Incremental Deployment of a Signed Root Zone

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This design is the result of a cooperation between ICANN & VeriSign with support from the U.S. DoC NTIA
Goals
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• Deploy a signed root zone
  ‣ Transparent processes
  ‣ Audited procedures
  ‣ Trust
  ‣ DNSSEC deployment

• validators, registries, registrars, name server operators
Issues
A significant proportion of DNS clients send queries with EDNS0 and DO=1

Some (largely unquantified, but potentially significant) population of such clients are unable to receive large responses

Serving signed responses might break those clients
Rollback

• If we sign the root, there will be some early validator deployment

• There is the potential for some clients to break, perhaps badly enough that we need to un-sign the root (e.g., see previous slide)

• Un-signing the root will break the DNS for validators
Proposal
Deploy Incrementally

- Serve a signed zone from just L-Root, initially
- Follow up with J-Root
- Then other root servers >A
- Last, A-Root
Deploy Incrementally

- The goal is to leave the client population with some root servers not offering large responses until the impact of those large responses is better understood.
- Relies upon resolvers not always choosing a single server.
  - Note we propose leaving A until last.
DURZ

• “Deliberately Unvalidatable Root Zone”

• Sign RRSets with keys that are not published in the zone

• Publish keys in the zone which are not used, and which additionally contain advice for operators (see next slide)

• Swap in actual signing keys (which enables validation) at the end of the deployment process
. 3600 IN DNSKEY 256 3 5 (AwEAAa+-----------------------------+
++THIS/KEY/AN/INVALID/KEY/AND/SHOULD
/NOT/BE/USED/CONTACT/ROOTSIGN/AT/ICANN/DOT/ORG/FOR/MORE/INFORMATION+++++
+----------------------------+
+----------------------------+
+----------------------------+
+----------------------------+
+----------------------------+
+----------------------------+
+----------------------------+
+----------------------------+
+----------------------------+
+----------------------------+
+) ; Key ID = 6477
• Deploy conservatively
  ▸ It is the root zone, after all
• Prevent a community of validators from forming
  ▸ This allows us to un-sign the root zone during the deployment phase if we have to without collateral damage
Measurement

- For those root servers that are instrumented, full packet captures and subsequent analysis around signing events
- Ongoing dialogue with operator communities to assess real-world impact of changes
Testing

• A prerequisite for this proposal is a captive test of the deployment
  ▸ Test widely-deployed resolvers, with validation enabled and disabled, against the DURZ
  ▸ Test with clients behind broken networks that drop large responses
Thoughts?

- Feedback on this proposal would be extremely welcome
  - Here in the room
  - E-mail Jakob, Joe or Joe

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