The ALT Special Use Top Level Domain
draft-ietf-dnsop-alt-tld-18

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Status

- Interesting question!
- WG status is “Held by WG” after having gone through WG Last call in 2017, but now there is plenty of discussion on the mailing list
- The authors asked for another WG Last Call, the chairs asked for changes, the authors made those changes
- Then there was a bunch more discussion on the mailing list about some basics in the draft

Resolvers and .alt (1)

- The current text for resolvers purposely doesn't make the name a special case:
  - "Caching DNS servers and authoritative DNS servers will treat all names in the .alt pseudo-TLD just as they would any other name whose TLD does not appear in the global DNS root."
- Some people on the list want to add MUST/SHOULD language to say that resolvers should treat the name as a special case

Resolvers and .alt (2)

- Adding MUST/SHOULD language will reduce the number of .alt queries going to the root servers
- Some resolvers added the special case for .onion in their code, but others have not
- Adding special case is additional code for little measurable benefit
- MUSTs and SHOULDs in informational documents are weird

Maybe redesign for AS112 (1)

- Some people on the list suggested that the draft should use a DNAME in AS112 instead of the current design of not delegating
  - This was already discussed in the first WG Last Call five years ago
- This will likely reduce the traffic to the root servers because some resolvers seem to respect delegated name TTLs more than the negative TTLs for undelegated names (see https://indico.dns-oarc.net/event/38/contributions/841/)

Maybe redesign for AS112 (2)

- Some users of the name will consider “won’t be delegated” to be very different than “will be given an NXDOMAIN from servers trusted by the DNS community”
- Would require new agreements with IANA about what can go in the root zone
  - But this should be feasible if the IETF wants it