

New Registrar Advisory Group members elected

Following an election, DNCL is pleased to welcome three new members to the Registrar Advisory Group (RAG): Melissa Baird (Domainz Limited), Robin Dickie (Umbrellar Limited) and Lenz Gschwendtner (ideegeo Group Limited).

They join Lee Miller (Net24 Ltd TA 1st Domains & RegisterDirect), Maria Brosnan (Freeparking/WebFarm) and Glen Eustace (GodZone Internet Services).

The RAG is a key advisory element in the ongoing monitoring of the market by DNCL, with RAG members offering advice and input to DNCL and NZRS on issues that affect the .nz domain name space.

DNCL would like to thank the exiting members, Kim Lowton, Mark Goldfinch and Quintin Russ, for their work on the RAG.

Bios of the current RAG members are available at <http://dnc.org.nz/content/RAGSeptember2015.pdf>

Background information on the RAG is available at <http://dnc.org.nz/content/ragbackground.html>

Entries open for 2015 iSANZ Awards

Information security is an important part of the work of many registrars, and DNCL wanted to bring to the attention of .nz registrars that entries have now opened in the inaugural 2015 iSANZ Awards.

These Awards recognise excellence in New Zealand's InfoSec community, which DNCL supports through its involvement with the NZITF (New Zealand Internet Task Force).

Entries can be made at <http://isanz.org.nz> - including from any .nz registrar that has been doing interesting or innovative things with InfoSec, or has undertaken noteworthy security projects or initiatives.

SRS validation error

In early August, an SRS validation error allowed a .nz name to be registered that exceeded the maximum allowed number of characters at the third level of the name. Under .nz policy, the maximum length of each name element is 63 characters.

The domain was rejected by the DNS zone build validation. The domain was not included in NZRS' zone push to the name servers and was subsequently cancelled. A change to the SRS has been applied to resolve the validation issue.

Technical update from the Registry

Technical SRS Registrar Information Kit (RIK)

As part of NZRS' ongoing SRS architectural review, it is evaluating the Technical SRS Registrar Information Kit (RIK).

This kit currently comprises a Perl client which can make requests via the SRS protocol and a number of supporting library dependencies which are distributed as a package called 'cpan_libs'.

Based on NZRS' evaluation and analysis of the recent registrar satisfaction survey it is proposed that the following changes be made to the Technical RIK:

- The RIK clients will be provided as a Perl module on Github. This provides registrars with an easy and accessible location to source the RIK clients from when implementing the RIK into their own systems or when building the clients on unsupported platforms. This will also provide registrars with the ability to submit their own patches upstream.
- Currently NZRS builds and tests its cpan libs package against a number of different Linux distributions and architectures. NZRS' analysis shows most of these systems are not used by registrars, and as a result the 'cpan_libs' bundles will be discontinued. Instead NZRS will develop and test against a reference system (Ubuntu LTS on x64) and publish a complete .deb package for this platform including both clients and libraries.

- NZRS will distribute a VM image of the reference system with the latest client pre-installed. This will provide an easily accessible platform for registrars to issue adhoc SRS XML requests if necessary.

Please note that these changes have not been finalised, so if you have any comments on the proposed changes to the RIK please contact support@nzrs.net.nz

New SRS release coming

On 1 November 2015, NZRS will deploy a new major release of the SRS (SRS Release 7.0), which includes internal changes to its application, libraries, underlying operating system and deployment architecture.

This is a significant SRS release with a number of underlying changes. NZRS highly recommends that registrars test their systems against the SRS RPS environment, and the RPS environment is available to registrars for testing of Release 7.0.

Further details for Release 7.0 can be found at:

https://docs.nzrs.net.nz/notifications/files/2015/20150818_release7

Details of future SRS releases and planned scheduled outages can be found at <https://docs.nzrs.net.nz/notifications>

Registrar Portal

A reminder that the old registrar section of NZRS' website - nzrs.net.nz/registrars - will be decommissioned on 30 September 2015.

The information and functionality of the old registrar section of the NZRS website has been replaced with the new Registrar Portal. The portal contains all the previous information and much more.

Registrars needing a login to the new portal are asked to contact Registry support at support@nzrs.net.nz.

Statistics

In August 2015, the number of active .nz domain names increased from 648,923 to 651,395, a net increase of 2,472. Figures as of 31 August 2015:

	31 Jul 15	31 Aug 15	Creates	Renews	Net Change
.nz	97,940	100,974	2939	6906	3,034
.ac.nz	2,217	2,217	23	392	0
.co.nz	478,997	478,533	7211	66278	-464
.cri.nz	7	7	0	1	0
.geek.nz	1,127	1,106	4	298	-21
.gen.nz	1,262	1,257	4	317	-5
.govt.nz	1,025	1,023	1	1022	-2
.health.nz	215	219	4	195	4
.iwi.nz	92	93	1	17	1
.kiwi.nz	6,309	6,266	44	1029	-43
.maori.nz	984	973	9	124	-11
.mil.nz	31	32	1	10	1
.net.nz	26,884	26,968	637	3956	84
.org.nz	28,295	28,189	269	3971	-106
.parliament.nz	10	10	0	10	0
.school.nz	3,528	3,528	15	921	0
TOTAL	648,923	651,395	11162	85447	2,472

Note: the previous 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>

Availability

Availability %	SLA	Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15
SRS	99.9	99.87	100	100
Whois	99.9	99.87	100	100
DNS	100	100	100	100

SRS Response times

Performance figures on the production environment for the previous three months:

Avg Response time (in seconds)	SLA Target	Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15
Domain Details Query	≤0.5	0.03	0.02	0.03
Domain Update	≤0.8	0.28	0.33	0.31
Domain Create	≤0.8	0.33	0.34	0.39
Get Message	≤0.5	0.09	0.10	0.11
Whois	≤0.5	0.11	0.11	0.12
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)	N/A	8,609	8,962	8,183
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	N/A	1,967	1,928	2,006
UDAI Valid Query	≤0.5	0.12	0.11	0.11

Server DNS % Availability

	Jun 15	Jul 15	Aug 15
NS1	100	100	100
NS2	100	100	100
NS3	100	100	100
NS4	100	100	100
NS5	100	100	100
NS6	100	100	100
NS7	100	100	100

Unscheduled Outages during August 2015

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Unscheduled	No unscheduled outages
WHOIS Unscheduled	No unscheduled outages
DNS Unscheduled	No unscheduled outages

Scheduled Outages during August 2015

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Scheduled	2 hours
SRS Emergency Scheduled	No scheduled outages
WHOIS Scheduled	2 hours

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 Dave Baker at support@nzrs.net.nz or on 04 931 6970. For all other matters, contact Debbie Monahan at info@dnc.org.nz.

Please Note

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