.nz NEWSLETTER – April 2008

:: DNC ::

Domain Name Commission Limited – Operating as of 1 April 2008

Domain Name Commission Limited (DNCL) began operating as of 1 April 2008. DNCL is carrying on the work previously handled at the operational level by the Domain Name Commission and the .nz Oversight Committee (NZOC). The operating agreement between DNCL and InternetNZ reflects these responsibilities and obligations. All .nz policies remain operational. DNCL board membership consists of Richard Currey (Chair), Michael Foley, Joy Liddicoat, Andy Linton and David Russell.

There have been minor changes to the .nz policies to reflect the correct entity; otherwise, the substance of the policies remains the same. The amended policies became effective from 1 April 2008 and have been published on the DNC website. Version numbers have been updated.

Internationalised Domains Names (IDNs) – Second Consultation

Previously, comment has been sought on potential issues associated with the implementation of IDNs in .nz, along with any other issues that the IDN working group (WG) should consider. (Submissions received can be viewed here http://www.dnc.org.nz/idn-consult). A meeting of the IDN WG was held on the 18th of February to discuss the submissions we received.

At this meeting the WG agreed that InternetNZ should proceed with the planned implementation of IDNs in .nz. The next phase of the process is to consider the options for how to equitably distribute the registrations of IDN variants of currently registered ASCII domain names in .nz.

To avoid potential disputes during the initial phases of IDN registrations in .nz a policy of a sunrise period for registrations has been suggested. Due to the nature of the Māori language it is impossible to automatically assign IDN variants to current .nz ASCII domain names.

The sunrise period will allow for current .nz registrants to have a chance to register the IDN variants of their ASCII names before open registration of IDNs in .nz are offered.

We are seeking comment on the proposed course of action outlined below.

1. The policies for IDN registrations are in line with the rest of the .nz policies and procedures (which can be viewed at www.dnc.org.nz/policies). They will express the same values as the core principles of the current system and particularly the "first come, first served" principle (excluding the sunrise period).
2. The cost to register an IDN will be the same as an ASCII .nz domain name.
3. There will be no automatic assignment of IDN variants to current registrants of .nz ASCII names.
4. If current .nz registrants wish to register an IDN variant of their current ASCII names, they must do so during the proposed sunrise period or risk losing the variant to another applicant on a first come first serve basis.
5. Apart from the requirement of current .nz registrants to apply for IDN variants of their ASCII names, there will be no other provisions regarding initial registration principles for IDNs in .nz.

We are now seeking comment on the above planned course of action.
(Note: We are seeking comment on the proposed implementation of the five macronised vowels that appear in the Māori language, which are ā, ē, ī, ō and ū.)

Submissions can be sent by email to policies@dnc.org.nz, by fax to (04) 495 2115, or by mail to P O Box 11881, Wellington. As submissions are received they will be published on the DNC website at www.dnc.org.nz/idn-2ndconsult . Submissions should be received by 5pm on Thursday 17th July.

.nz Domain Name Fee Announced

InternetNZ (the Internet Society of New Zealand Inc) is leaving unchanged the wholesale domain name fee charged to authorised .nz registrars by nz Registry Services (NZRS).

The wholesale fee will remain stable at $1.50 per domain name per month.

The decision to leave the fee unchanged is the outcome of a recommendation from the NZRS and the .nz Oversight Committee (NZOC) to the InternetNZ Council.

InternetNZ President Peter Macaulay says the wholesale fee is reviewed annually by the NZRS and NZOC.

"The recommendation from their joint review was that the fee should remain at the same level set last year. InternetNZ Council adopted that recommendation at its March Council meeting."

Statistics

In March, the number of active .nz domain names increased from 321,817 to 324,722, a net increase of 2,905.

Figures as at 31 March 2008:

	Active names as at 1 March	*Active names as at end 31 March*	*New registrations March*	*Renewals March*	*Net Growth*
.ac	1466	1518	61	309	52
.co	276270	278838	6559	57431	2568
.cri	16	16	0	8	0
.geek	810	827	31	212	17
.gen	1168	1188	27	298	20
.govt	939	944	5	824	5
.iwi	60	59	0	11	-1
.maori	493	504	20	83	11
.mil	18	18	0	9	0
.net	19217	19313	482	3621	96
.org	18652	18765	396	3421	113
.parliament	5	5	0	5	0
.school	2703	2727	31	1166	24
TOTAL	*321817*	*324722*	*7612*	*67398*	*2905*

Note: these figures do not include names in the 'pending release' status. They incorporate all active domain names in the .nz register. For more statistics, see http://dnc.org.nz/statistics

:: .nz REGISTRY SERVICES ::

It was a good feeling to end the year with all the systems having 100% availability.

The outage on 20th April and was used to test our disaster recovery and backup operational system support plan. The test was a success with a series of minor items identified; these will be worked on over the next period.

We have upgraded three of the DNS servers during April.

Availability
SRS production system availability:

	SLA	January	February	March
SRS Availability %	99.90	99.97	100	100
Whois	99.90	99.97	99.99	100
DNS	100	100	100	100

Response time performance figures on the production environment for the previous three months were:

Avg Response time (in seconds)	SLA Target	January	February	March
Domain Details Query	≤1.5	0.02	0.03	0.03
Domain Update	≤0.8	0.34	0.22	0.40
Domain Create	≤0.8	0.43	0.44	0.46
GetMessage performance	≤0.8	0.04	0.03	0.03
Whois	≤0.8	0.10	0.11	0.11
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)	N/A	2,734	3,128	3,200
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	N/A	342	534	386
UDAI Valid Query	≤0.8	0.13	0.13	0.14

DNS
Server   % Availability

	Jan 08	Feb 08	Mar 08
NS1	100	100	100
NS2	100	100	100
NS3	100	100	100
NS4	99.78	100	100
NS5	100	100	100
NS6	100	100	100
NS7	100	100	100

Unscheduled Outages

Outage Type	Total Duration

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Unscheduled	47 seconds
WHOIS Unscheduled	41 seconds
DNS	0

Scheduled Outages

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Scheduled	5 hours to complete upgrade to SRS 2.0
Whois Scheduled	5 Hours as above
SRS – Whois – Emergency Outage	no
DNS	2 Hrs Hardware Upgrades to NS1, NS3 and Primary1

Scheduled Outages and Updates
There is a scheduled outage planned for 25 May 07:00 – 09:00

Any Comments?

If you have any questions or concerns about the SRS, please don't hesitate to contact us. For registry or technical matters, contact Nick Griffin at support@nzrs.net.nz.   For all other matters, contact Debbie Monahan at info@dnc.org.nz.

Please Note
If you would like to be notified of future updates, please use the SUBSCRIBE function on the DNC site and select the category 'Newsletters'.