



# Rolling the Root Zone DNSSEC Key Signing Key

# Motivation for the Talk

- ⦿ ICANN is about to change an important configuration parameter in DNSSEC
- ⦿ For a network DNS operator, this may create a need for action
- ⦿ This discussion is meant to inform: What is happening, when, and what to do if troubleshooting is needed

# DNSSEC in the Root Zone

- ⦿ DNSSEC in the Root Zone is managed by:
  - ICANN, as the IANA Functions Operator
  - Verisign, as the Root Zone Maintainer (RZM)
- ⦿ Some changes to the naming of the functions may happen in the future

# DNSSEC Key Management in the Root Zone

- ⦿ DNSSEC key management is divided into:
  - Key Signing Key (KSK), self-signs the key set
  - Zone Signing Key (ZSK), signs other zone data
- ⦿ These roles are meaningful to the operators of signed zones
  - The significance is that the roles are separated

# DNSSEC

# KSK and ZSK

- ⦿ ICANN, as IANA Functions Operator, manages the KSK
  - Same KSK since operations began in 2010
  - The KSK signs the ZSK quarterly in a ceremony
- ⦿ Verisign, as Root Zone Maintainer, manages the ZSK
  - ZSK is changed quarterly

# Why Change the KSK?

- ⊙ Primary reason – operational preparedness
  - KSK has no expiration date, currently no weakness
  - No key should live forever: bad crypto practice
  - DNSSEC Practice Statement states the key will be rolled
  - Prefer to exercise process in normal conditions
    - As opposed to abnormal, such as key compromise
- ⊙ Big challenge
  - Involves countless/uncountable participants
  - No test environment can cover all possibilities

# The KSK Roll Plan Documents

- ⦿ The plan consists of five documents:
  - 2017 KSK Rollover Operational Implementation Plan
  - 2017 KSK Rollover Systems Test Plan
  - 2017 KSK Rollover Monitoring Plan
  - 2017 KSK Rollover External Test Plan
  - 2017 KSK Rollover Back Out Plan
  
- ⦿ The documents are available at:  
<https://www.icann.org/kskroll>

# Communications Approach

- ⊙ Target technical audiences performing DNSSEC validation (e.g., Network Operating Groups)
  - How to participate in the KSK rollover
- ⊙ Broader communication
  - General awareness, resources available
- ⊙ Integrated communications approach
  - Traditional channel (email, presentations)
  - Social media (#KeyRoll)
  - Leverage ICANN staff and stakeholder groups



# Operational Implementation Plan Phases

## ⦿ Preparation Phases

- System engineering, KSK creation and replication
- Little to no operational impact on Internet

## ⦿ Automated Updates (RFC 5011) Phases

- KSK-2017 (new) pre-published, signs DNSKEY set
- KSK-2010 (current) is revoked

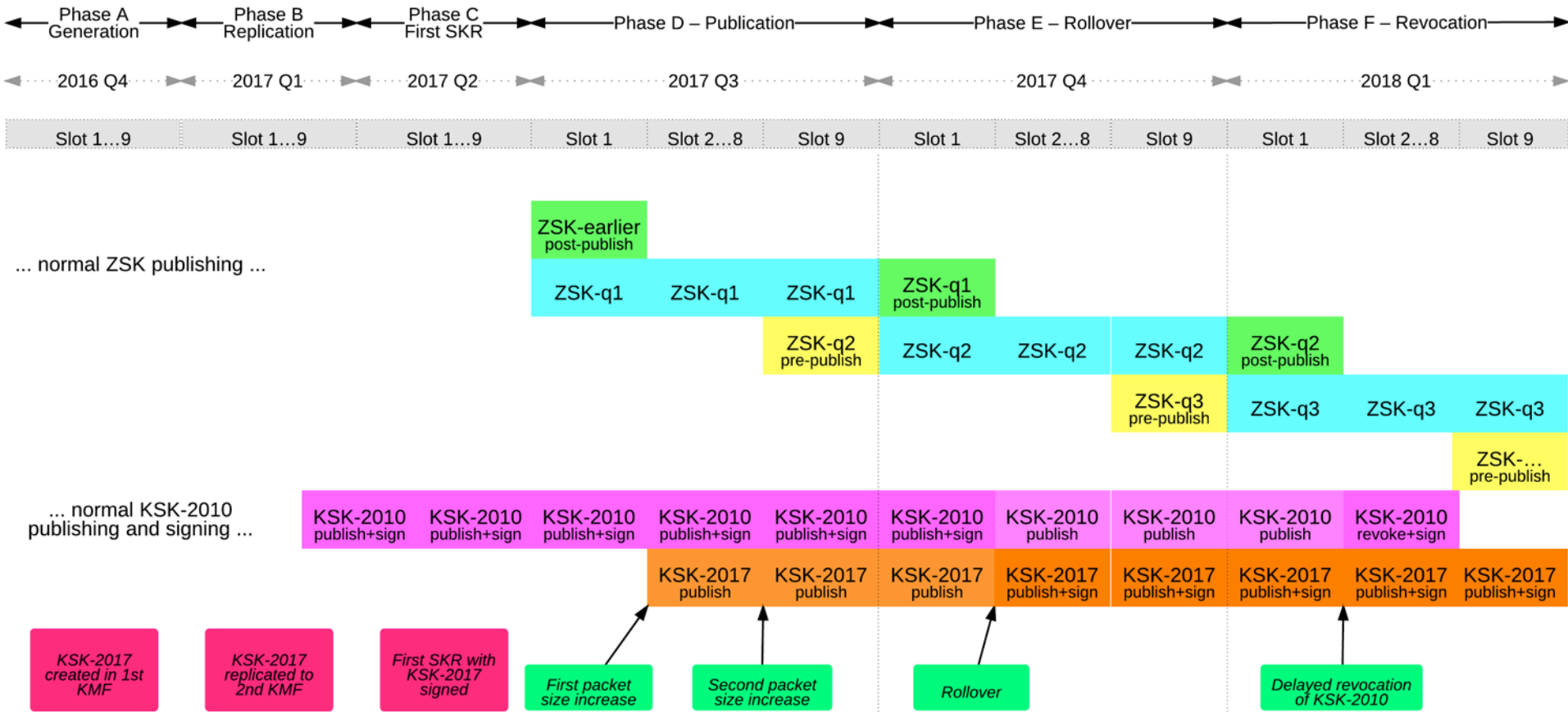
## ⦿ Post Rollover Phases

- Deletion of KSK-2010 from system
- Project experiences documented

# Operational Implementation Plan Dates

- ⦿ Plans publicly available from July 22, 2016
- ⦿ Key signing ceremonies
  - Q4 2016 ceremony (October 27): generate KSK-2017
  - Q1 2017 ceremony (February): KSK-2017 operationally ready
- ⦿ DNS changes
  - KSK-2017 added to root zone on July 11, 2017 (with KSK-2010 still there)
  - KSK-2017 signs DNSKEY RRset (instead of KSK-2010) beginning October 11, 2017
  - KSK-2010 revoked on January 11, 2018 but is still in the root zone

# Operational Implementation Plan Timeline



# Systems Test Plan

- ⊙ Testing internal systems for these components
- ⊙ Key Management
  - Lifecycle
- ⊙ Key Processing
  - Key Signing Request to Signed Key Response
- ⊙ Trust Anchor Publication
  - Generation of the trust anchor file as formatted in eXtensible Markup Language (XML)

# Monitoring Plan

- ⊙ Automated monitoring involving
  - ICANN's L-root server
  - Information Science Institute's B-root server
- ⊙ Looking for
  - Low-level fragmentation issues, indicating responses are too large
  - Elevated query rates for the DNSKEY resource record set, indicating misconfigured trust anchors
- ⊙ Plus a means for ad hoc reporting

# External Test Plan

- ⊙ Resources targeted for software developers
  - Two third-party “accelerated” RFC 5011 test environments with accelerated clocks
    - <http://toot-servers.net>
    - <http://keyroll.systems>
- ⊙ Resources more suitable for operators
  - “Real time” RFC 5011 test environment being developed by ICANN
  - Roll a test zone trust anchor with actual 30-day Add Hold-Down timer

# Back Out Plan

- ⦿ Plan includes back out capability
  - If necessary, can stay in current state or back out at every phase
  - Until KSK-2010 is revoked in Phase F
- ⦿ Multiple back out DNSKEY Resource Record Sets (RRsets) signed at each ceremony
  - Back out can be immediate
  - No need for extra key ceremony

# What You Need to Know

## ⦿ Manage Your Trust Anchors

- Be aware of your software tools for managing trust anchors
- Be aware of the new KSK

## ⦿ When Events Happen

- Keep an eye on dates
- Be mindful of when changes are scheduled and monitor appropriately



# Managing Trust Anchors

- ⦿ Trust anchors are configured data in DNSSEC validators
  - If Automated Updates of DNSSEC Trust Anchors (RFC 5011) is enabled and working, the rollover is automatic
  - Otherwise manual intervention is required
    - Add the KSK-2017 before October 11, 2017 (assuming all is on track)
    - Remove KSK-2010 at a later date

# Planned KSK Rollover Dates

- ⦿ Plans publicly available from July 22, 2016
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- ⦿ DNS changes
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# For More Information



- ◉ Join the [ksk-rollover@icann.org](mailto:ksk-rollover@icann.org) mailing list:
  - ◉ <https://mm.icann.org/listinfo/ksk-rollover>



- ◉ Follow on Twitter
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# Engage with ICANN



## Thank You and Questions

Reach us at:

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Website: [icann.org/kskroll](http://icann.org/kskroll)



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