Open Source For an Open Internet
ISC Subscriber News

2025 Q1

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

DNS News

Scaling BIND

Ondřej Surý, ISC's Director of DNS Engineering, gave a technical talk at the recent Fosdem conference, entitled "How to make BIND 9 fast(er)", describing some of the things his team has done so far to make BIND 9 faster on modern multi-processor systems.

With the scaling, there can be additional complexity, as there are now new limits other than CPU availability. These can include recursive-clients limits, throttling on downstream systems you are forwarding to, or problems related to the volume of zone updates being received and processed. Please open a ticket if you would like help in troubleshooting your system.

BIND 9.20-S Edition

Several of you have asked when we plan to issue a 9.20-based S edition of BIND. We are targeting May. We have an early version available: anyone interested in testing this is welcome to open a ticket to request a preview copy.

Other DNS news

ISC staff gave three talks at the just-concluded DNS-OARC meeting, including one challenging operators to submit production environment evidence that Serve-Stale is of genuine value to the DNS.

A January 2025 US Executive Order calls for enabling encrypted DNS wherever possible in government agencies.

We have recently discovered, to our surprise, that Webmin for BIND still apparently works! The module for BIND is called "bind8" which threw us off, but we are reliably informed that it still (sort of) works with BIND 9. (Not that we are recommending it, however!) For a more modern solution, however, we heard at Fosdem about a DNS plugin for NetBox, which is being actively developed by Peter Eckel. That said, the provisioning solution we most often suggest is the VinylDNS project, maintained by Comcast engineers.

New and updated KB articles

- SVCB and HTTPS Resource Records - what are they?
- Load balancing and DNS
- Private networks and split DNS
- DNSSEC Key States
- Exempting broken domains in recursion

Kea DHCP News

Kea hook library packaging to change with Kea 3.0

We have some big news, which we are sharing here first: we are changing most of our commercially licensed Kea hook modules to open source licenses with the Kea 3.0 version. This means that:

- You will no longer have to keep track of a secret token to download and update your packages from a private repository (unless you are using RBAC or the Config backend).
- You are free from commercial licensing tracking and restrictions for these components.

There are a few important details. The licensing will change with the release of Kea 3.0; the Kea hook licenses for already-released Kea versions will not change. Most of the hooks will install as part of `isc-kea-hooks`: a few that have additional dependencies will be separate open source packages. We plan to keep two libraries, the Role-Based Access Control (RBAC) hook and the Configuration Backend hook, under our commercial license, in a kea-subscriber package, eliminating the enterprise hooks tier (which previously included only the RBAC hook).

We made this change to simplify installation and operation for all our users, and because our effort to separately monetize the Premium hooks was turning out to be more work than it is worth. We don't want to invest too much of our (ultimately, *your*) money in unproductive intellectual property restrictions and protections, particularly if we aren't forced to.

There are several other big changes coming with Kea 3.0, in addition to this one. Our support team is working on a KB article introducing them.

Support tips

- Consider enabling [lease-caching](). It often helps, and cannot hurt even when it isn't needed. (This will be the default with Kea 3.0)
- Unattended updates (such as Ubuntu's `apt-daily-upgrade` service) have been known to unexpectedly restart daemons or cause other problems. We recommend that updates be tested in a lab and performed during a scheduled change window.

New and updated KB articles

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

Stork News

The Stork team is starting to invest in **adding some DNS management** support. We are starting with authoritative server operations. A couple of the Kea developers are participating in the [DNS Hackathon]() coming in March in Stockholm. They will be working on the [DNS Zone Viewer,]() a proof of concept for collecting and presenting zone information from both BIND and PowerDNS and presenting it in Stork.

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 began offering professional technical support for Stork to our Kea subscribers. We have established a [release]()

- 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 have updated the online Stork demonstration system. It is now running the latest development version of Stork. Login using the "LDAP" option (using admin/admin).

Meet an ISC Support Engineer!
Ben Scott is one of our newest support team members. Get to know him better!

Your ISC Support Subscription

- In order to offer a cost-of-living pay increase to our staff, we have raised our 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:

- April 18, 2025
- May 26
- 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 check our support portal and/or contact your account manager if you have questions about your level of support from ISC.
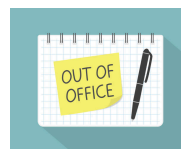
ISC's 2024 Accomplishments

Hope to see you soon!

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

DKNOG15

ICANN 82 Community Forum

RIPE/Netnod DNS Hackathon

IETF 122

PLNOG 2025

RIPE 90

NANOG 94

ICANN Policy Forum

LF OSS Summit

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/.

ISC is now on Bluesky! Follow us at https://bsky.app/profile/isc.org, or on Mastodon at https://fosstodon.org/@iscdotorg.

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