



Open Source For an Open Internet

ISC Subscriber News

2023 Q4

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

New Support Portal

We have completed the transition to Salesforce for support cases. To request help from ISC, either navigate to the portal at <https://techsupport.isc.org/> or email us at tech@support.isc.org. The support portal is also linked on the ISC.org website, from the Support menu. The portal lets you:

- Review contract start and end dates, and your entitlements under the agreement
- Get advance information on unannounced security vulnerabilities
- Find your private access token for our Cloudsmith package repository or links to the BIND -S edition tarballs
- Upload or download files, or delete any files you have shared with ISC
- See upcoming ISC support holiday hours and software release dates
- Find recent ISC technical articles and video recordings

All customer data in our Salesforce instance is fully encrypted on disk, for your protection.



DNS News

BIND 9.20 is planned for Q1 2024

January will be the last regular maintenance release of 9.16. We encourage customers to update to 9.18 if they haven't done so already, as [9.16 will soon be replaced with 9.20](#).

We plan to deprecate [serve-stale with a non-zero value](#) for [stale-answer-client-timeout](#) and to reduce NSEC3 iterations, per [RFC 9276](#), among other fixes and cleanups prior to the new stable branch.

We updated the KB on [BIND and PKCS#11](#), reflecting changes in OpenSSL 3.0.

Petr Špaček gave [a talk at the September DNS-OARC conference](#) on some experiments that showed that lowering your DS and DNSKEY TTLs does not have any significant negative consequences (on latency or query volume).

The [RIPE DNS Resolver Best Current Practice Task Force](#) has a draft document available on GitHub that may interest BIND users. The recommendations are likely all things you are already doing, but soon you will be able to show your management team that you are compliant with industry-wide best practices!

process conforms to industry norms.

Cathy Almond recently gave an informative talk on [Using EDNS Client Subnet Identifier in the BIND -S edition](#). (The BIND -S edition is available to ISC support subscribers at the Silver level and above.) Greg Choules gave a talk on [Reverse DNS and BIND. Recordings are available](#) on our website.

We have published two blogs this quarter on BIND performance, one updating [Resolver performance](#) and the other focusing on [Authoritative performance](#). We perform these tests periodically to look for performance regressions, and they show that BIND 9.19 releases are at least as performant as 9.18 and 9.16, or in some cases better. We have been improving our tests, adding measurements for memory utilization to the resolver performance test, and startup time to the authoritative test.



Kea/DHCP News

Kea has a new hook: Ping Check!

The latest development release of Kea includes a new hook for support subscribers, [Ping Check](#).

The [basic idea](#) behind ping check is that the Kea DHCP server, before handing out an IPv4 lease, attempts to ping the address to be offered. If it receives a response, it marks that lease as being declined and discards the offer. Pings are not 100% reliable due to access technologies, firewalls, broken clients, and other factors, but in some deployments ping check may be very helpful. The feature was available in ISC DHCP and we have added it to Kea in response to many user requests.

The feature is considered experimental at this stage, and it currently requires multi-threading to be enabled. We suspect that the initial version may interfere with the High Availability and Forensic Logging hooks; this will be an area for us to test in the coming weeks. Please use ping check with caution and report any issues you observe. The Ping Check hook will be supported for production use in our next stable Kea version, Kea 2.6.

Docker images for Kea 2.4 and 2.5 versions are available in [Cloudsmith](#) now. We consider these experimental (until we hear from more users that they are satisfactory).

We have updated the KB article on [Logging for ISC DHCP users](#).

Stork 1.14 adds support for configuring subnets and pools

[Stork 1.14](#) takes a significant step forward in managing Kea. With this version, users who have the Kea Subnet Commands hook installed can now configure and manage, subnets, pools, and options centrally, via the Stork graphical interface. This feature makes it easier to add the same subnets to multiple Kea servers (with a failover pair, for instance).

Marcin Siodelski, the developer of this new feature, will demonstrate Stork's new capabilities in a [webinar on December 13](#).



Meet an ISC Engineer!

We are delighted to announce that [Darren Ankney](#) has been promoted to ISC's Director of Technical Support! We profiled him in a previous newsletter, but we're resharing it here in case you missed it the first time.

Upcoming Holiday Schedule for ISC Support

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

- Monday, December 25
- Tuesday, December 26
- Monday, January 1

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.



We wish our customers a very happy holiday season and all the best in 2024!

ISC staff would love to meet you at any of these events we are attending in 2024:

- [DNS-OARC 42](#), Charlotte, NC, February 8 - 9
 - (ISC's Cathy Almond has just been appointed to the DNS-OARC program committee, joining Petr Špaček.)
- [NANOG 90](#), Charlotte, NC, February 12 - 14
- [IETF 119](#), Brisbane, Australia, March 16 - 22
- [RIPE 88](#), Krakow, Poland, May 20 - 24
- [UKNOF 53?](#) - future meetings are suspended until the end of 2024

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