

RIPE NCC ccTLD DNS Operations

Time to let go?

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Note to Readers

- **NOTE WELL** that I see no reason to criticise neither the quality of the delivered service, nor the technical staff and its abilities.
- This is purely a matter of business principles.

Starting point

- Yes, I have vested interests.
- Autonomica provides DNS slave service for TLDs on a commercial basis.
- The RIPE NCC provides DNS slave service for free to TLDs.

Articles of Association

The objectives of the association are to perform the following activities:

- **Registration Activities,**
related to the role of the association as Regional Internet Registry for Europe and surrounding areas;
- **Co-ordination Activities,**
including the support of the coherent operation of the Internet in the European Area;

Articles of Association, cont.

- **Administration Activities,**

including all regular reports, administrative support as well as general administrative overhead which cannot be clearly attributed to a specific activity;

- **New Activities,**

including all activities which are necessary to react to the rapidly changing world of the Internet;

Charter Objectives

Membership Services:

- Regional Internet Registry
- Initial Support for New Local Internet Registries
- Liaison and Co-ordination
- Test Traffic Measurements
- Membership – RIPE NCC Interaction Facilities

Charter Objectives, cont.

Co-ordination Activities:

- RIPE Database Maintenance and Development
- Information Services, Communication, and Education
- DNS Co-ordination
- RIPE Meetings

Charter Objectives, cont.

New Activities:

- Routing Information Service (RIS)
- Deployment of Internet Security Infrastructure (DISI)

Activity Plan

Activity plan 2005:

- Only mentions K-root.
- Refers to ...

Activity Planning Support Document:

"The RIPE NCC will also continue to offer a secondary name service and limited support to country code TLD (ccTLD) administrators."

Why?

Two "why" questions arise:

1. Why does the RIPE NCC do this?
 - And why do they do it for free?
2. Why should they not?

Why they do it?

- Not really my job to answer ...
- It's seen as a Good Thing™.
 - Has some PR effects that should not be neglected.
- It's inherited.
 - Old days, bad connectivity, small zones.
 - ns.eu.net, a big TLD server drowned in bankruptcy. NCC took over in an act of "charity".

Why they shouldn't do it!

- It's not part of the association's objectives.
- It's no longer necessary.
 - The old days are long gone. Internet now well connected. Lots of good DNS service to be had.
- There are costs connected with this that are opaque to the RIPE NCC members.
 - Part of "Operating costs".

Why they shouldn't do it!

- It obfuscates the economical relations in the domain name business.
 - Cost is carried by inappropriate parties.
 - Domain name holders don't see cost.
 - Internet is mature business, cost relations should be straight forward.

Why they shouldn't do it!

- "Free" gives the wrong impression:
 - Not important to have good DNS service?
 - (Note: not meant to criticise NCC service!)
- "Free" undermines the market.
 - How can one compete with "free"?
 - (Yes, I have vested interests, but it's still true. :-)

Policy

Alternatives:

1. Do nothing?
2. Withdraw from ccTLD name service entirely?
3. Impose fee to TLD registries for the service?

The background of the image is a close-up, high-contrast photograph of a fire. The flames are bright orange and yellow, with a blurred, motion-like quality. In the foreground, several dark, charred branches and sticks are visible, some of which are partially obscured by the fire. A red speech bubble with a white border is positioned on the right side of the image, containing the text "Asbestos suit, please?".

Asbestos
suit, please?