RSSAC Caucus Statement of Work for
Guidelines for Changing Root Server Addresses
March 28 2024

Background

The root name servers provide service on IP addresses specified as entries in DNS root sources described in RSSAC030. The root server addresses may change from time-to-time, at the discretion of individual root server operators. The purpose of this work is to define guidelines and expectations regarding such changes.

Goals of the Work

1. Provide a set of recommendations that RSOs are expected to follow when changing root server addresses.
2. Provide a published document that can be referenced in community discussions and announcements of root server address changes.

The audiences of this publication will be (1) the RSOs, who are expected to follow its recommendations, and (2) the wider Internet community, who can observe that RSOs are following established guidelines.

Scope

The WP will discuss the following questions regarding changing RSO addresses and make recommendations as appropriate.

1. How much advance notice of an address change should be provided to the Internet community?

2. Which parties should be notified of root server address changes?
    a. Operational Internet communities
    b. Software vendors
    c. RIPE Atlas measurement platform

3. Prior to an address change, how far in advance should the RSO start responding on the new address?

4. After an address change, for how long should the RSO respond on the old address?

5. After an address change, should instances responding (only) to the old address be identified differently?
   a. NSID or hostname.bind
   b. root servers map

6. After an address change, for how long should the RSO include traffic for the old address in published measurements?
   a. RSSAC002
   b. DITL
   c. Others?

7. After an address change, for how long must the RSO comply with published expectations and metrics for the old address?
   a. RSSAC001
   b. RSSAC047

8. After an address change, for how long may the RSO collect data for internal or research purposes?

9. After an address change, for how long must the RSO remain in possession of the old address space?

Deliverable & Timeline

A *final draft* to be voted upon by the RSSAC before becoming an RSSAC publication.

Date of Delivery

The final draft should be submitted to the RSSAC no later than July 1, 2025. Submission prior to the deadline is welcome.

Guidelines

This effort is to be carried out on the main RSSAC Caucus mailing list and involve any member of the RSSAC Caucus that wishes to participate. The work party will appoint a leader to be the champion for this work. If that leader is not an RSSAC member the work party will also appoint a shepherd to act as a liaison between the work party and the Caucus. They will ensure the work progresses forward and give updates on the work effort at RSSAC Caucus meetings and monthly

RSSAC meetings. In the event that the deadline will not be realized, the champion should inform RSSAC and provide details of the work that cannot be completed by the deadline.

RSSAC support staff will assist the work party deliberation of the work, including setting up a mailing list for the work party, arranging and supporting regular teleconference calls, taking notes of meetings, and drafting background materials if needed.

References

RSSAC001

RSSAC002

RSSAC030

Day In The Life of the Internet (DITL)
https://www.dns-oarc.net/oarc/data/ditl