



Interview with David McAuley (.cc) and Adam Eisner (.ca) about the DNS Abuse Repository and e-mail list

Joke Braeken - ICANN Org: Today I am talking with David McAuley and Adam Eisner. David, why are we here today?

David McAuley (Verisign): I'm employed by VeriSign, and I participate in the ccNSO by virtue of our management of the .cc country code top level domain. A couple of years ago, there was a recognition that the the topic of DNS Abuse had become quite an urgent one within the ICANN community, especially within the GNSO, but not only. Consequently, the ccNSO Council stood up and created the DNS Abuse Standing Committee (DASC). The committee looks at ways to help ccTLDs fight DNS abuse. The group is not here to create a code of conduct or rules, but rather serves as a platform for information exchange, targeted at ccTLDs. How can we collaboratively help each other with this topic? That is the main idea. Adam and I are DASC members, and the group is led by Nick Wenban-Smith and Bruce Tonkin.

We created two subgroups within the DASC: one is dealing with the survey that you've seen and you've heard about, and the other is dealing with a repository of useful links and useful information. The Repository subgroup, as it's so called, is also dealing with the creation of an email list that can be a tool for ccTLDs. You may have heard about the TLD-OPS mailing list? The DASC mailing list is a little different, but along the same vein. Subscribers might be ccTLD abuse officers, who can discuss DNS abuse related issues they encounter. Adam is a helpful member of that

subgroup. Sorry for this long answer, but that's roughly why we're here this morning!

Joke Braeken - ICANN Org: Thanks much, David. Perhaps a long answer, but also a very comprehensive answer! A question for you, Adam: What was the motivation for the creation of the Repository? What gap does it address?

Adam Eisner (.CA): I work for CIRA, the Canadian Internet Registration Authority, and we operate .ca. David did a really good job explaining why and how DNS abuse has become a very important, relevant, prevalent topic in the ccNSO community and in the ICANN community in general.

One of the challenges many ccTLDs face is trying to scope what the extent of DNS abuse is, what it means, how it impacts them. There is no particularly definitive definition. Some organizations have done a very good job of trying to quantify and qualify what DNS abuse is. But there is still a lot to sort through on that topic as a cctld. So one of the things that we were thinking is, it could be helpful to many cctld operators if we were able to put together a vetted list of resources, news articles, information related to DNS abuse that could help ccTLD operators think through and navigate this important topic. After all, it has many directions and rabbit holes. Our thinking was, if we could provide a vetted list of sourced materials that address the topic, wouldn't that be helpful? That's kind of the genesis of how it got started.

Joke Braeken - ICANN Org: So it it's really a group of people that contributes to the repository. What if a ccTLD community member has some information that they think might be useful to add to the repository? Can they contact you, or how does that work?

Adam Eisner (.CA): We have a a group within the subgroup that reviews everything that comes in. There's an address that materials can be submitted to. (Note by Joke: <https://community.icann.org/x/DoWZDg>) On a regular sort of cadence, those submissions are reviewed and discussed. If they are approved, they are put into the repository that's available online. (Note by Joke: <https://community.icann.org/x/Ege7Cg>)

David McAuley (Verisign): I might just add a little bit to that. Thanks, Adam. That was exactly right. We just want to underscore that while there is a repository group that's managing this process, we expect, and we hope for contributions very widely from the community. We will vet the suggestions, to make sure that they're useful to the community. We will monitor this as it goes on. We are learning as we go, and we will tweak this to make sure it's responsive and useful. We encourage members of the community: If you see something that you think is a useful bit of information with respect to DNS abuse that might be helpful to any ccTLD manager anywhere, please just let us know, and we'd like to look at it. Thanks!

Joke Braeken - ICANN Org: How do you envisage the repository evolves? Do you see any challenges?

Adam Eisner (.CA): I would like to reiterate what David was saying. We are encouraging the community to submit resources as they come across them. Is there anything that someone thinks could be useful to the larger CcTld community? Please do come forward. Please do submit.

This is a new group trying to accelerate participation in the community. Sometimes that can be a little hard to get ramped up and get started. The more momentum we can build early on, the better! We will be talking a little bit about that in Hamburg too. We want to make sure everybody is aware of the work that we're doing and get the conversation going. It does become a little challenging to get something like this off the ground, so I just wanted to echo what David was saying about soliciting any and all feedback and input there.

David McAuley (Verisign): I have nothing to add. I agree entirely with what Adam said. You know this is not just submissions, but feedback. We want to make sure that this gets traction. Thanks.

Joke Braeken - ICANN Org: You mentioned a session in Hamburg. What will happen during that session?

David McAuley (Verisign): Yes, the the repository is now available. People can go and see it. We are

tweaking it as it goes along. We'll nudge it this way and that, as we get feedback. Also, we hope to release, when we are in Hamburg, the email list that I mentioned briefly. We will send out teasers to the community between now and Hamburg, but that will be a bit of news there. Adam had a wonderful point: These things take time to get traction, acceptance, recognition. And we want to make it useful.

Adam Eisner (.CA): I think we got some really good feedback about the session that was held on DNS abuse in June, and so we've tried to build upon that as it pertains to what we're gonna be talking about on a general agenda level, in terms of tools for ccTLDs.

Joke Braeken - ICANN Org: I am looking forward to the session on Thursday at ICANN78. One more question perhaps regarding the email list. Is it open to to everybody with an interest in DNS abuse?

David McAuley (Verisign): Well, it is an email list, so will not be able to guarantee any confidentiality. People get emails. They can forward them. We aim to launch this as a tool for ccTLDs. Our expectation is that it will be a soft closed list, for and by people connected to a ccTLD manager or to a regional organisation. We will make sure that it's compliant with the requirements that go into privacy protection. Our expectation is this will be a widely available list within the ccNSO. If people feel a need to go in offline discussions with one or 2 other resources they see on that list, they'll they'll have the tools to be able to do that.

Joke Braeken - ICANN Org: So it's it's all about networking as well. Making sure that we put the right people regarding the right topic in touch with each other. Is there anything else that that you wish to discuss today?

David McAuley (Verisign): We hope this is useful for the community. And we welcome your feedback. Thanks!