



ARI Registry Services

DNSSEC Practice Statement

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Document Purpose

This document is ARI's DNSSEC Practices Statement for .schmidt zone. It states the considerations that ARI follows in providing DNSSEC services for the zone.

Document Scope

This document covers only that information required to outline the DNSSEC Practices standpoint as it relates to the zone as required by the DNSSEC Policy & Practice Statement Framework RFC.

Intended Audience

ICANN, Registrars, Registrants and the general public.

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1 Introduction

This document is ARI's DNSSEC Practices Statement for the .schmidt zone. It states the considerations that ARI follows in providing DNSSEC services for the zone. This document details the practices used by ARI on behalf of their clients in ARI's capacity as a backend registry operations service provider. The zone file data, including DNSSEC keys used to sign the zone remain the property of the Registry Operator.

1.1 Overview

Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) has been proposed to add data integrity and authentication to the existing Domain Name System (DNS). The DNSSEC system asserts trustworthiness of data using a chain of public-private keys. For end users wanting to use DNSSEC enabled name servers, DNSSEC aware resolvers will be necessary to take advantage of the system.

RFC 4033, RFC 4034 and RFC 4035 should be read to gain a better understanding of DNSSEC.

1.2 Document Name and Identification

Document name	DNSSEC Practice Statement
Version	1.0
Date created	12 May 2011
Date modified	12 July 2013

1.3 Community and Applicability

The following stakeholders of this DNSSEC implementation have been identified:

Backend operator	Technical services provider providing registry functions to the Registry Operator.
Registry operator	The entity that owns the .schmidt zone and is a party to the Registry Agreement with ICANN
Registrar	Sales channel for selling names within the zone.
Registrant	Buyer of a name in the zone.
Recursive name server providers	For example, ISPs who provide their customers with name servers to use.
End users	Those accessing services supplied on the domain name.

Relationship between different entities is regulated through the following agreements:

Relationship	Agreement
Registry Operator and Backend Operator	Registry Operator – Backend operator agreement
Registry Operator and Registrar	Registrar – Registry agreement
Registry Operator and Registrant	Registrant – Registrar agreement

1.4 Specification administration

1.4.1 Specification administration organisation

Organisation: ARI Registry Services

Website: www.ariservices.com

1.4.2 Contact information

Contact name: Customer Support

Contact email: gTLDsupport@ariservices.com

Address: Level 8, 10 Queens Rd
Melbourne – 3004
VIC, Australia

Phone +61 3 9090 1700

1.4.3 Specification change procedures

Queries with regards to the content of this document may be made directly in writing via email, post or telephone to the contact listed. Some requests may only be made in writing via email or post and requestors may be notified to do so should they place the initial request via telephone.

ARI reserves the right to amend the DPS without notification. Updated or new DPS will be published as specified in Section 2.

2 Publication and Repositories

2.1 Repositories

ARI publishes this DPS on www.nic.schmidt/dnssec.

2.2 Publication of public keys

DS records of SEP keys are made available by publication of in the root zone. ARI maintains a mailing list on behalf of the registry operator, which will notify of policy changes specific to DNSSEC and will contain alerts in the event of an emergency key rollover.

Email: dnssec-announce@lists.ariservices.com

2.3 Access controls on repositories

Information that the organisation deems publically viewable is published on the Registry Operator's website www.nic.schmidt/dnssec. Other information may be requested by writing to the contact specified in Section 1.4.1. Provision of requested information is at the sole discretion of ARI.

This document may refer to documents that are confidential in nature, or considered for internal use of ARI. These documents may be made available on request after consideration on a case by case basis. ARI reserves the right to deny access to confidential documents or documents classified for internal use only.

ARI will take all the necessary measures to protect information and material that is of a secure nature with respect to DNSSEC. These measures will be commensurate with the nature of such information and material being secured.

3 Operational Requirements

3.1 Meaning of Domain Names

Restrictions and policy of naming of child zones is determined by the appropriate policy in place governing the .schmidt zone.

3.2 Identification and Authentication of Child Zone Manager

ARI does not conduct any identification or authentication of the child zone manager. This is the responsibility of the Registrar of Record.

3.3 Registration of Delegation Signing (DS) Resource Records

The chain-of-trust to the child zone is established by publishing a signed DS record into the zone. Method to submit DS records is described below.

The submission of a DS record is carried out by the Registrar of Record using the SRS interface (EPP) into the registry system.

ARI will sign the DS record using the zone's ZSK(s) and publish the resulting signature along with the DS record to build the chain-of-trust.

3.4 Method to Prove Possession of Private Key

Registrars are mandated by agreements they are subject to, as specified in Section 1.3, to authenticate Registrants before accepting any changes from the Registrant that they may choose to submit to the registry system.

The need for Registrants to explicitly prove the possession of a private key is invalidated due to workings of DNSSEC, as the Registrant submits a DS record using interfaces provided by the Registrar. A chain of trust is established when the Registrant signs their zone using the private key corresponding to the DS submitted.

In the case where the Registrant does not possess the private component corresponding to the DS, they will not be able to create valid signatures for records in their zone and the chain of trust culminating at their records will be invalidated.

3.5 Removal of DS Resource Record

The Registrar of Record uses the SRS interface to remove the DS record.

ARI may remove a DS record and re-delegate the child-zone in consultation with the Registry Operator, Registrar and Registrant if it is deemed that the child zone has been compromised. Such a removal may be initiated by the Registry Operator, Registrar, Registrant or ARI.

4 Facility, Management and Operational Controls

4.1 Physical Controls

4.1.1 Site Location and Construction

The architecture consists of a primary SRS site, a secondary SRS site, and geographically dispersed DNS sites. The components at the secondary site are identical to those at the primary site.

ARI chose data centres for Registry operations after carrying out stringent checks and visits on a large number of available providers. Each data centre provides the following minimum set of requirements:

- Redundant Power Feed
- Un-interruptible Power Supply (minimum 30 minutes)
- Backup Power source (generator)
- Fire Detection System (High Sensitivity Smoke Detectors)
- Fire Suppression System
- Water Detection System
- Multiple (Diverse) Internet Links
- Stringent Physical Security (On-site security personnel, bio-metric access control)
- 24x7 Access Availability
- Robust Cooling System (HVAC)
- Real Time/Pro-active Power & Environmental Monitoring

4.1.2 Physical Access

Access to all Registry systems at each data centre is severely restricted. Equipment is located in private locked racks and keys to these are only given out to authorised administrators as part of stringent data centre security procedures.

Remote environment surveillance is employed, including cameras and entry alarms.

In addition, direct physical access to equipment is monitored and controlled as an un-trusted interface, login sessions are not permitted to idle for long periods, and network port security is employed to minimise the opportunity for a direct network connection to be used as a security threat vector.

4.1.3 Power and Air-Conditioning

N+1 power is utilised at all selected Registry data centres to maximise uptime availability. Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) systems are used to prevent power spikes, surges, and brownouts, and redundant backup diesel generators provide additional runtime. Alerts are set on all power provision systems to allow ARI to begin failover preparation in the event of a potential power provision issue to ensure a smooth and controlled failover if required.

Similarly N+1 monitored air conditioning at Registry data centres is configured to provide maximum temperature control for the installed equipment in order to provide a stable operating environment.

4.1.4 Water Exposures

ARI has implemented reasonable measures for flood detection and protection at its sites, as well as having a key selection criterion for registry and DNS sites that they be in areas which are not likely to suffer flooding.

4.1.5 Fire Prevention and Protection

Fire protection in each Registry data centre is world-class, with very early smoke detection apparatus installed and set as one element of a multi-stage, human controlled multi-zone dry-pipe, double-interlock, pre-action fire suppression system in a configuration that complies with local regulations and industry best practice.

4.1.6 Media Storage

Sensitive media is stored offsite securely and is protected by access restrictions. Such media is reasonably protected from fire, water and other disastrous environmental elements.

4.1.7 Waste Disposal

Sensitive documents are shredded before disposal. Where sensitive data is stored electronically, appropriate means are used to render the data unsalvageable prior to disposal.

4.1.8 Off-site Backup

DNSSEC components and necessary data is stored off-site regularly as part of backup and disaster recovery. Such data is protected by reasonably secure means and has access restrictions that are similar to those implemented for online systems and data.

4.2 Procedural controls

4.2.1 Trusted Roles

The following table presents all procedures that ARI has implemented for providing DNSSEC services for the zone. These procedures require corresponding roles as below:

Procedure	Roles
Key Rollover	
Key creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System Administrator • Security Officer or CTO
Disposal of old keys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System Administrator • Security Officer or CTO
KSK rollover	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • System Administrator • Security Officer or CTO

4.2.2 Number of Persons Required Per Task

The number of persons required varies per task or procedure. Please refer to Section 4.2.1 for further information.

4.2.3 Identification and authentication for each role

ARI requires all personnel dealing with secure DNSSEC material and systems to have completed a National Police Check with the Australian Federal Police. ARI reserves the right to interpret the findings of the National Police Check equitably with respect to the secure nature of this DNSSEC implementation as covered by the ARI Human Resources Policy.

4.2.4 Tasks Requiring Separation of Duties

Tasks that are part of a Key Rollover require separation of duties. Please refer to Section 4.2.1 for further information.

4.3 Personnel Controls

4.3.1 Qualifications, Experience, and Clearance Requirements

Each person who fulfils a DNSSEC role must:

- Be employed full time by ARI
- Not be within their initial employment probation period
- Have completed a National Police Check with the Australian Federal Police.

4.3.2 Background Check Procedures

A National Police Check conducted by the Australian Federal Police must be completed prior to taking part in DNSSEC tasks.

4.3.3 Training Requirements

Each person who is responsible for DNSSEC tasks must have attended an ARI DNSSEC training session and be fully qualified to perform that function.

ARI provides frequent retraining to its staff to assist them with keeping their skills current and enabling them to perform their job proficiently.

4.3.4 Job rotation frequency and sequence

ARI rotates the responsibility for DNSSEC related tasks between staff who satisfy the skill set required to execute those tasks.

4.3.5 Sanctions for unauthorised actions

ARI will conduct investigations where it detects or is made aware of unauthorised actions on the DNSSEC environment. The company will take necessary disciplinary action should such action be warranted.

4.3.6 Contracting personnel requirements

Contractors and consultants are not authorised to participate in secure DNSSEC tasks.

4.3.7 Documentation supplied to personnel

ARI provides requisite training and support material to its staff to enable them to proficiently perform their duties. Supplied documentation is provided to staff under security controlled guidelines to ensure operational security.

4.4 Audit logging procedures

All systems deployed by ARI utilise audit log functionality which is coordinated centrally. Logging is used to monitor the health of systems, trace any issues and conduct diagnosis.

4.4.1 Types of events recorded

A high level categorisation of events that are recorded is as follows:

Zone file activity	Addition and removal of names. Changes in RRs associated with names in the zone.
Hardware failures	Failure of server and network infrastructure or their components.
Access to hardware	Changes in access controls granting physical, console and network access to infrastructure.
Security profile	Changes in settings and configuration that determine the security of infrastructure or the services it provides.
System updates	Updates to operating environment and packages on servers and firmware on network appliances.
Network activity	Divergences from observed patterns of network activities.
Redundancy failure	Failure in backups, DR or transitions between primary and secondary site.
Incident management	Incidents being raised, allocated, acted upon and resolved.
Failure in event monitoring	Failure of event monitoring system. This would be detected using a secondary event monitoring system.

4.4.2 Frequency of processing log

Audit logs and event monitoring feed into the ARI monitoring system that raises alerts based on states that are not normal in regular operations.

4.4.3 Retention period for audit log information

Audit log information is securely archived for a period of seven (7) years.

4.4.4 Protection of audit log

Audit logs are only available to ARI staff with appropriate privileges. Audit logs do not contain private keys or other sensitive information that may lead to a compromise by using existing and known methods.

4.4.5 Audit log backup procedures

Audit logs are backed up as part of the backup procedures in place for production systems. Those logs containing sensitive data are stored in a secure manner. Disposal of audit logs is carried out in accordance with Section 4.1.7.

4.4.6 Audit collection system

In addition to information recorded manually by staff while conducting operations, Audit information is collected in Audit logs automatically. Methods specific to applications and operating environments are used to record audit logs.

Manual logs are scanned and the original documents archived in a fireproof safe.

4.4.7 Notification to event-causing subject

No notification is issued to the event causing subject as part of automatic event logging. However, selected events are monitored and alerts delivered to ARI staff that may choose to notify event causing subjects.

During execution of manual procedures the participants are informed that logging is taking place.

4.4.8 Vulnerability assessments

ARI engages an external entity to perform a vulnerability audit annually. This is in addition to monitoring and analysis that is in place for production systems. A broader annual compliance audit is also performed as discussed in Section 7.

4.5 Compromise and disaster recovery

4.5.1 Incident and compromise handling procedures

Any event that may cause or has caused an outage, damage to the registry system or disruption to service is classified as an incident. Any event that is an incident and has resulted in exposure of private DNSSEC components is classified as a compromise. Incidents are addressed using ARI's incident management procedures.

Should ARI detect or be notified of a compromise, ARI will conduct an investigation in order to determine the nature and seriousness of the compromise. Following the investigation ARI will take the necessary measures to re-instate a secure state. This may involve rolling over the ZSK(s), KSK(s) or both.

Incident management is conducted in accordance with the ARI Incident Management process.

4.5.2 Corrupted computing resources, software, and/or data

Detection or notification of corrupted computing resources will be responded to with appropriate incident management procedures and escalation procedures as necessary.

4.5.3 Entity private key compromise procedures

An emergency ZSK and KSK rollover will be carried out in the event that ARI detects or is notified of a private key compromise of either key. On suspicions of a compromise, ARI will instigate an investigation to determine the validity of such suspicions. ARI will notify the public through an update on the DNSSEC website and mailing list discussed in section 2.2, Publication .

4.5.4 Business continuity and IT disaster recovery capabilities

Business continuity planning and disaster recovery for DNSSEC is carried out in accordance with ARI's Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Policies, and contracts in place with the Registry Operator.

4.6 Entity termination

ARI will ensure that should its responsibilities to manage DNS for the zone under consideration be terminated, it will co-ordinate with all required parties in order to execute a transition.

Should it be decided to return the zone to an unsigned position, ARI will endeavour to carry it out in an orderly manner.

5 Technical Security Controls

This section provides an overview of the security policies and procedures ARI has in place for the operation of DNSSEC within the zone presented as a summary for purposes of this DPS.

5.1 Key pair generation and installation

5.1.1 Key pair generation

The generation of KSK and ZSK is carried out by following the relevant ARI procedure to generate keys of the strength required for the zone.

Key Pair Generation is an audited event and audit logs are recorded and kept in accordance with relevant policies.

5.1.2 Public key delivery

The DS is delivered to the parent zone using a secure and authenticated system provided by IANA. The DNSKEY is published in the DNS zone.

5.1.3 Public key parameters generation and quality checking

An ARI staff member in accordance with Section 4.2.1 carries out the public key generation. Quality of the parameters is examined as part of ARI's standard change control procedures.

5.1.4 Key usage purposes

Keys will be used in accordance with the DNSSEC implementation defined in this DPS and other relevant documents such as agreements stated in Section 1.3. The keys are not exported from the signing system in an unencrypted form and are only exported for backup and disaster recovery purposes.

5.2 Private key protection and cryptographic module engineering controls

All cryptographic operations are carried out within the signing system. The private components of keys stored on the signing system are exported in encrypted forms only for backup and disaster recovery purposes.

5.2.1 Cryptographic module standards and controls

Systems used for cryptographic functions must be able to generate acceptable level of randomness.

5.2.2 Private key (m-of-n) multi-person control

Procedures for KSK generation and key signing implement an M-of-N multi-person approach. Out of N authorised persons that can participate in key generation or key signing, at least M need to be present.

5.2.3 Private key escrow

Private components of keys used for the zone are escrowed in an encrypted format in accordance with ICANN specifications.

5.2.4 Private key backup

Private components of keys used for the zone are backed up in an encrypted format in accordance with ARI backup and disaster recovery policies.

5.2.5 Private key storage on cryptographic module

Private keys are stored on the signer system and restricted to be only accessible to signing functions.

5.2.6 Private key archival

Old keys are archived for a period of seven years in an encrypted form.

5.2.7 Private key transfer into or from a cryptographic module

There are no circumstances under which a private key would be transferred into the signing systems. In accordance with Section 4.6 and in consultation with the relevant stakeholders, a private key can be transferred out of these systems. The private key will be transferred to the relevant stakeholder in encrypted form unless specifically requested otherwise by that stakeholder.

5.2.8 Method of activating private key

Keys are activated during a key rollover with the appropriate ARI staff executing the rollover procedure.

5.2.9 Method of deactivating private key

A private key is deactivated by removing all signatures that deem the key valid and subsequently removing the DNSKEY record from the zone. In the case of a KSK, the DS is removed from the root zone. The exact order of this is dependent on the rollover method being used. Rollover methods are detailed further in Section 6.

5.2.10 Method of destroying private key

ARI destroys keys by securely removing them from the signing system. However, encrypted backups of the keys are not destroyed but rather archived as described in Section 5.2.3.

The signing system may be de-activated following pre-configured triggers that indicate suspicious activity for example, a reboot of the signing system.

5.3 Other aspects of key pair management

5.3.1 Public key archival

Public components of keys are archived as part of backups and disaster recovery procedures.

5.3.2 Key usage periods

Item	Value
KSK	1 year
ZSK	3 months
Signature validity periods	30 days

Keys that have been superseded are not used to sign resource records.

5.4 Activation data

Activation data is securely generated and is protected by a confidentiality agreement between ARI and stakeholders that hold activation data. Activation data is decommissioned by destroying, invalidating or by using another suitable method applicable to the type of data.

5.5 Computer security controls

ARI limits access to production servers and only authorised staff members from the IT department are allowed privileged access. Access may be extended to other personnel for valid business reasons.

Authentication methods are complimented with network security measures. Passwords are rotated regularly and best practices such as tiered authentication and two factor authentication are implemented where appropriate.

5.6 Network security controls

Networks for secure DNSSEC infrastructure are segregated using firewalls. Audit logs are kept for all sensitive DNSSEC operations and archived for investigative purposes should security breaches be suspected or detected. Systems are divided into their applicability (e.g. frontend and backend) and user and application access to them is restricted using appropriate means. Production infrastructure is logically separated from non-production infrastructure to limit access at a network level in accordance with ARI security policies.

5.7 Time stamping

Timestamps are used for:

- Audit logs generated manually and automatically
- DNSSEC signatures.

ARI synchronises its timeservers with stratum 2 or 3 timeservers. All manually recorded times are stated in time that is local to the location of record. All automatically recorded times are in UTC.

5.8 Life cycle technical controls

5.8.1 System development controls

All ARI software deployed on production systems is maintained in version controlled repositories. ARI implements rigorous change control systems for production infrastructure.

5.8.2 Security management controls

ARI monitors its system for access, configuration changes, package installs and network connections in addition to other critical metrics that can be used to detect suspicious activities. Detailed audit logs enable ARI to trace any transaction on its systems and analyze events.

5.8.3 Life cycle security controls

ARI implements fully redundant signing infrastructure and contracts with hardware manufacturers to provide four (4) hour business day turnaround on support.

All production infrastructure and software is thoroughly tested before being deployed. Source code of all software deployed to production systems is authenticated and verified.

6 Zone Signing

6.1 Key lengths, key types and algorithms

ARI uses a split key signing method. The RSA algorithm with a key length of 2048 bits is used for the KSK and 1280 bits is used for the ZSK.

6.2 Authenticated denial of existence

NSEC3 (RFC 5155) is used to provide authenticated denial of existence. The hash algorithm SHA1 is used. Salt values or iterations are not changed.

6.3 Signature format

Signatures are generated using SHA256 hashes.

6.4 Key roll-over

ZSK rollover is every 3 months

KSK rollover is every year. Rolled over using Double RRset KSK Rollover Method.

6.5 Signature Lifetime and Re-Signing Frequency

Signatures are valid for 30 days. Signatures are automatically regenerated every 7 ½ days.

6.6 Verification of resource records

Validity checks are made against the zone as part of ARI's standard monitoring process. This includes verifying DNSSEC material.

All resource records are validated by the registry before delivery to be signed and distributed into the zone file.

6.7 Resource records time-to-live

TTL for each DNSSEC Resource Record in seconds:

DNSKEY:	3600
DS:	3600
NSEC3:	1800
RRSIG:	same as covered Resource Record

7 Compliance Audit

An audit for DNSSEC operations is performed annually in accordance with ISO 27001.

7.1 Frequency of entity compliance audit

Compliance audits are conducted annually at the sole expense of ARI.

7.2 Identity/qualifications of auditor

ARI's compliance audits are performed by a public accounting firm, SAI Global Australia.

7.3 Auditor's relationship to audited party

Compliance audits of ARI's operations are performed by a public accounting firm that is independent of ARI. Third party auditors do not participate in the multi-person control for any tasks, as stated in Section 4.2.1.

7.4 Topics covered by audit

The scope of ARI's annual Compliance Audit includes all DNSSEC tasks as stated in Section 4.2.1.

7.5 Actions taken as a result of deficiency

Action items that are raised as a result of compliance audits are presented to ARI's management for consideration. ARI's management will investigate and implement corrective actions should they determine them to be necessary.

7.6 Communication of results

A report of the audit results to will be published at www.ariservices.com no later than thirty (30) days after the audit.

8 Legal Matters

8.1 Fees

Not applicable.

8.2 Financial responsibility

Not applicable.

8.3 Confidentiality of business information

8.3.1 Scope of confidential information

The following information is kept confidential and requires privileged access as controlled by ARI policy:

- Secure DNSSEC information
- Audit logs
- Reports created by auditors
- Procedures
- Policies that relate to security.

8.3.2 Types of information not considered confidential

Information that is classified as public as part of the DNSSEC extensions to DNS are considered to be public by ARI and will not be subject to access restriction.

8.3.3 Responsibility to protect confidential information

ARI is committed to the confidentiality of information and takes all measures reasonably possible to prevent the compromise of such information.

8.4 Privacy of personal information

8.4.1 Information treated as private

Not applicable.

8.4.2 Information not deemed private

Not applicable.

8.4.3 Responsibility to protect private information

Not applicable.

8.4.4 Disclosure Pursuant to Judicial or Administrative Process

ARI shall be entitled to disclose Confidential/Private Information if, in good faith, ARI believes that disclosure is necessary in response to judicial, administrative, or other legal process during the discovery process in a civil or administrative action, such as subpoenas, interrogatories, requests for admission, and requests for production of documents.

8.5 Limitations of liability

ARI shall not be liable for any financial loss or loss arising from incidental damage or impairment resulting from its performance of its obligations hereunder or the Registry Operator's or obligations under DNSSEC Practice Statement. No other liability, implicit or explicit, is accepted.

8.6 Term and termination

8.6.1 Term

This DPS becomes effective upon publication on the Registry Operator's website www.nic.schmidt/dnssec. Amendments to this DPS become effective upon publication on the website at www.nic.schmidt/dnssec.

8.6.2 Termination

This DPS will amended as required and will remain in force until it is replaced by a new version.

8.6.3 Dispute resolution provisions

Disputes among DNSSEC participants shall be resolved pursuant to provisions in the applicable agreements among the parties. Disputes involving ARI require an initial negotiation period of sixty (60) days followed by litigation in the federal or state court encompassing the state of Victoria, Australia.

8.6.4 Governing law

This DPS shall be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Australia.

9 Glossary

Acronym	Expansion
DNS	Domain Name System
DNSKey	Resource record containing a public key
DNSSEC	Domain Name System Security extensions
DP	DNSSEC Policy
DPS	DNSSEC Practice Statement
DS	Delegation Signer
SEP	Secure Entry Point
ISP	Internet Service Provider
KSK	Key Signing Key
NSEC	Next Secure
NSEC3	Next Secure with hashes for next secure domain
RFC	Request For Comments
RR	Resource Record
RRSIG	Resource Record Signature
TCP	Transmission Control Protocol
TTL	Time To Live
UDP	User Datagram Protocol
ZSK	Zone Signing Key

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