

Report of Independent Accountants

To the Management of Web.com Group, Inc.

We have examined the accompanying [assertion](#) made by the management of Web.com Group, Inc, titled *Management's Assertion Regarding the Effectiveness of Its Controls Over the SSL Certification Authority Operation Based on the WebTrust Principles and Criteria for Certification Authorities – SSL Baseline with Network Security v2.3* that provides Network Solutions' Certification Authority (CA) services at Herndon, Virginia, United States, throughout the period April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 for CAs as enumerated in Appendix B, Web.com has:

- ▶ Disclosed Network Solutions' SSL certificate lifecycle management business practices in its [Certification Practice Statement \(Version 3.1\)](#) including its commitment to provide SSL certificates in conformity with the CA/Browser Forum Requirements on the Network Solutions website, and provided such services in accordance with its disclosed practices
- ▶ Maintained effective controls to provide reasonable assurance that:
 - The integrity of keys and SSL certificates it manages is established and protected throughout their lifecycles; and
 - SSL subscriber information is properly authenticated (for the registration activities performed by Network Solutions)
- ▶ Maintained effective controls to provide reasonable assurance that:
 - Logical and physical access to CA systems and data is restricted to authorized individuals;
 - The continuity of key and certificate management operations is maintained; and
 - CA systems development, maintenance, and operations are properly authorized and performed to maintain CA systems integrity
- ▶ Maintained effective controls to provide reasonable assurance that it meets the Network and Certificate System Security Requirements as set forth by the CA/Browser Forum

based on the [WebTrust Principles and Criteria for Certification Authorities – SSL Baseline with Network Security v2.3](#).

Web.com's management is responsible for its assertion and for specifying the aforementioned Criteria. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on management's assertion based on our examination.

Our examination was conducted in accordance with attestation standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA). Those standards require that we plan and perform the examination to obtain reasonable assurance about whether management's assertion is fairly stated, in all material respects. An examination involves performing procedures to obtain evidence about management's assertion. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risks of material misstatement of management's assertion, whether due to fraud or error. We believe that the evidence we obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

Web.com's management has disclosed to us the attached matters (Appendix C) that have been posted publicly in the online forums of the CA/Browser Forum, as well as the online forums of individual internet browsers that comprise the CA/Browser Forum. We have considered the nature of these matters in determining the nature, timing and extent of our procedures.

The relative effectiveness and significance of specific controls at Network Solutions and their effect on assessments of control risk for subscribers and relying parties are dependent on their interaction with the controls, and other factors present at individual subscriber and relying party locations. We have performed no procedures to evaluate the effectiveness of controls at individual subscriber and relying party locations.

Our examination was not conducted for the purpose of evaluating Network Solution's cybersecurity risk management program. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion or any other form of assurance on its cybersecurity risk management program.

There are inherent limitations in the effectiveness of any system of internal control, including the possibility of human error and the circumvention of controls. Because of inherent limitations in its internal control, Network Solutions may achieve reasonable, but not absolute assurance that all security events are prevented and, for those controls may provide reasonable, but not absolute assurance that its commitments and system requirements are achieved. Controls may not prevent or detect and correct, error, fraud, unauthorized access to systems and information, or failure to comply with internal and external policies or requirements.

Examples of inherent limitations of internal controls related to security include (a) vulnerabilities in information technology components as a result of design by their manufacturer or developer; (b) breakdown of internal control at a vendor or business partner; and (c) persistent attackers with the resources to use advanced technical means and sophisticated social engineering techniques specifically targeting the entity. Furthermore, the projection of any evaluations of effectiveness to future periods is subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, that the degree of compliance with such controls may deteriorate, or that changes made to the system or controls, or the failure to make needed changes to the system or controls, may alter the validity of such evaluations.

In our opinion Web.com's management's assertion referred to above is fairly stated, in all material respects, based on the aforementioned criteria.



Network Solutions' use of the WebTrust for Certification Authorities – SSL Baseline with Network Security Seal constitutes a symbolic representation of the contents of this report and it is not intended, nor should it be construed, to update this report or provide any additional assurance.

This report does not include any representation as to the quality of Network Solutions' CA services beyond those covered by the [WebTrust Principles and Criteria for Certification Authorities – SSL Baseline with Network Security v2.3](#) criteria, or the suitability of any of Network Solutions' services for any customer's intended purpose.

Ernst + Young LLP

July 1, 2020



**Management's Assertion Regarding the Effectiveness of Its Controls
Over the SSL Certification Authority Operation
Based on the WebTrust Principles and Criteria for Certification Authorities –
SSL Baseline with Network Security v2.3**

July 1, 2020

We, as the management of Web.com Group, Inc. ("Web.com" the parent company of "Network Solutions") are responsible for operating the Network Solutions' SSL Certification Authority (CA) services at Herndon, Virginia, United States for the Root CA(s) and Subordinate CA(s) in scope for SSL Baseline Requirements and Network Security Requirements listed at Appendix B.

Controls have inherent limitations, including the possibility of human error and the circumvention or overriding of controls. Accordingly, even effective controls can provide only reasonable assurance with respect to Network Solutions' CA operations. Furthermore, because of changes in conditions, the effectiveness of controls may vary over time.

Management of Web.com has assessed the disclosures of its certificate practices and controls over Network Solutions' SSL CA services. Based on that assessment, in providing its SSL Certification Authority (CA) services at Herndon, Virginia, United States throughout the period from April 1, 2019 through March 31, 2020 Network Solutions has:

- ▶ Disclosed its SSL certificate lifecycle management business practices in its [Certification Practice Statement \(Version 3.1\)](#) including its commitment to provide SSL certificates in conformity with the CA/Browser Forum Requirements on the Network Solutions website, and provided such services in accordance with its disclosed practices including its commitment to provide SSL certificates
- ▶ Maintained effective controls to provide reasonable assurance that:
 - the integrity of keys and SSL certificates it manages was established and protected throughout their lifecycles; and
 - SSL subscriber information was properly authenticated (for the registration activities performed by Network Solutions)
- ▶ Maintained effective controls to provide reasonable assurance that:
 - Logical and physical access to CA systems and data was restricted to authorized individuals;
 - The continuity of key and certificate management operations was maintained; and
 - CA systems development, maintenance, and operations are properly authorized and performed to maintain CA systems integrity
- ▶ Maintained effective controls to provide reasonable assurance that it meets the Network and Certificate System Security Requirements as set forth by the CA/Browser Forum

for the Root CA(s) and Subordinate CA(s) in scope for SSL Baseline Requirements and Network Security Requirements at Appendix B, based on the [WebTrust Principles and Criteria for Certification Authorities – SSL Baseline with Network Security v2.3](#).

Anuj Saxena
Chief Technology Officer
Web.com Group, Inc

Appendix A

Locations

| Location | Function |
|-------------------|-------------------------|
| Secaucus, NJ USA | Data Center |
| Manchester, UK | Data Center |
| Bradford, UK | Back End Office Support |
| Manchester, UK | Back End Office Support |
| Roseland, NJ USA | Back End Office Support |
| Murray, UT USA | Back End Office Support |
| Kanata, ON Canada | Back End Office Support |
| Chennai, IN | Back End Office Support |
| Odessa, Ukraine | Back End Office Support |

Appendix B

Root and Subordinate Keys

| # | Root/Subordinate Name | Subject Key Identifier | Certificate Serial Number | SHA-256 Fingerprint |
|----|--|--|--|--|
| 1 | CN=Network Solutions ECC DV Server CA O=Network Solutions L.L.C. L=Jacksonville ST=FL C=US | 894A8964B520B7FA51E E85AC729AEA3BF654FE 1E | 008521621AD08BC6BF 0F069D956C51BD33 | 6A7204D6F6E852A914CC0A E45AFAD91FA28D1AA4ECA 3844097A929A8E11F3A17 |
| 2 | CN=Network Solutions ECC EV Server CA O=Network Solutions L.L.C. L=Jacksonville ST=FL C=US | 2B0B089803B61DFD0C4 3ECD788CB7FDA1DDFE E71 | 1850470B6B8C610DDE 23FCC047FEA039 | 875FD03C6C1AA2E80C8E84 67E99192A3A55D51B1F9DA BAE1E6821F56C4E1E783 |
| 3 | CN=Network Solutions ECC OV Server CA O=Network Solutions L.L.C. L=Jacksonville ST=FL C=US | 09ED181B676853F44FC 00BD3DDDFB3790EBD 779 | 372175802BAB5311D1 362884C3AE7621 | 1C8CF4171AE81798EB7C85 DA604D8C21076D769119471 E5B476C91858A4850E9 |
| 4 | CN=Network Solutions RSA DV Server CA O=Network Solutions L.L.C. L=Jacksonville ST=FL C=US | 713060A80D017902590D 77E151DB51E2F46CD39 1 | 759D11B752DD4B9E24 1CC270F824114B | 7752EE9D27528294579E449 BE6AB07D20BDEAE3A5E39 C05AF7F26C2D431BEFF |
| 5 | CN=Network Solutions RSA EV Server CA O=Network Solutions L.L.C. L=Jacksonville ST=FL C=US | 3A4079DD980526A4F09 A2AF135DCAB8554723A EE | 4B8427B828A7B1D89B D473C1373C6DBA | CB5535486404A82E5079AF0 F9CCB7EA3DFFDF9DA4FC9 25B711062249E6502851 |
| 6 | CN=Network Solutions RSA OV Server CA O=Network Solutions L.L.C. L=Jacksonville ST=FL C=US | CE95DAA4FC31D3B615 0636184E96AC56EDFA4 4D5 | 202516B004AD5FC269 8D9549005A5876 | CB0BADA3AD53A99B4B7A9 6020C2869A43E2DB2D01832 63F3303AC7E41877A665 |
| 7 | CN=Network Solutions Certificate Authority O=Network Solutions L.L.C. C=US | 2130C9FB00D74E98DA8 7AA2AD0A72EB14031A7 4C | 57CB336FC25C16E647 1617E3903168E0 | 15F0BA00A3AC7AF3AC884C 072B1011A077BD77C097F40 164B2F8598ABD83860C |
| 8 | CN=Network Solutions Certificate Authority O=Network Solutions L.L.C. C=US | 2130C9FB00D74E98DA8 7AA2AD0A72EB14031A7 4C | 1CA02DC1523B6A6D8 B5C1F954AEDAC30 | 001686CD181F83A1B1217D3 05B365C41E3470A78A1D37B 134A98CD547B92DAB3 |
| 9 | CN=Network Solutions EV Server CA O=Network Solutions L.L.C. C=US | 8A35E4353ABC11A19EF BF54F3466D54BAC4C62 68 | 7AACA21D539D145411 3C045ED835F8EA | 29F8C1CEB1ABB0D7164791 FF13B4FD268631A882F89FE 658A4B5EC5172774B8B |
| 10 | CN=Network Solutions EV SSL CA O=Network Solutions L.L.C. C=US | B64E859D841F1B1DD45 2894E07962DF9DEF18F CC | 331F38D107F33B3B17 50C4CB09FED18D | A8FC6359078323A25417523 86694FA643F1434EA063BEB AC6EF0D189E3676915 |

| # | Root/Subordinate Name | Subject Key Identifier | Certificate Serial Number | SHA-256 Fingerprint |
|----|--|---|--|--|
| 11 | CN=Network Solutions EV SSL CA O=Network Solutions L.L.C. C=US | B64E859D841F1B1DD45 2894E07962DF9DEF18F CC | 2810921E00E65D2253 21CF627BFE30EE | 4CC308DA28285A18542200E AB3C61DE7387B06667A6CB 6574794A70FE1DEF928 |
| 12 | CN=Network Solutions EV Server CA 2 O=Network Solutions L.L.C. L=Herndon ST=VA C=US | 8F374A849CF48EC7669 690B4AE8FBA5EA216AA C4 | 548E7BA0C030C65DB E531C9C362F2F6C | 799E20564D45484DFA0F28E D726037FF070D66C51DE8E 2343284DECAB0FC9991 |
| 13 | CN=Network Solutions ECC Certificate Authority O=Network Solutions L.L.C. L=Jacksonville ST=FL C=US | 9B7BEB8C8FF83F252984 7300A56F838BEE3EB00 CE | 79384BB4191A8D7422 CCFF8532F2E4BA | 2193CFEA381211A1AEAA2D E984E630643A87160B12081 18145EAFB8E1BC69958 |
| 14 | CN=Network Solutions RSA Certificate Authority O=Network Solutions L.L.C. L=Jacksonville ST=FL C=US | 0FF14A4A757405110C1 DD85B99EBBFFEEAA7D5 ED7 | 4C034BAC67184C7FA F44084D8296C7B2 | DDBF149733BC2BF8A09D7F 012B01A6DEA11D7BAE2671 3783EF6407A2495BF189 |
| 15 | CN=Network Solutions Certificate Authority O=Network Solutions L.L.C. C=US | 2130C9FB00D74E98DA8 7AA2AD0A72EB14031A7 4C | 00B98E43FE6389E86B 2F6435795982696F | 5DCF76EC8C7A84D94C7C9 BFFDE0C9D45389AC618D11 D343BD6A5EBA5BFC6F438 |
| 16 | CN=Network Solutions Certificate Authority O=Network Solutions L.L.C. C=US | 2130C9FB00D74E98DA8 7AA2AD0A72EB14031A7 4C | 5DC9729CEA8A795A1 7EEDBBFCC28214B | 1F32401D449A0619F30800D 11A4F502DB49E0B332423F7 78BD522991FB6E0147 |
| 17 | CN=Network Solutions Certificate Authority O=Network Solutions L.L.C. C=US | 2130C9FB00D74E98DA8 7AA2AD0A72EB14031A7 4C | 030E95294DAEC12C03 CF31AB5B0271D7 | C445D7EAA6F236F4CFC23A D1C2F8403BF733AE87E0E6 FF5892C926044370FB48 |
| 18 | CN=Network Solutions Certificate Authority O=Network Solutions L.L.C. C=US | 2130C9FB00D74E98DA8 7AA2AD0A72EB14031A7 4C | 3985F289EFE5B9FEFF DA7DDBDC9D0F41 | 462B93B27711E4A61B4EEF9 9A37C3392017436791402291 8E7749A069AFE56EE |
| 19 | CN=Network Solutions Certificate Authority O=Network Solutions L.L.C. C=US | 2130C9FB00D74E98DA8 7AA2AD0A72EB14031A7 4C | 54833A5DF96BD642EC C60CDDA03CE9E9 | D5E71937C7383DE159BB8F 8DB8949AFC8DE08FF8BC7D 7E1D0CBEDB6BF8317F9A |
| 20 | CN=Network Solutions Certificate Authority O=Network Solutions L.L.C. C=US | 2130C9FB00D74E98DA8 7AA2AD0A72EB14031A7 4C | 5468B579749F60FFFE 9336D1C362AF2E | 82A6C3EDE04772D1336B99 BE2DC2D8B6D49BBECE1AD 9D1E1FF8E4253A70BF1EA |

Appendix C

Public Disclosures

| No. | Disclosure | Relevant WebTrust criteria | Publicly Disclosed Link |
|-----|---|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 | Web.com added two additional root certificates, ECC and RSA to their existing roots for the purpose of upgrading towards SHA-2 certificates using ECC and RSA encryption, to be included in Mozilla's CA certificate list maintained in NSS | N/A – Web.com has shared the open request in the interest of transparency and knowledge sharing | Bugzilla Link |
| 2 | Web.com published self-signed certificates for one of the CA keys which were not included in Sectigo's disclosure list and as a result led to inconsistencies between self-signed and cross – signed versions of those CA keys | N/A – Web.com has shared the issue in the interest of transparency and knowledge sharing | Bugzilla Link |