
ICANN85 Mumbai | CF – RSSAC Work Session (2 of 4)
Saturday, March 7, 2026 – 15:00 to 16:00 IST

DAN GLUCK

Hello and welcome to the second RSAC work session. This is going to be the prep for the joint session with the board.

One second, I dropped my screen. There we go. Okay, welcome to the session. My name is Dan Gluck. I'm the participation manager for this session. Please note this session is being recorded and is governed by the ICANN Community Participant Code of Conduct, ICANN Expected Standards of Behavior, and the ICANN Community Anti-Harassment Policy.

Please observe the following guidelines to participate in the session. I will also post them in the chat. This session is largely for RSAC members and any invited guests. It is open to observers. If you wish to speak, please raise your hand in Zoom or as otherwise directed.

When speaking, please state your name for the record and speak clearly at a moderate pace. And with that, let's get started with Jeff.

JEFF OSBORN

Howdy, all. I really have had this discussion several times already, so I'm trying to figure out what the best way to go through this is. I was expecting Wes to be here, and he would have been able to step through them.

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DAN GLUCK

Should I share the document at least?

JEFF OSBORN

Yeah. Why don't you share the document, and let's just go through this. We have a couple of simple questions to get asked and a question they are going to ask us. Why don't we take a look at that?

I got a preview of this the other day that was kind of interesting. I was in the SOAC meeting where we met with Russ, Tripti, Curtis, and all of them and brought up, "What do you think about the year?" It was kind of funny because Curtis basically said it was what I expected. There wasn't a whole lot more color to it. So we are going to have, I think, a short answer on that.

Maybe we will get a little more color out of the DNS ecosystem if we prod him. But the questions we are getting asked are... Wow, why does this first one look... I don't remember this one. The strategic plan highlights questions from the board to RSAC. Did we have somebody picked who was going to answer that one? Because that doesn't even look familiar to me. The second one was... I guess I'm asking Andrew or...

DAN GLUCK

Well, I guess it is where it starts from your perspective. So it is where it starts. There is a lot to that number one there, and the formatting is a little bit weird. But it basically starts with, "From your

perspective, what is the top emerging trend that may impact ICANN that you think the board should consider?"

JEFF OSBORN

Again, I'm sorry. I'm coming cold on that one. I had been planning on the second one, and Ken and I have been going to the review of reviews, so I was hoping between the two of us we could come up with something. You have your nose on your finger.

KENNETH RENARD

Ozan.

JEFF OSBORN

Hey, Ozan. How are you? You have probably been awake for more of those meetings than I have. How comfortable are you addressing that?

KENNETH RENARD

What is this?

JEFF OSBORN

Review of reviews.

KENNETH RENARD

When is this board session?

JEFF OSBORN

Tomorrow.

DAN GLUCK

No, Monday.

JEFF OSBORN

What day is today?

DAN GLUCK

Saturday. This is the last block of the day, Monday.

JEFF OSBORN

Sorry, day after tomorrow. Do you want... Tell you what, maybe you and I have more homework than I thought and...

KENNETH RENARD

I think so.

JEFF OSBORN

Yeah, okay. Why don't we do that?

KENNETH RENARD

I'll message you guys info.

JEFF OSBORN

Now, nobody else has been in on these meetings, and it is something that traditionally RSAC folk just don't really have much

of a dog in the fight. So this is something that there are groups that really, really deeply care about this.

Ken and I, I think between the two of us, we have showed up for all of the meetings probably. I was sick for a while and traveled some, but I think Ken has missed one or two. I have missed three or four, and they are several times a week sometimes. This has really been an intense cadence.

If nobody has a problem with it, I think Ken and I are going to try to come up with a perfunctory answer, Andrew, and then Leemon.

DAN GLUCK

So question two also talks about the Continuous Improvement Program. Given the last presentation we just had and talking about how RSAC hasn't quite decided what to do with the Continuous Improvement Program, but at least knows it will be doing something with it, you may just want to say, you know, we are interested in, as the RSAC going through the Continuous Improvement Program, we are working on that.

We are going to be doing something on that. We haven't totally decided on what precisely, but we are more interested in that than the review of reviews stuff. If that is kind of where you land on review of reviews, if you are like, "Well, we don't have a dog in this fight, but we are focusing on the CIP," I think that would be a perfectly fine answer.

JEFF OSBORN

Okay. I am wondering to the degree that they want more of an answer. You know, frankly, the thing to do would be to point it to Naveed and/or Aram, who really could go on at length. I am sorry, I skipped Leemon and then Ken.

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN

Actually, go on because I have a different question or a different observation not relating to this question.

JEFF OSBORN

Okay. Ken?

KENNETH RENARD

Yeah, I think for the CIP, we are in pretty good shape because of the hard work that Naveed and Aram did. If I have the microphone, I will specifically call them out for the great work they did.

The review of reviews is... Yeah, I agree. It is not something RSAC would be generally interested in. We are always the odd group here, but you know, it is very important for ICANN itself to function well and have credibility. So you know, we support it, rah rah. I just don't think we have any particularly strong feelings about it.

JEFF OSBORN

Limon, it is a good time to fit yours in.

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN

If you are done with discussing this issue.

JEFF OSBORN

Certainly for the moment.

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN

Okay. Because I wanted to go back to the questions from RSAC to the board, as I think we have an unfortunate formulation in there. The last piece sounds like ICANN as a former root server operator.

We might want to shift the cadence of that sentence, specifically to Curtis, as a former root server operator, what's your view of blah blah blah?

JEFF OSBORN

Is this written in stone anywhere? Or is this our document?

DAN GLUCK

They have already been forwarded to the board.

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN

Okay. Fair enough.

DAN GLUCK

But I think they will understand what it is you mean, even if the English is a little bit confusing, right?

JEFF OSBORN

Good catch, Limon. Ken, do you think we need to do anything else on that, or is it simply going to be enough to say, you know, we are more interested in the continuous improvement, and in fact, we have a model, have a template that we have actually put together due to the great work of Naveed and Aram?

KENNETH RENARD

Yeah, I just think that we owe it, we as an AC... Yeah, we are an AC. We owe it to ICANN to support the bigger review of reviews because we want to be a contributing member of the community.

The fact that we are usually pretty quiet on these calls... That's fine. We are representing RSAC and what we hope is the best for ICANN and its legitimacy.

JEFF OSBORN

How do you say we don't have a dog in that fight without saying we don't care, is the question.

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN

Something about circus monkeys.

JEFF OSBORN

Well, if nobody's got an idea, we will figure it out. That's not rocket science.

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN

Yeah, thanks.

JEFF OSBORN

Yep. We defer to the informed. Well, how much do we want to have done on this? Because in theory, part of this is these are questions to open a discussion as much as they are questions themselves. So I'm just going to... Staff, what do you guys think? Because...

DAN GLUCK

I think it is fine to have a short meeting. I mean, seriously, you don't have to fill all the time that you are going to be speaking with the board. If you want to say something, then say it, but don't come up with stuff just to fill time.

JEFF OSBORN

That's exactly what I was looking for. Thanks, Andrew. Appreciate it. Speaking of short meetings, do we have anything else to do with this august group while we are all here?

DAN GLUCK

Do you feel comfortable with question one from the board to RSAC? From your perspective, what is the top emerging trend that may impact ICANN that you think the board should consider? And I think one of the acceptable answers there is we don't see anything, but maybe have a think on it.

JEFF OSBORN

I am going to have a think on it, but you are absolutely... You are really scoring today, Andrew. You are just spot on. That's kind of where I think I would have gone with that. I'd be much more comfortable hearing more people agree or disagree or something. And Kevin is about to have brilliant insight.

KEVIN HILDEBRAND

I was just going to say AI is the big one that everybody seems to be interested in. I'm just picturing in my mind how that would actually affect ICANN or the DNS, whatever. But that's the big thing that's everywhere right now is AI.

KENNETH RENARD

So do we ask Gemini what the TLD NS records are?

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN

Limon here. I would argue that you are spot on, of course. It might not have a direct impact on ICANN as an organization or as a policy-setting place, but it will have an impact on the internet as an ecosystem, and that will have a secondary effect on ICANN as stewards of identifiers and whatnot.

So I definitely think there is a connection there. Thanks.

JEFF OSBORN

Oh, Russ?

RUSS MUNDY

Yeah, thanks. I just wanted to point out that SSAC just quite recently started a new work party to develop some information and perspective on the impact of AI and on DNS.

What the output will be, I think it is still not really clear. But at least there is some work going on in SSAC relative to AI and its impact on the ecosystem. So if you want to say, "And we know about... So your liaison told you about this," that's something you could say too.

JEFF OSBORN

Thanks, Russ. That's useful. Leemon?

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN

And just as a spiteful note, AI will probably help us ACs and SOs produce all these reports and recommendations that we are being measured on!

JEFF OSBORN

Oh, you cynical bastard, that's so true. One thing I'm wondering about is... I'm going to kind of ask permission, I guess, if you don't mind.

JEFF OSBORN

The way I get asked by this group of people, and I was literally just asked yesterday, "What keeps you up at night?" And I think it is—and the last time the board asked me that, I said money because, on me, it doesn't mean that's what keeps the average root server operator up. But I think as technologists, and as people in the

business we're in, if we're being honest with ourselves, I think AI is kind of what keeps us up at night. Because whether it's our kids ever having jobs or getting an even stupider war started by somebody using AI in that setting or whatever.

I almost kind of feel like a way to answer this would be: you can only do so much planning of a five-year plan that involves something as quick-moving as AI seems to be in hindsight. So if what you're asking here is what are we thinking about, it's how the hell is AI going to impact all of this?

KENNETH RENARD

I'm just trying to keep this... So, I guess the question is how it impacts ICANN, not necessarily the RSS or RSAC.

JEFF OSBORN

If ICANN doesn't think it's going to get affected by AI in the next five years, ICANN is not paying attention.

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN

What's the question on the table?

KENNETH RENARD

Yeah, what's the question on the table? From the RSAC, from the root server system perspective, I don't have too many concerns about AI, unless it's going to increase the query load significantly.

But in the broader ecosystem of all of ICANN, is that what we're answering here?

JEFF OSBORN

Well, the question is written in ICANN-Ease, you know. So I'm going to... ChatGPT, can you tell me what question one means in English?

The ICANN five-year FY 2026-30 strategic plan highlights priorities that support ICANN's vision for 2030. The annual strategy review is launching at ICANN 85. The program provides a structured way to assess whether updates to the strategic plan are needed to reflect changes in the external environment and ICANN's internal capacity.

From your perspective, what is the top emerging trend that may impact ICANN that you think the board should consider? And I would say the sabot in the gears is AI. If you're trying to do things on a five-year basis, AI is going to really mess with you. You know, it's like they used to say, "If you want to make God laugh, tell him your plans." Well, if you want AI to mess with you, make five-year plans, I think.

Somewhere in there, I think it's a legitimate thing to say, and it has the benefit of being true. But if somebody wants to say it better, I'm definitely all ears. Leemon?

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN

I don't intend to improve on that, but there is also the geopolitical situation that may affect how the internet works in the future. We

still have an internet that is international and that is a one globally unique identifier system. And that is, I would argue, being challenged by a geopolitical situation where polarization becomes more and more pronounced. I think that is going to influence this in the coming few years.

I don't really know how, and I don't know where it's going, but that it will influence is probable to me. And how that relates to AI is a totally separate ballpark, but there are connections there as well. Influencing other people and creating divisions and creating polarization and whatnot. So it's all tied together in this unholy, ill, foul-smelling system that I really despise, but it's there.

JEFF OSBORN

Allow me to say, while I think you're right and everything you just said is true, I do not want to be the one to throw the turd in the punch bowl in a public setting at ICANN and say the multi-stakeholder system is wildly at risk because my fellow citizens elected a raving lunatic who's in the process of tearing apart the global order. How would you people like to address that?

I mean, that's true. It's great. This is perfect at a cocktail party at about 11:00 AM when everybody has a ride home. But I'm being concerned about throwing it out there in this setting. But you're absolutely right.

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN

Yeah. Well, you don't have to do the entire speech that I just did. Just noticing that the geopolitical situation might introduce challenges to the ecosystem that we're trying to deal with.

JEFF OSBORN

But it was so good.

RUSS MUNDY

Yeah. Thanks, Jeff. I guess I would say that your concern about not throwing things in the punch bowl is good. But I'm looking at the questions. My sense is they would prefer or would like to get an answer that had a relationship to the five-year plan.

And if the five-year plan is not, for instance, adequately addressing possible impacts of AI, or if the five-year plan doesn't leave enough latitude for what may happen in a range of geopolitical situations, that itself is a potential hazard. But that RSAC, per se, I don't think has any particularly strong insights to provide in any of those issues, with the possible exception of stuff related to AI changing really fast.

As technologists, I think that's probably reasonable for RSAC to say. But anything more in sort of the political realm, I think would be a less than useful thing to make comments on.

JEFF OSBORN

I really appreciate the fig leaf because I really would rather not do it. You know, it's one of those things that I think it's on everybody's

mind, but Russ points out so well, it's certainly not our thing to throw. Brad?

BRAD VERD

Agreed. I would just stay away from the geopolitical. It's not what the question is meant to be asking about, regardless of what's on your mind. It's not the venue; it's not the place for us to bring it up.

I think you go with what Russ said, saying that based upon our role as an AC to the board for the root, while we don't have anything specific, something that's on our mind and we're watching closely is AI, and we presume the board is doing the same. And leave it at that, and you're done.

JEFF OSBORN

Thanks, Brad. Leemon?

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN

Leemon here. I'm happy to see it go. So don't worry. Just leave it out.

JEFF OSBORN

Thank you then. Okay, I think that's pretty reasonable and it feels pretty thoughtful, and it comes from our area of expertise rather than the broader one. Thanks for the reminder, Brad and Russ both.

Anybody else have any other input? I'm kind of feeling like we've congealed.

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN

Should I throw one more in?

JEFF OSBORN

Sure, let's go.

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN

I just asked Google about how AI will affect DNS, and there's actually a bunch of stuff in there about phishing being able to have, on the malware side, having AI be able to generate brand-specific lookalike domains on your DNS abuse side. But then on the good side, it can help analyze and trap those. It can also help registrars or whatever.

The one other topic I would have thought a trend that you might want to think about is post-quantum encryption and how it affects DNSSEC. So that's something else for future thought.

JEFF OSBORN

Do you think it's worth bringing up post-quantum, PQC specifically? Is that... I mean, it would make us look smart.

LARS-JOHAN LIMAN	It asked about trends, so those are the two things I can think of: AI and post-quantum encryption.
JEFF OSBORN	That's okay.
LARS-JOHAN LIMAN	Tripti's all about quantum, so.
JEFF OSBORN	Oh, right. This is her thing too. Okay, great idea. Thanks. Anyone else have anything else to make me look smart? And I realize that's not easy, but...
BRAD VERD	Russ. Russ.
JEFF OSBORN	Russ.
RUSS MUNDY	Yeah. Be careful about the post-quantum in crypto and impact on DNSSEC. There's been several statements and comments about how post-quantum would impact different things, and DNS and DNSSEC is one of the least impacted from it because of the general short-term nature of queries and responses and validation of those responses.

The fact that something was recorded five years ago and now can be decrypted or faked is like: so what? Which is quite different than post-quantum relative to, say, a TLS verification.

Although it's really an interesting technology, its likely impact on DNSSEC is not particularly that high, at least from what folks I've read, in my opinion at this point. But that's just my opinion. So whatever you think would be best, I'm okay with.

JEFF OSBORN

Okay. Thanks, Russ.

KENNETH RENARD

Yeah, this is Ken. I was going to say, not that the problem is completely solved for DNS, but I feel like we've got a pretty good handle on it and really smart people working on it. So yeah, it would make us look smart, and we could fill up another couple seconds of time. But it's not that big of an issue, I don't think. Thanks.

JEFF OSBORN

Yeah, it seems like kind of a coin flip whether to put it in or not. I mean, to blow ISC's horn, Andre Suri, who's the head of BIND development, is literally in the process of getting a doctorate in PQC. So it is definitely something we're all pretty actively aware of and thinking about. Brad?

BRAD VERD I think Daniel's in front of me.

JEFF OSBORN Oh, Daniel, then Brad.

DAN GLUCK Thanks. This is Dan. I can't advise anyone here to not come to the joint session with the ASO tomorrow. It's very important that everyone is here for the joint session with the ASO tomorrow.

But maybe after that, you can check out the recording. Same time, the SSAC work party on DNS abuse and AI is meeting, and that will be public, and you could hear from some of the folks that I guess Ken might have been referencing that are following this in the ICANN world.

JEFF OSBORN Thanks, Dan. Brad.

BRAD VERD Yeah, I would again leave the post-quantum piece out. I agree with everything Russ said. He took most of the words out of my mouth.

But if you look at the other aspect, which has been said, is that this is Tripti's wheelhouse. She probably knows more about this than we do, and I don't think you want to open up a can of worms where she's asking us a question or putting us in a position that we're unable to answer. So I just think you'd...

JEFF OSBORN Thank you, Brad.

BRAD VERD Leave that alone.

JEFF OSBORN I appreciate that. Done. No question. Thank you. Anyone else?
Anything else?

DAN GLUCK Ready?

JEFF OSBORN What does that leave us?

DAN GLUCK Presentation.

JEFF OSBORN That's it? Thank you all for coming. We'll see you in the same room
exactly one hour from now for the third RSAC work session, a
presentation from the Review of Reviews Community Group.

DAN GLUCK Great. Please stop the recording.

JEFF OSBORN

Thanks for coming.

RUSS MUNDY

Recording stopped.

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