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2025 Q4

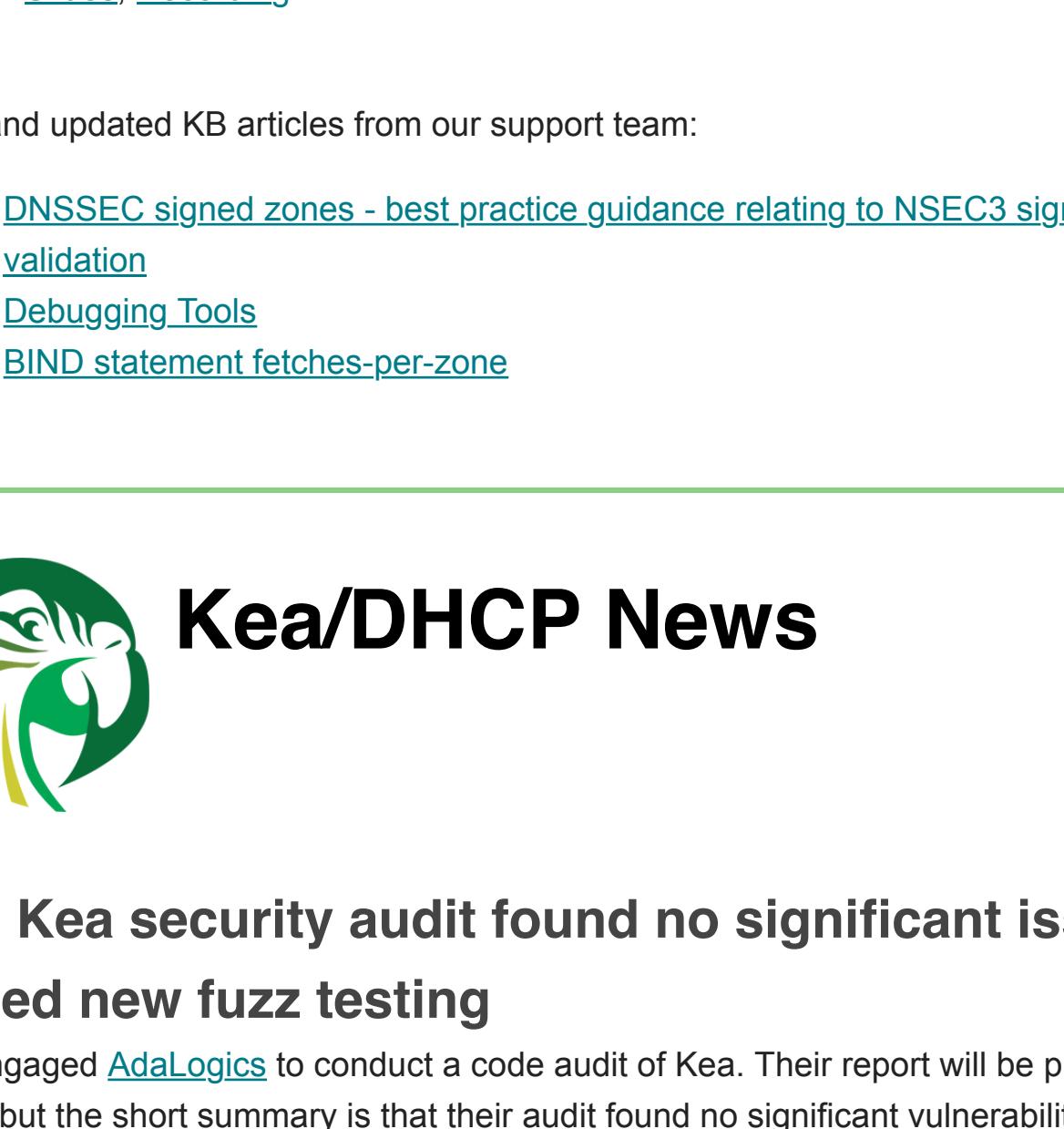
Important updates for ISC's BIND 9, Kea DHCP, Stork, and ISC DHCP support subscribers.

BIND 9 DNS News

BIND Performance Update

We just posted a [blog](#), sharing the results of our ongoing authoritative performance testing of BIND, comparing 9.20.16 to 9.18.42. Performance increased slightly in 9.20, which we believe is mostly due to the transition to the QP-trie database, which replaced the RBTdb in BIND 9.20. One note: deployments with a large number of zones could see an increase in memory utilization.

A partner blog on recursive performance is in the works and will be posted soon. (Or, if you are curious now, see [this recorded talk on BIND recursive performance](#), given at a RIPE meeting earlier this year.)



Show the Running Configuration

We have a new feature in the BIND development version, ``rndc showconf -effective''. This command enables the administrator to view the running *named* configuration, including built-in settings, defaults, and user configuration. This was a longstanding request from our support team, to enable users to discover "hidden" settings they did not explicitly configure.

BIND Developers gave two talks at fall technical meetings:

- Open-Source Release Engineering - Ondřej Surý - [Slides](#), [Recording](#)
- DNS Best Current Practices - a DNS-OARC Community initiative - Matthijs Mekking - [Slides](#), [Recording](#)

New and updated KB articles from our support team:

- [DNSSEC signed zones - best practice guidance relating to NSEC3 signing and validation](#)
- [Debugging Tools](#)
- [BIND statement fetches-per-zone](#)

Kea/DHCP News

The Kea security audit found no significant issues, added new fuzz testing

We engaged [Adalogics](#) to conduct a code audit of Kea. Their report will be published soon, but the short summary is that their audit found no significant vulnerabilities in Kea. The auditors we used are particularly expert in C/C++ fuzz testing. We have taken ownership of the [Google OSS Fuzz testing project](#) they set up for us, and we plan to implement some of their recommendations regarding our regular code analysis tools.

Insider Tips

In addition to the Kea ARM and release notes, we have several other great sources of information for you. The Kea GitLab repository includes a [wiki](#), which contains a list of current [Known Issues](#), with the most significant outstanding bugs and a number of original design documents. The Kea QA team periodically posts extensive performance testing charts on [kea.isc.org](#), where you can also find a link to our latest [Developer Guide](#). Hopefully you have already discovered our [knowledgebase](#) at kb.isc.org, where there are focused tips on such topics as [Securing the MySQL Connection](#). Senior Software Engineer Marcin Siodelski has published a new release of his open source [Endure DHCP diagnostics utility](#).

New and updated KB articles from our support team:

- [Securing the MySQL Connection](#)
- [Things to be aware of when upgrading to Kea 3.0](#)
- [Using Official Packages for Kea](#)
- [Installing the Kea Subscriber Hook Libraries from Sources - Kea 3.0 and later](#)
- [Installing the Kea Premium Hook Libraries from Source - Kea 2.6 and older](#)
- [Kea Database Connection Resilience](#)

We would like to highlight this trio of articles on HA strategies.

- [Kea HA Strategies Comparison](#)
- [Kea Share Lease Database Quickstart](#)
- [Kea HA Quickstart Guide](#)

Stork News

Stork 2.3.2 now supports Kea direct API mode, table sorting, and a BIND configuration viewer

We announced with the release of Kea 3.0 that we are deprecating the Control Agent (CA) in Kea. We call the mode in which Kea is not using the CA "direct API mode." The CA is still available and functioning in Kea 3.0, but we plan to remove it with Kea 3.2. Up until last week's release of Stork 2.3.2, Stork required the Control Agent to communicate with Kea. With the release of Stork 2.3.2, you can now use Stork with Kea 3.0, in direct API mode. This new Stork feature, and the 2.3 branch itself, are experimental, and should be used for testing only. If you do test it, we would love to hear how it worked for you.

We also added a significant user interface enhancement in Stork 2.3.2: the ability to sort table data by clicking on a column header, so you can now sort host reservations, subnets, zone names, etc., quickly and easily. Meanwhile, we are making steady progress with the evolving support for BIND: we already had the ability to view zones configured, and in 2.3.2 we added a BIND configuration viewer. Under the covers, we have completed a major migration to an updated web framework, which is work that may be invisible, but is also essential.

Our [Stork Quickstart Guide](#) has recently been updated.

Meet an ISC Staff Member!

Come and meet one of our senior Kea software engineers, [Razvan Becheriu](#)!

Your Support Subscription

What the heck is an "EVN"?

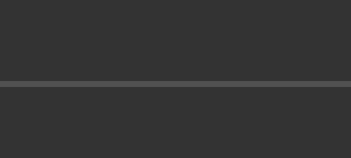
We have changed the name of our [Advance Security Notification \(ASN\)](#) service to [Early Vulnerability Notification \(EVN\)](#). The change is meant to reduce confusion between information about potential software vulnerabilities in the software ISC publishes, and information about system breaches that a software-as-a-service provider might offer. ISC does not offer software as a service, but this has confused some procurement teams.

- [ISC's Software Policy and Version Numbering](#)



Happy Holidays From ISC!

We thank all our customers for their business in 2025 and wish you the best for a happy and healthy 2026.



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

FOSDEM - Brussels, BE - Jan. 31 - Feb. 1

NANOG - San Francisco, CA - US - Feb. 2 - 4

INETC - San Francisco, CA - US - Mar. 14 - 20

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 staff members often give presentations at industry meetings and conferences.

Presentations and links are posted at [https://www.isc.org/presentations/](#).

ISC is on Bluelock! Follow us at [https://bluelock.app/profile/isc.org](#), or on Mastodon at [https://fosstodon.org/@iscdotorg](#).

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