



*Addressing the global Internet*

**ICANN**

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**Rod Beckstrom**  
CEO and President

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Ms. Cheryl Langdon-Orr, Chair, ALAC  
Mr. Chris Disspain, Chair, ccNSO  
Mr. Chuck Gomes, Chair, GNSO

Dear Cheryl, Chris and Chuck,

Thank you for your April 30 letter seeking clarification on key issues relating to ICANN's proposal to establish a DNS-CERT. We appreciate your continued engagement and the ICANN community's ongoing commitment to a more secure, stable and resilient DNS. We have taken some time to respond to your letter to allow Greg Rattray, our Chief Information Security Officer, to work with you in public meetings and conversations. Now that you are developing a draft charter, it seems an appropriate time to share our views.

Issuance of the Strategic Initiatives paper and global DNS-CERT business case in February and our continued efforts since then are intended to promote community engagement on projects in the 2010-2013 ICANN Strategic Plan. The DNS-CERT concept was among the top six of more than 20 priorities in all prioritization votes on the three Strategic Plans, starting with the public session at the Seoul meeting. Staff papers following informal discussions with the community were posted for public comment and are available at:

<http://www.icann.org/en/topics/ssr/strategic-ssr-initiatives-09feb10-en.pdf>.

The DNS-CERT has been the subject of much debate over the past twelve months, generating a broad range of perspectives and substantial interest and debate. It was driven, in significant part, by our experience with ccTLD operators in capacity building sessions, and our collaborative efforts to combat the spread of the Conficker worm. That experience indicated a strong demand for a well-resourced source of assistance on DNS-related security incidents.

More than 10,000 references to a DNS-CERT can be found online:

([http://www.google.com/#hl=en&client=hp&q=%22dns+cert%22&aq=f&aqi=g1&aql=&oq=&gs\\_rfai=&pbx=1&fp=ec903f46ceabe964](http://www.google.com/#hl=en&client=hp&q=%22dns+cert%22&aq=f&aqi=g1&aql=&oq=&gs_rfai=&pbx=1&fp=ec903f46ceabe964)). Furthermore, the Canadian Internet Registration Authority "recommends the Government of Canada enhance its ability to respond to emergencies... through a DNS-CERT" (<http://www.cira.ca/2010-IC-consultation/>). Paul Vixie, CEO of the Internet Systems Consortium, published a widely read blog piece entitled "Towards a DNS-CERT Definition" (<http://www.isc.org/community/blog/201006/towards-dnscert-definition>). Many other opinions and calls for action have been published.

