Open Source For an Open Internet
ISC Subscriber News

2024 Q1

Important updates for ISC's BIND 9, Kea DHCP, and ISC DHCP support subscribers.

Biennial Support Satisfaction Survey

Please complete our biennial satisfaction survey. We are particularly looking for your frank feedback on our new support ticketing system and portal.

Complete the survey

BIND 9   DNS News

BIND 9.16 maintenance is ending

BIND 9.16 maintenance is ending, after four years of active support (9.16.0 was released in March, 2020). Please update to BIND 9.18, which is our current Extended Support Version.

Mitigating recent CVEs required substantial changes in BIND, and because our major branches are now rather different due to refactoring, porting the changes across branches was also a significant effort. As a result, we had some trouble making modifications that did not introduce other errors. We are, however, building in test cases for all of the issues found to avoid regressions.

There are several very capable research teams that are focused on finding DNS vulnerabilities and we expect them to continue this work, which will maintain the pressure on the BIND development team. Despite this, we are confident that the more recent 9.18 branch of BIND is much improved over the older 9.11 and 9.16 branches.

BIND 9.20 is now planned for Q2 2024. The recently discovered CVEs have delayed work on the new database refactoring (qp-trie) that was planned for 9.20. As a result, we have scaled back these changes in 9.20 and delayed the release from March to June. In the coming development cycle we plan to complete the migration to the new qp-trie infrastructure, and add support for the new QUIC transport.

ISC is contributing to specifications for a proposed new DNS record, the Deleg record, which would provide information about the server's capabilities. This draft will be worked on via a Birds of a Feather (BOF) session in the IETF. The idea was presented most recently at DNS-OARC 42.

Further Reading

- Updated release calendar: we will now target Q2 for new branches, rather than Q1.
- Blog announcing the new Proxyv2 feature.
- More Proxyv2 configuration examples
- Updated root hints article

Kea/DHCP News

Our February 2024 development release of Kea 2.5.6 will update Kea's support for the Discovery of Network-designated Resolvers (DNR) option changes, as it has moved from a draft to RFC 9463. This development release will also feature database improvements, RADIUS changes, and some code maintenance.

We are planning to release a new stable branch of Kea, 2.6, in Q2. We hope to include the new ping-check hook, the hub-and-spokes HA feature, and a new performance monitoring hook that will collect diagnostic information about the DHCP service, as well as the recently-introduced Docker images and packages for the ARM architecture.

We are planning some cleanup and changes to our Cloudsmith package repository. At the end of February, we will be removing the Kea 1.9 and 2.1 repos, and at the end of March we will remove the 2.3 repo. These development versions are quite old, but if you need to keep them we recommend making a backup copy. We will also be launching a new kea-dev repository on Cloudsmith with the release of Kea 2.7; that location will hold all future development branches. Read more at https://www.isc.org/blogs/kea-cloudsmith-updates/.

- We have updated the KB article on Logging for ISC DHCP users.
- We also have a new KB article on redefining standard options, and we have updated the list of options supported in ISC DHCP and Kea.
- If you missed it, this blog post lists the major accomplishments in 2023 from our DHCP development team.
- And if you couldn't attend our December webinar on configuring Kea using Stork, please check out the recording.

Upcoming Holiday Schedule for ISC Support

ISC's support department will be closed for regular business on:

- Friday, March 29
- Monday, May 27
- Wednesday, June 19

Normal-priority tickets opened on those days will be responded to on the first business day following our return.

Critical-priority tickets will, as always, be responded to based on your organization's critical-ticket SLA. Please contact your account manager if you have questions about your level of support from ISC.

Hope to see you soon!

ISC staff would love to meet you at any of these upcoming events:

- ICANN 79, San Juan, Puerto Rico, March 2 - 7
- IETF 119, Brisbane, Australia, March 16 - 22
- RIPE 88, Krakow, Poland, May 20 - 24
- ICANN Policy Summit, Kigali, Rwanda, June 10 - 13

ISC presented at both the recent DNS-OARC and Centr Tech meetings. Presentation slides and recording links (when available) are posted at https://www.isc.org/presentations/.

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