BTC received regular updates from ICANN Org on the work of the Root Server System Governance Working Group (RSS-GWG) and other elements of the implementation plan.</p>
<b>ICANN Managed Root Server (IMRS) Strategy</b>	<p>The BTC to oversee the revision of an integrated IMRS deployment strategy.</p>	Q2 2021	<p>OCTO is working on a revised version of the IMRS strategy. In parallel, a study has started on IMRS placement optimization. The outcome of the study will be used to further inform certain elements of the overall strategic goals.</p>

## Section III: Appendix – Resolutions Recommended by the BTC

### PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

#### Recommendations for the Technical Utilization of the Root Zone Label Generation Rules (RZ-LGR)

Whereas, the ICANN Board approved the Procedure to Develop and Maintain the Label Generation Rules for the Root Zone in Respect of IDNA Labels on 4 November 2013, which has been implemented to incrementally develop the Root Zone Label Generation Rules to determine valid top-level domains (TLDs) and their variant labels.

Whereas, multiple script communities have completed their RZ-LGR proposals, of which sixteen scripts have been integrated into the third version of the RZ-LGR, while many of the remaining scripts are in the process of finalizing their RZ-LGR proposals.

Whereas, the ICANN Board approved the Recommendations for Managing IDN Variant TLDs on 14 March 2019 which require the use of RZ-LGR to determine valid IDN TLDs and their variant labels, requesting that the ccNSO and GNSO take into account these recommendations for developing their respective policies relevant to IDN variant TLDs while ensuring a consistent solution.

Whereas, the ICANN Board further requested the ICANN community to form a study group to investigate any issues in technically employing the RZ-LGR to determine valid IDN TLDs and their variant labels;

Whereas, the ICANN community formed the study group which finalized the Recommendations for the Technical Utilization of the RZ-LGR after taking input from the community and published these recommendations on 7 October 2019. These recommendations have been reviewed by ICANN org and considered by the ICANN Board.

Resolved (2020.01.26.03), the Board requests that the ccNSO and GNSO Councils take into account the Recommendations for the Technical Utilization of the RZ-LGR while developing their respective policies to define and manage the IDN variant TLDs for current TLDs as well as for future TLD applications.

<https://features.icann.org/recommendations-technical-utilization-root-zone-label-generation-rules>