



Open Source For an Open Internet
ISC Subscriber News

2026 Q2

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



DNS News

BIND Update

BIND 9.18 is now officially End of Life

Our June release was the [last maintenance release of BIND 9.18](#). We urge all our users to migrate to BIND 9.20 as soon as possible, as we are focusing our efforts on triaging and fixing issues in the BIND 9.20 stable version. As LLMs have made it much easier to find software vulnerabilities, we expect they have also made it much easier to develop exploits, so it is important to try to stay up-to-date following our maintenance releases.

BIND ESV repositories will be updated to 9.20

We will be changing the version in the subscriber-only and open source "bind-esv" repositories that ISC maintains, from 9.18 to 9.20, before our July release. This is planned for the July 8 in the subscriber-only repos and July 15 in the public repos, one week ahead of our anticipated EVN on July 15 and public release on July 22. These dates are subject to change, so please check the version in the repository before updating.

Learn more about BIND queries

[This recent talk](#) by Ondřej Surý, at the RIPE92 conference, highlights the surprising number of queries that it can take BIND 9, with a cold cache, to respond to a single client request. The number also varies depending on the version of BIND. The recent development versions of BIND that implemented the parent-centric changes (which will be in 9.22 when it is released) take fewer queries. CNAME chains and PTR records are particularly hard to resolve, and can require many recursive queries to resolve; this will still be the case even with the parent-centric changes.

BIND development and LLMs

- We have paused our [YesWeHack](#) bug bounty program temporarily. The team would prefer to use LLMs directly to uncover latent bugs, rather than triage reports from other people using those same tools.
- As announced via an email to all our support customers, we have postponed the release of our next stable branch, 9.22, while the team focuses on triaging and fixing bugs discovered through LLM code analysis.
- As a result of our own LLM investigations, we opened 91 new issues against BIND in just one week in June. We have been able to reduce the incidence of false positives compared to the external reports we were getting, but all of these issues still have to be triaged.
- We do not yet have any access to Mythos. If any of our users are able to advocate on our behalf for that access, please do.

Recently published/updated KB articles about BIND 9:

- [BIND 9 Software Vulnerability Matrix](#)
- [BIND 9 Significant Features Matrix](#)
- [BIND 9 End-of-Life Dates](#)
- [List of BIND Security Advisories](#)



Kea/DHCP News

Kea 3.2 is Available; 2.6 is now EOL

With the release of Kea 3.2, maintenance of Kea 2.6 has ended. Kea 3.2 will be supported until Q2 2027. Kea 3.0 is designated as a long-term support version, so that will be supported until mid-2028.

Here are some of the most significant changes in Kea 3.2:

1. The Free Lease Queue (FLQ) lease allocator was updated so it can now be effectively used with a shared lease database backend.
2. The Control Agent (CA), deprecated in Kea 3.0, was removed.
3. Kea's interface code was refactored, improving handling of multiple interfaces and "exotic" interfaces, including VLANS.
4. Following the publication of the "Blast Radius" protocol vulnerability, we have implemented RADIUS over TLS for improved security.
5. An adaptive lease lifetime (similar to an ISC DHCP feature) was added, to automatically reduce lease lifetimes when available leases are scarce. (Only for use with the Free Lease Queue Allocator, [must be explicitly configured](#).)
6. New PostgreSQL Backend TLS options provide more control.

We strongly encourage you to read the [release notes](#). Kea 3.2 brings many more new features including new statistics, counters, log messages, and API commands.

Kea Workshop at NANOG

We have submitted a proposal to conduct a hands-on Kea and Stork installation and configuration workshop at a future meeting of the North American Network Operators Group. If any of our users are regular NANOG attendees and might be willing to help out at such a workshop, we would love to hear from you!

New and updated KB articles from our support team:

- [Kea Significant Features Matrix](#)
- [Things to be aware of when upgrading to Kea 3.2](#)
- [Using Official ISC Packages for Kea](#)
- [Using Kea Config File Includes](#)
- [Kea: Use unique databases](#)



Stork News

The current stable version of Stork is 2.4.1. We recently released a new development version, [Stork 2.5.0](#).

One of the challenges we are tackling with Stork is the impact of potential vulnerabilities in our dependencies. Stork is a web-based graphical project, and is based on the Angular framework, and of course the Go language, among other dependencies. Our development process includes weekly reviews of newly published vulnerabilities in our major dependent projects and key development tools. We have been very lucky so far in that most of these vulnerabilities have not been reachable in Stork, but we are [planning for the possibility](#) that we may need to rebuild Stork at some point, to update a dependency with a critical security flaw. If you are concerned about a particular vulnerability and whether Stork is impacted, please open a ticket with our support team.

Work in Progress

A few of the most exciting features we are working on currently include:

- Adding support for [collecting and searching lease activity](#) to support many troubleshooting use cases. The challenge is to do this at scale, without hampering the Kea servers' primary activity.
- Adding support for [federated authentication, using OpenID Connect](#). We hope this will also address the requirement for multi-factor authentication.
- Monitoring [DNS zone transfers](#). Stork is ideally positioned, with a view of both the primary and secondary servers, to monitor the web of zone transfers.
- Adding Stork support for the [Kea Configuration Backend](#). Currently Stork reads and modifies the Kea configuration stored on the Kea server only. Adapting it to work with the model where the configuration is stored in a database, and shared across multiple Kea servers, is a major change.

If you have thoughts about any of the design documents linked above, feel free to raise them with us in a support ticket. We would love your feedback. These features are significant efforts that will take multiple releases to complete, so even though they are already in process, there is still time to consider more input.



Meet an ISC Staff Member!

Come and meet [Jason Lasky](#), our Senior Account Manager!

Upcoming Holiday Schedule for ISC Support



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

- US Independence Day (July 4)
- US Labor Day (September 7)

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.

Hope to see you soon!

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

- [NANOG 98](#): Miami, Florida, October 19-21
- [RIPE93](#): Sofia, Bulgaria, October 26-30

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 on Bluesky (<https://bsky.app/profile/isc.org>) and Mastodon (<https://fosstodon.org/@iscdotorg>)! Please follow us for timely news and updates.

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