



# K-Root Name Server Operations

**Andrei Robachevsky**

andrei@ripe.net



# Outline

- Root Server System – brief update
  - Architecture
  - Current locations
  - Anycast deployment
- K.root-servers.net Server
  - Major milestones
  - Current status
  - K-Anycast deployment



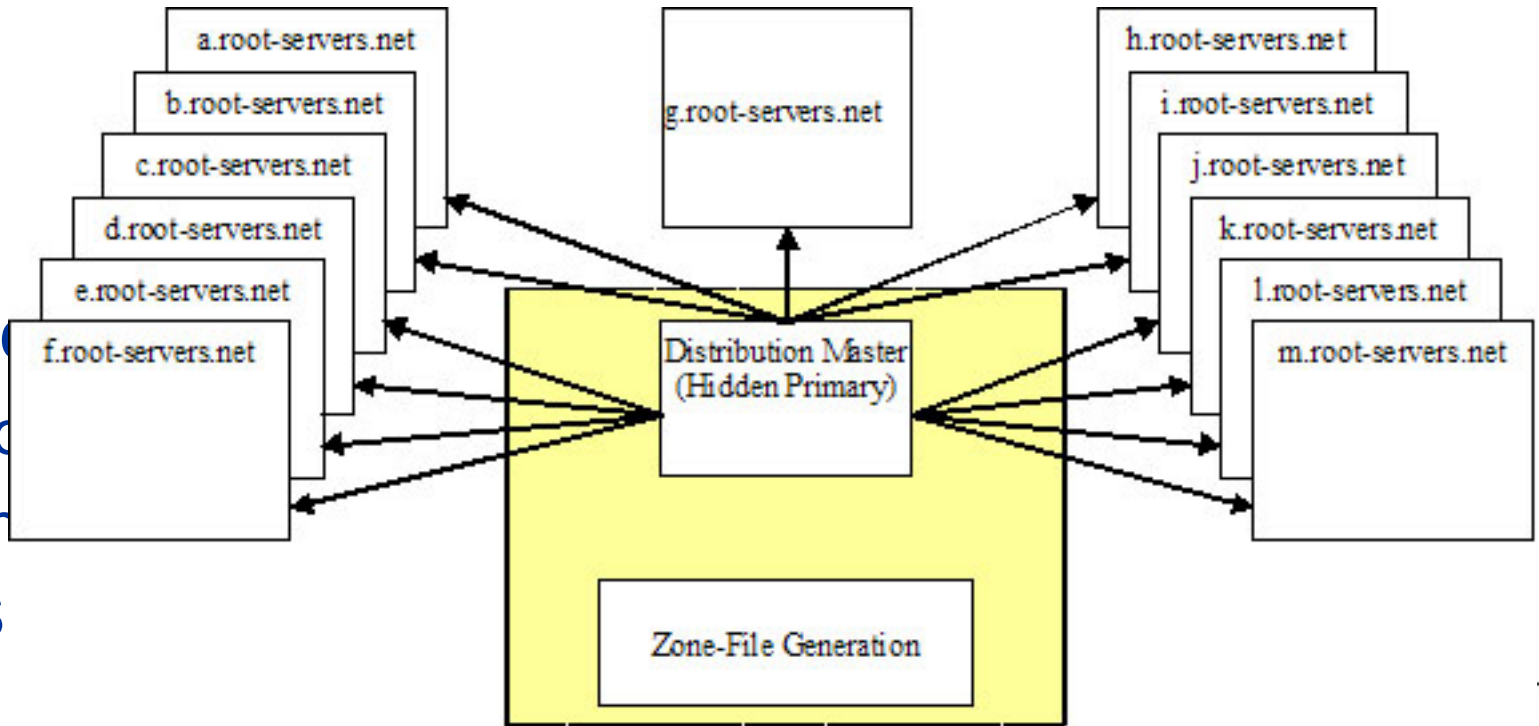
# Root Server System

- Provides nameservice for the **root zone**
  - The root DNS node with pointers to the authoritative servers for all top-level domains (gTLDs, ccTLDs).
- Thirteen name server operators
  - Selected by IANA
  - Diversity in organisations and location
  - 13 is a practical limit
  - a.root-server.net ÷ m.root-server.net - equal publishers
  - All thirteen are authoritative servers for the root zone
- An average client comes here < 8 times per week

# Root servers and operators

- Thirteen nameservers, selected before 1997
  - a.root-servers.net Verisign
  - b.root-servers.net USC-ISI
  - c.root-servers.net Cogent Communications
  - d.root-servers.net University of Maryland
  - e.root-servers.net NASA
  - f.root-servers.net ISC
  - g.root-servers.net US DoD (DISA)
  - h.root-servers.net US DoD (ARL)
  - i.root-servers.net Autonomica
  - j.root-servers.net Verisign
  - k.root-servers.net RIPE NCC
  - l.root-servers.net ICANN
  - m.root-servers.net WIDE Project
- Look at [www.root-servers.org](http://www.root-servers.org)

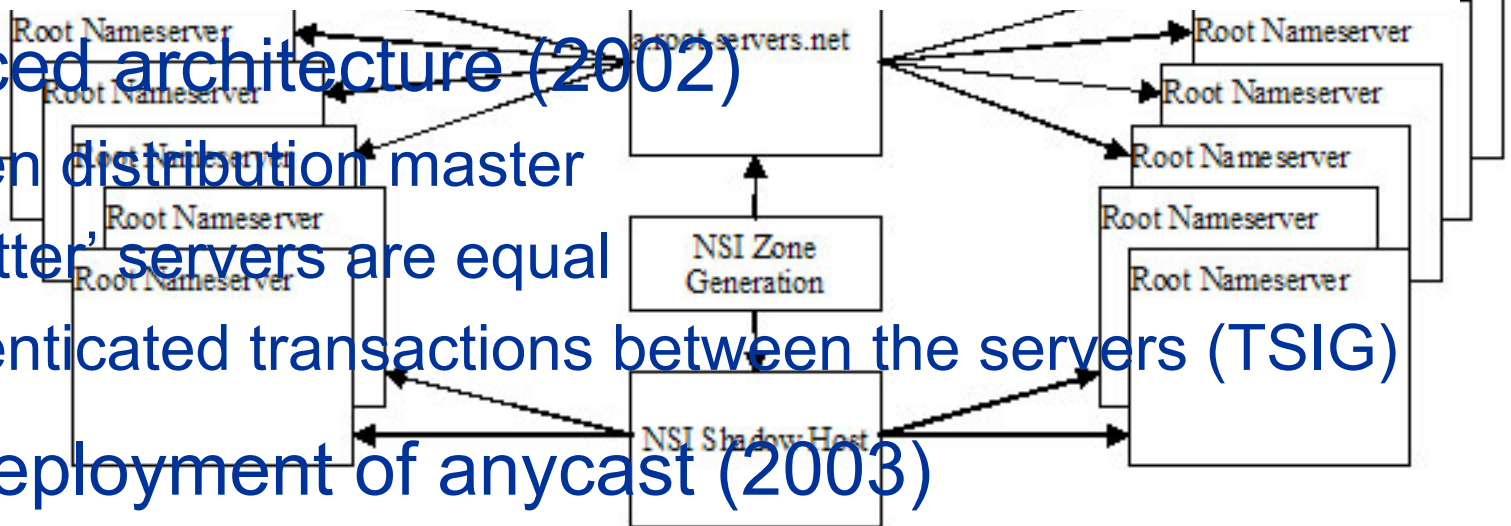
- Public
  - a.ro
  - Oth
  - NS



- Enhanced architecture (2002)

- Hidden distribution master
- All 'letter' servers are equal
- Authenticated transactions between the servers (TSIG)

- Wide deployment of anycast (2003)



# Anycasting

- Point-to-point communication between a single client and the “nearest” destination server
  - Basics described in RFC 1546 in 1993
- “Cloning” a server
  - Multiple locations
  - Same operator
  - Same IP address belonging to the operator
  - Identical data
- Benefits
  - Distribution
  - Resilience
  - Performance
  - Redundancy
  - Simplicity



# Location of 13 DNS Root Servers



More than 60 and number is growing



# Global context/Major players

- ICANN/IANA
  - Reviews the changes in the zone file
- US DoC
  - Approves the changes
- Verisign
  - Edits the zone (technical)
- RSSAC
  - Advices ICANN regarding the Root Server System
- 13 Root Server Operators
  - Publish the zone
  - Coordinate operations/share information
- Others
  - IETF/IAB, OARC
  - BIND Forum, NLnetLabs, etc.





# K-root Milestones

- Operated by RIPE NCC since May 1997
  - Hosted by LINX in London
- Running NSD since February 2003
  - Increased software diversity and performance
- Anycast since July 2003
  - Two global instances: London and Amsterdam
- Wider anycast deployment (2004)
  - 3-5 global nodes (investigating)
  - 10-15 local nodes
    - Frankfurt (DE), January 2004
    - Athens (GR), April 2004
    - Doha (QA), June 2004

# “Local” Mirror Instances

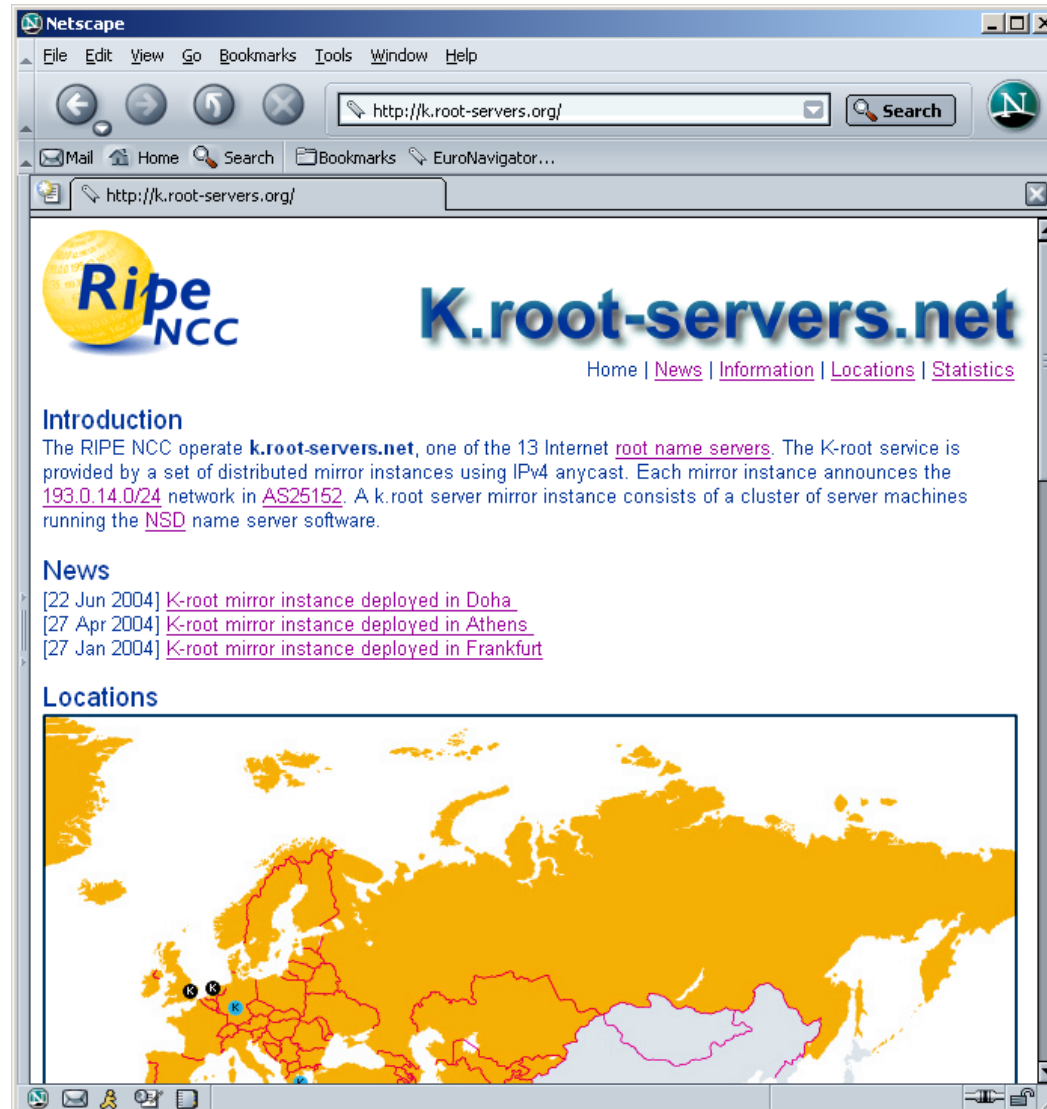
- Objectives
  - Improving access to K for a significant ISP community
  - Isolating impact of an “external” DDoS
  - Localising impact of a “local” DDoS
- Location
  - Well connected points with significant ISP community (IXP, etc.)
  - Open peering policy
- Benefits
  - Improved responsiveness for the members of the IX
  - Improved resilience of the whole system for others
- Model
  - Hosted and fully funded by a neutral party
- Operations
  - Exclusively performed by the RIPE NCC



# “Global” Mirror Instances

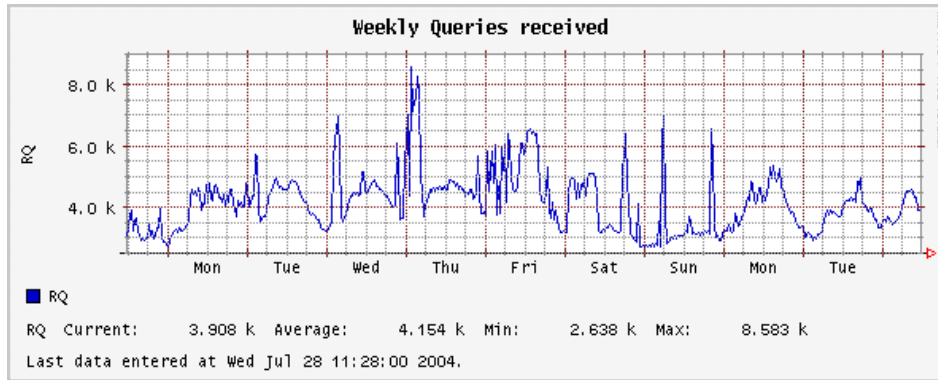
- Ideally located at topologically equidistant places
  - In practice there are not so many choices
- Globally reachable
  - But less preferable than “local” mirror instances
- Powerful in terms of connectivity and CPU
  - Have to sustain DDoS and local nodes failures
- The same management model as for local nodes
  - RIPE NCC is the operator
- Different funding model
  - No distinguished group of local beneficiaries
  - Costs are mainly borne by the RIPE NCC
- Looking for 3-5 locations in Asia and the Americas
  - Excellent global connectivity

# K-root Locations

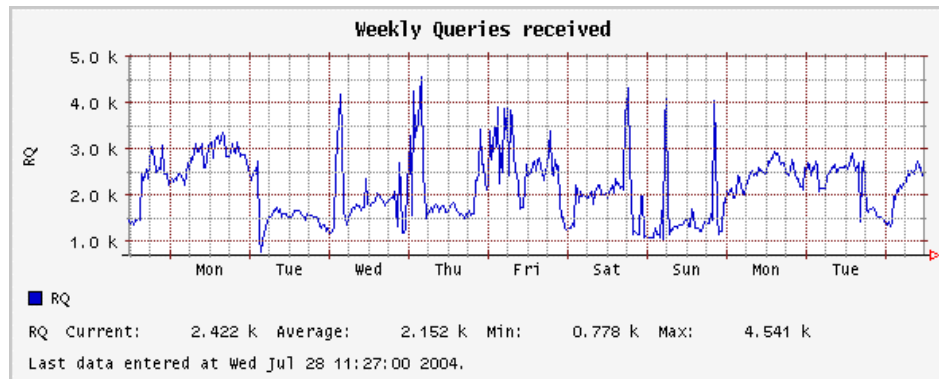
A screenshot of a Netscape browser window displaying the website k.root-servers.net. The browser's address bar shows the URL http://k.root-servers.org/. The website content includes the RIPE NCC logo, the title "K.root-servers.net", and navigation links for Home, News, Information, Locations, and Statistics. The "Introduction" section explains that RIPE NCC operates k.root-servers.net as one of 13 Internet root name servers, using IPv4 anycast. The "News" section lists three entries from 2004: a K-root mirror instance deployed in Doha (June 22), Athens (April 27), and Frankfurt (January 27). The "Locations" section features a map of Europe with several locations marked with a 'K' in a circle, indicating the positions of K-root mirror instances.

# K-root Statistics

London



Amsterdam



# More Information

- Root operators
  - <http://www.root-servers.org>
  - [http://\[a-m\].root-servers.org](http://[a-m].root-servers.org)
    - <http://dnsmon.ripe.net>
- Root server analysis
  - <http://www.caida.org/projects/dns-analysis/>
- Anycasting
  - [Host Anycasting Service, RFC1546, http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1546.txt](http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc1546.txt)
  - [Distributing Authoritative Name Servers via Shared Unicast Addresses. RFC3258, http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3258.txt](http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc3258.txt)

# More Information (cont.)

- K-root
  - <http://k.root-servers.org>
- K-root anycasting
  - Distributing K-Root Service by Anycast Routing of 193.0.14.129, RIPE- 268,  
<http://www.ripe.net/ripe/docs/ripe-268.html>
  - General Requirements and Guidelines,  
<http://k.root-servers.org/hosting-guidelines-200311.html>
  - Contact at [k-anycast@ripe.net](mailto:k-anycast@ripe.net)



<http://www.ripe.net/presentations>