

Board Technical Committee (BTC) Activity Report – 1 July through 31 December 2025

Section I – Completed Activities

Items	Description	Completion Date	Accomplishments/Outcome
Review of SAC126 advice	The BTC to review org proposal for the implementation of recommendations in SAC126 advice and propose a formal recommendation for Board approval.	September 2025	During its meeting of 14 September 2025, the Board accepted the recommendations in SAC126 and directed ICANN org to implement recommendations 2 and 3. <i>Resolutions [2025.09.14.07-07, 2025.09.14.07-08 and 2025.09.14.07-09]¹</i>
Alternative Name Space	The BTC to follow the technical evolution of the alternative namespace topics and their potential impact on the DNS and name registration service.	28 August 2025	ICANN org has provided the Committee with updates on alternative naming systems and their potential interaction with name registration service. The Committee discussed how this matter is being tracked within the org and community, as well as how to further engage with, and involve, the community on the topic.
Use of Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) in the DNS ecosystem.	The SSAC to lead a presentation for the BTC on SAC132, which will include an overview about Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) in the DNS ecosystem	17 November 2025	The chair of the SSAC FOSS work party provided the Committee with a detailed presentation on SAC132: The Domain Name System Runs on Free and Open Source Software (FOSS) . The presentation provided an overview of FOSS, its prevalence in the DNS ecosystem, as well as actionable guidelines for policymakers regarding the development of effective regulation that could strengthen, rather than undermine, FOSS. It was discussed that while SAC132 does not contain formal recommendations for the ICANN Board, the SSAC acknowledges the unique role ICANN org could have in raising awareness on SAC132 with relevant policymakers.

¹ <https://www.icann.org/en/board-activities-and-meetings/materials/approved-resolutions-regular-meeting-of-the-icann-board-14-09-2025-en#section1.d>

Items	Description	Completion Date	Accomplishments/Outcome
Briefing on the work at the IETF related to Localroot	The BTC to follow the work at the IETF related to localroot (also called hyperlocal) and inform the ICANN Board of any potential impact on ICANN's technical mission.	9 December 2025	The Committee received a presentation from the RSSAC Liaison to the ICANN Board and invited IETF contributors on a draft proposal under discussion at the IETF that promotes a broader adoption of localroot operation (also known as hyperlocal, where resolvers keep an up-to-date local copy of the signed root zone instead of querying root servers for every lookup) as a way to reduce reliance on the DNS Root Server System, which faces growing traffic, costs, and security risks. It was noted that the draft proposal includes a possible expanded role for IANA in maintaining the root zone distribution sources, including potentially a public list of additional sources.

Section II – Activities in Progress

Item	Description	Estimated Completion Date	Accomplishments/Outcome
Evolution of the Root Server System governance: RSAAC037/038 implementation plan	The BTC to oversee and act as the Board Caucus group for the implementation of RSSAC037/038.	TBC	The Root Server System Governance Working Group (RSS-GWG) through its work continues to explore ways to fine tune and implement the proposals in RSSAC037 and RSSAC038. The Working Group had a work session during ICANN84 in addition to its regular online meetings through this semester. The Working Group has published and collected public comments on two documents that constitute the core outcome of its work ² .

² <https://itp.cdn.icann.org/en/files/policy-development/summary-report-functional-model-root-server-system-governance-06-10-2025-en.pdf>

Section III: Appendix – Resolutions Recommended by the BTC and Passed by the Board

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS:

Resolved (2025.09.14.07-09), SAC126: DNSSEC Delegation Signer (DS) Record Automation

Whereas, Security and Stability Advisory Committee (SSAC) published SAC126, DNSSEC Delegation Signer (DS) Record Automation on 16 August 2024.

Whereas, the SAC126 focuses on the management of Delegation Signer (DS) records as one of various obstacles to the deployment of Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC). The manual, ad-hoc, and inconsistent processes of updating DS records introduce risks of misconfiguration, delays, and hinder DNSSEC deployment. Automating the DS records management would enhance the DNS operations and could increase the DNSSEC adoption thus making domain names more secure.

Whereas, SAC126 presents the following three recommendations aimed at improving the automation and security of DNSSEC Delegation Signer (DS) record management:

- Recommendation 1: If a registry or a registrar wishes to implement DS automation for third-party DNSSEC operations, the current recommended interoperable mechanism is CDS/CDNSKEY (RFCs 7344, 9615).
- Recommendation 2: ICANN org should support registries and registrars who want to implement DS automation using the mechanisms from Recommendation 1, such as by facilitating a Fast-Track RSEP.
- Recommendation 3: ICANN org should facilitate the development of operational guidance for registries and registrars around the implementation of DS automation, in particular the operational aspects outlined in section 4.4.

Whereas, the Board Technical Committee (BTC) considered SAC126 and ICANN org's implementation strategy of SAC126's recommendations, and recommended that the Board accept the recommendations.

Resolved (2025.09.14.07), the Board accepts Recommendation 1, with the understanding that no further action by ICANN org is required.

Resolved (2025.09.14.08), the Board accepts Recommendation 2 and directs the ICANN President and CEO, or his designee(s), to establish a Fast Track RSEP process to support registry operators' implementation of DS automation, provided that no security and stability issues are identified by ICANN org. The Board understands that no action is required from ICANN to implement this recommendation with respect to registrars, as registrars are free to deploy this service without the need for ICANN's approval.

Resolved (2025.09.14.09), the Board accepts Recommendation 3, with the understanding that the recommended development of operational guidance should be attempted through the IETF. The Board further directs the ICANN President and CEO, or his designee(s), actively engage in the relevant IETF processes to facilitate this work, recognizing that the intended audience of the operational guidance includes registry operators, registrars, registrants and DNS operators of the global DNS.