

From: "Beyer, Loraine" <lb2736@att.com>
To: <DNSSEC@ntia.doc.gov>
Date: Mon, Oct 27, 2008 11:13 AM
Subject: Subject: Enhancing the Security and Stability of the Internet's Domain Name and Addressing System

Dear National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA):

Thank you for requesting public comments about DNS security in the Federal Register (October 9, 2008 (Volume 73, Number 197), Page 59608-59612, docket Number: 0810021307-81308-01), "Enhancing the Security and Stability of the Internet's Domain Name and Addressing System", as posted at:
<http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2008/E8-23974.htm>
<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/DNS/DNSSEC.html>

AT&T has an overall comment about the pros and cons of deploying DNSSEC. AT&T has concerns about the policy of allowing validating stub resolvers the ability to accept responses marked "Bogus".

Over the past few years we have noticed an increase in the incidence of user warnings that the certificate associated with a particular web site they wish to visit or application they wish to invoke "has a problem" or "is expired". These warnings are typically accompanied by a "Do not proceed (recommended)" admonishment. Users learn very quickly that if they ignore the warnings they can access the desired web site with no ill effects (mostly, so far). So in effect failure to properly maintain certificates ends up teaching users that they can safely ignore security warnings. This is an extremely poor practice with obvious ramifications.

We are concerned that the same situation could recur with DNSSEC. What is the point of putting in place a complex system to ensure users get valid DNS responses if the end users themselves are allowed to determine the validity of the response? End users are ill-equipped to make such a determination.

We would be most interested in discussions on this topic. Thank you for your consideration

Sincerely,

Loraine Beyer
Senior Member of Technical Staff
MSEE, MBA, CISSP
205 982 2339
AT&T Enterprise Architecture

The information transmitted is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain confidential, proprietary, and/or privileged material. Any review, retransmission, dissemination or other use of, or taking of any action in reliance upon this information by persons or entities other than the intended recipient is prohibited. If you received this in error, please contact the sender and delete the material from all computers. GA623