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## Open Source For an Open Internet

ISC Subscriber News

# 2024 Q4

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

**Recent and upcoming regulation:** if you require a [Secure Software Development Attestation](#) from ISC, please ask your sales representative or email us at [info@isc.org](mailto:info@isc.org). The [EU Cyber Resilience Act \(CRA\)](#) will take effect in December 2027: development of actual specific technical requirements is still TBD. The BIND, Kea, and Stork projects follow generally accepted best practices for security, including vulnerability handling, continuous integration testing, coding standards, mandatory peer code reviews, and code signing. If you have questions about any of this, please ask us.



## DNS News

### Managing BIND

We are in the early design stages of a long-term project to create an [improved management API](#) for BIND. Comments and requirements are welcome. We hope to leverage the [experience of our DHCP team](#) who have created a popular and powerful API for Kea.

### AI in Software Development

Our software engineers have done some experiments and research to determine whether there is a useful role for LLM-based tools yet in our development process. After trying some tools and reading a few papers, our current assessment is: [they are not ready for use yet](#). We found that available tools [did not produce usable code](#) (for various reasons), and test tools [did not find novel bugs](#) and instead created a lot of false positives. We are expecting to see some test tools we use (including the Google fuzz project) to [incorporate LLM in identifying fuzz targets](#), and that may be one of the first places where AI tools are useful for ISC.

### Security

- We are in our [annual quiet period](#) with regard to security notifications. You don't need to worry about us publishing any more CVE advisories until the new year.
- NIST has recently [audited our last 40 CVE submissions](#). They reviewed 320 metrics and agreed with our assessment for 311 of these, giving us a 97.2% "score."

### New and updated KB articles

- [Load balancing and DNS](#)
- [Private networks and split DNS](#)
- [DNSSEC Key States](#)
- [Exempting broken domains in recursion](#)

### Other DNS News

member states to transpose the NIS2 Directive into their national legal frameworks officially passed. Only a few countries succeeded in fully implementing the new rules and notifying the European Commission on time."

- ISC's Jeff Osborn recently gave a presentation to the ICANN Government Advisory committee on the [DNS Root Server System](#). This talk is aimed at a non-technical audience, but it may be useful to some of you who also have to explain DNS to a non-technical audience.



## Kea/DHCP News

[Long-awaited client classification overhaul is underway](#)

The Kea team is making a major uplift to the client classification infrastructure in Kea 2.7.x, which will appear in the next stable Kea version, 3.0, in 2025. The changes will make classification easier to use and more scaleable. One change, [option-class tagging](#), will effectively replace the IF statement language that was a popular feature of ISC DHCP. Another change replaces the current "client-class" element with a list, "client-classes", as described [here](#). For a list of all the classification changes considered (not all were implemented), see this [design document](#).

[New and updated KB articles](#)

- [Kea Performance Optimization](#)
- [Altering the Subnet Mask Option based on giaddr](#)
- [Stork Quickstart Guide](#)



## Stork News

If you haven't looked at [Stork](#) recently, you can now manage most of your configuration for multiple Kea servers, as well as monitor your DHCP traffic, pool utilization, and HA failover events, all in a single Stork instance.

- With the release of [Stork 2.0, our first stable version](#), we have begun offering professional technical support for Stork to our Kea subscribers. We have established a [release plan](#): we plan to produce a new stable version every six months, and support each stable version for nine months.
  - We will be providing Advance Security Notifications to Stork support customers and we have added Stork to the [ISC Software Defect and Security Vulnerability Disclosure Policy](#). This policy applies to ISC-developed and -maintained software only. It does not apply to vulnerabilities that may exist in non-ISC developed software dependencies that may be included in pre-built installable software packages that ISC produces and publishes.
  - We now have an [online Stork demonstration system](#)! It includes multiple DHCP server containers, a DHCP traffic generator, and a Prometheus and a Grafana instance, and if you prefer, you can install it on your own system to experiment with Stork.
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### Meet an ISC Engineer!

And not just ANY engineer: get to know [Tomek Mrugalski](#), our Director of DHCP Engineering!

## Your ISC Support Subscription

- In order to offer a cost-of-living pay increase to our staff, we will be raising support subscription pricing by 5% in 2025.
- You can see the other members of your organization who have access to open and read your support tickets with ISC: just log into <https://techsupport.isc.org> and click on the **Customer Info** tab at the top. This is also where you will find your Cloudsmith repo access token(s) and your current contract expiration date.
- We also post our software **Release Schedule** in the support portal. We try to update it each month with the date of the next releases.

## Upcoming Holiday Schedule for ISC Support

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

- December 25, 2024
- January 1, 2025
- January 20
- February 17

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 check our support portal and/or contact your account manager if you have questions about your level of support from ISC.



[Happy holidays from ISC!](#)

## Hope to see you soon!

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

[PTC '25](#)

[NANOG 93](#)

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[IETF 122](#)

ISC staff members often give presentations at industry meetings and conferences. Presentation slides and recording links (when available) are posted at <https://www.isc.org/presentations/>.

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