



PUBLIC-ROOT

**Joe Baptista, The Public-Root
c/o PMG Secretariat**

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Official Public-Root Representative and Lobbyist to the United States Congress and Senate

October 3, 2005
Memo to RIPE Administrators
Public-Root Security Issues

Dear Sir or Madam:

PLEASE FORWARD THIS MEMO TO YOUR DNS ADMINISTRATORS. This email is a notice to ISP's and network administrators on security issues affecting the Public-Root (www.public-root.com), the INAIC (www.inaic.com) and UNIDT (www.unidt.com). The Public-Root is a provider of root DNS.

If you use the Public-Root to administer your namespace then this notice applies to you. If you are a Tiscali customer, or if you are a network facility or ISP located in the Republic of Turkey, this notice also applies to you.

My name is Joe Baptista, I am the founder of the Public-Root and I am sending you this notice in accordance with my fiduciary responsibilities as a representative of the Internet community at the Public-Root and INAIC. My terms of reference are available at the following URL:

<http://www.cynikal.net/~baptista/P-R/2005-08-17%20Baptista%20CA.pdf>

I have completed an investigation and audit of the operations of the Public-Root. I regret to inform you that the Public-Root, INAIC and UNIDT are not providing secure or trustworthy service to the network community. My investigation has uncovered a number of critical issues in our operations that may result in risk to your users.

Some individuals currently or formerly involved with the Public-Root, INAIC and UNIDT are associated with organized crime. Others are known hackers. The Netherlands police are aware of the problems and I have submitted a police report to them on my findings.

Furthermore, UNIDT our commercial reseller of Top-Level Domains (TLDs), jeopardized the resolution of Public-Root namespace this past September 27 2005. On that day Celep Bahadir the UNIDT root server operator in Ankara, Turkey, made changes to the root zone file that resulted in erroneous record injected into the namespace.

I gave notice by email to UNIDT managing director Mr. Marty van Veluw. The problem was corrected. Unfortunately UNIDT and the Public-Root are in the middle of a developing court challenge and it is likely that the Ankara server may be used to case further harm to the Public-Root.

Furthermore, UNIDT has failed to pay their monetary obligations under contract. This has resulted in a number of technical staff not being paid. Because of this, I have ordered technical staff to discontinue operations. The Public-Root zone file no longer is updated and the records contained in the zone file are out of date. This will result in problems with resolution of the namespace.

The operation of root DNS requires that all individuals involved have the highest integrity in their conduct and performance. This is not the case at the Public-Root, INAIC or UNIDT. My main concern

is that a root system can be misused to intercept Internet traffic. This poses a potential danger to the safety of user and network data, privacy and security. Information on these potential risks can be found in a letter I wrote to the Canadian government which is indexed at the following URL:

<http://www.cynikal.net/~baptista/P-R/RSPC.pdf>

Under these circumstances I strongly recommend that anyone using the Public-Root for resolution of the DNS switch to another root system. I have provided full disclosure on these issues. You may access this information at the following URL:

<http://www.cynikal.net/~baptista/P-R/>

Tiscali, the European ISP, was notified of my concerns on September 25, 2005:

<http://www.cynikal.net/~baptista/P-R/2005-09-25%20Tiscali%20Huisman.pdf>

The Government of Turkey, which converted the entire state of Turkey over to the Public-Root for resolution, was notified on September 24, 2005:

<http://www.cynikal.net/~baptista/P-R/2005-09-24%20President%20of%20Turkey.pdf>

If you are a TLD holder in the Public-Root and require further information please contact me at baptista@cynikal.net.

The good news in this is that UNIDT is no longer an exclusive provider of TLD registrations for the Public-Root due to contractual violations. The Public-Root is now in the process of reorganization and we look forward to expanding our sales base beyond the current restrictions placed on us through our contract with UNIDT. In addition, we need to establish additional root infrastructure.

This provides the Public-Root with an opportunity to correct it's past mistakes and build a truly robust network that is competitive and in which everyone can participate. If you are interested in being informed of our progress, or would like to participate, please feel free to drop me a line at baptista@cynikal.net. I will contact you once our reorganization is complete.