



The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers

24 April 2017

Katrina Sasaki, Chair, ccNSO
Patrik Fältström, Chair, SSAC

Dear Katrina and Patrik,

The Board thanks the ccNSO for its letter of 30 January¹ and submission of the report of the Extended Process Similarity Review Panel (EPSRP) Working Group, and the SSAC: SAC084, 88 and 89². The Board appreciates the members of the ccNSO EPSRP working group and the SSAC for their hard work on this important matter.

After reading the documents and listening to SSAC and ccNSO in Copenhagen, the Board notes the views of the ccNSO and the SSAC specifically on three issues:

1. *On RFC 6912*, both SSAC (SAC084) and the ccNSO WG refer to RFC 6912, however with divergent interpretations.
2. *On Similarity Evaluation findings*, with respect to the cases for which guidance was sought (lower versus upper case), the ccNSO recommends that in the event there are different outcomes for the lower and upper case evaluations, the evaluation of the lower case shall prevail. The ccNSO agrees that any process that evaluates a potential TLD should be consistent with maintaining the security and stability of the DNS. The SSAC has the view that a cautionary approach is appropriate where potential confusability in both upper- and lower case (where available) is included in the evaluation.
3. *On Mitigation measures*, the ccNSO suggests that where potential confusability exists, possible measures to mitigate risk should be enforced at the registry level and that IDN ccTLD manager should be allowed to propose and implement risk-mitigating measures. The SSAC stresses that where potential confusability exists, a cautionary approach is appropriate. At a minimum, mitigation measures proposed by the registry (applicant) should be part of the overall string evaluation.

¹ see <<https://ccnso.icann.org/about/sasaki-to-crocker-30jan17-en.pdf>>.

² see SAC084 <<https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/sac-084-en.pdf>>, SAC088 <<https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/sac-088-en.pdf>> and SAC089 <<https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/sac-089-en.pdf>>



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The Board suggests the ccNSO and the SSAC collaborate to arrive at conclusions to the divergent views on the three issues above.

The Board requests a joint briefing at a time and venue of your choosing from both groups to further its understanding of this important topic, but preferably not later than September 30, 2017.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark blue ink, which appears to read 'Stephen D. Crocker'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue horizontal line.

Stephen D. Crocker
ICANN Board Chair