

.nz NEWSLETTER – April 2010

:: Domain Name Commission ::

Review of three .nz policies

As part of the ongoing review of .nz policies, three policies are now being reviewed.

The policies being reviewed are:

Process on de-authorisation of a registrar - Consultation

This policy relates to the process which is to be followed whether the de-authorisation is voluntary, or results from a serious breach of .nz policies.

Registrars can choose to cancel their own authorisation status, or the DNC may cancel the status in some circumstances. These circumstances and all notice periods are defined in the policy.

Transfer to another registrar - Consultation

This policy relates to the process which is to be followed when a .nz domain name is transferred from one registrar ('releasing registrar') to another ('gaining registrar').

The overarching principle behind this policy is that registrants are able to transfer .nz domain names from one registrar to another at any time, except during the registration grace period. The registrar must supply the UDAI on registration and at the request of the registrant to enable the transfer to take place.

Roles and Responsibilities - Consultation

This policy sets out the roles, rights and obligations of all parties involved in the Shared Registry System. It establishes the standards of behaviour required to operate in the .nz domain name space, and sets out the consequences of breaching those standards, including the possible sanctions.

No operational issues have been identified with the current policies. They are being reviewed as part of the regular, ongoing review of .nz policies.

The review period for all three policies will end at midday on 21 June 2010.

Submissions should be by email to policies@dnc.org.nz . They may also be made by fax to +64 4 495 2115 or by post to Domain Name Commission, PO Box 11 881, Wellington 6142, New Zealand. All submissions will be published at <http://www.dnc.org.nz/march10-reviews> .

DNCL Board Meeting – Minutes

The minutes of the DNCL Board meeting held on Friday 9 April are now available and can be viewed in either [.html](#) or [.pdf](#) .

Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs) in .nz – Sunrise Registration Period Open

The sunrise period for IDN registrations is open and we have been receiving applications.

If, as the current registrant, you wish to apply for a macronised vowel variant of your .nz name you can do so [here](#). You can also find more information regarding the IDN sunrise period by visiting this link.

Statistics

In March, the number of active .nz domain names increased from 388,557 to 393,494, a net increase of 4,937.

Figures as at 31 March 2010:

	<i>Active names as at 1 March</i>	<i>Active names as at end 31 March</i>	<i>New registrations March</i>	<i>Renewals March</i>	<i>Net Growth</i>
.ac	1,739	1746	26	327	7
.co	335,799	340,200	8,578	62,837	4,401
.cri	15	15	0	3	-
.geek	942	952	16	215	10
.gen	1,249	1287	55	309	38
.govt	1,033	1035	4	956	2
.health	100	105	5	0	5
.iwi	68	70	0	15	2
.maori	581	582	10	97	1
.mil	21	23	2	3	2
.net	21,724	21,936	511	4,376	212
.org	22,309	22,547	490	4,259	238
.parliament	7	7	0	7	-
.school	2,970	2,989	27	1,296	19
TOTAL	388,557	393,494	9,724	74,700	4,937

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 ::

Availability

Availability %	SLA	January	February	March
SRS	99.90	100	100	100
Whois	99.90	100	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	January	February	March
Domain Details Query	≤0.5	0.03	0.03	0.04
Domain Update	≤0.8	0.26	0.24	0.36
Domain Create	≤0.8	0.30	0.25	0.33
Get Message	≤0.5	0.05	0.04	0.06
Whois	≤0.5	0.11	0.10	0.17
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)	N/A	2,420	2,875	3,015
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	N/A	613	631	694
UDAI Valid Query	≤0.5	0.12	0.11	4

Server DNS % Availability

	January	February	March
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 March 2010

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Unscheduled	0
WHOIS Unscheduled	0
DNS	0

Scheduled Outages during March 2010

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Scheduled	2 hours
Whois Scheduled	2 hours

Planned Scheduled Outages

Details of future SRS releases and planned scheduled outages can be found on our website.<http://www.nzrs.net.nz/notices/updates.shtml>

SRS EPP Changes

A beta EPP interface will be available for registrar testing from the 29th April 2010. The interface will have a small subset of the EPP functionality. Regular incremental releases with additional functionality will be made to the test system through to June. If any registrars would like to be involved in testing the EPP interface, please contact Dave or Manuela: support@nzrs.net.nz

DNSSEC

Over the last few months we have been working in the test environment on the technical elements of signing the .nz zone. Internal testing has been carried out using Open DNSSEC, which enables easier management of cryptographic key material and operations relating to DNSSEC. The timeline for this project is being put together and will be announced soon. If you would like any more details or would like to be involved in the DNSSEC project please contact our DNS specialist, Sebastian (sebastian@nzrs.net.nz)

Project Programme Update

As published last year we have moved to an annual Project Programme for systems and infrastructure development. This is a brief update on the current status of that programme:

Task	Status	Comments
PGP Key Server	Completed	
Postgres/Apache/OS Upgrade	Completed	
Hardware Upgrade	Completed	
DNS Monitoring/Reporting	Completed	-
DNS Test Cluster	Completed	
DDOS Mitigation	Completed	
Intra-site Connection	Completed	
Implementation of EPP	In Progress	See above
Implementation of IDN	In Progress	SRS code changes to be implemented in the February release and the "Go Live" date scheduled for July.
DNSSEC Implementation	In progress	See above

Code review of the SRS	In progress	The SRS is several years old now and this project will look at where the existing code base can be improved / refined.
NTP Server	In Progress	Three NTP servers for the SRS and DNS are planned to be implemented over the next few months, and potentially offering a public time service as well.
SRS Test Cluster	Not started	
Hidden Primary (3rd)	Not started	

If registrars require any further information please let us know.

Registrar Implementation Kit

The SRSCClient and SRS User Interface (SRS UI) applications that we distribute as part of the Registrar Implementation Kit (RIK) have had very few changes made to them since the SRS was launched. The SRSCClient was originally developed as an example client interface for registrars to look at and use to assist in developing an interface to the SRS.

Our recent customer satisfaction survey showed that a large proportion of registrars are using the SRSCClient and a number of registrars have said that they would like to see some improvements made to the SRSCClient and SRS UI. The main theme of the comments were around improving the installation/upgrade process and improving the interfaces. We agree with these comments and have decided to start a project to address these issues.

We would like to hear registrar views, suggestions and comments about any updates and improvements they would like to see made to the SRSCClient, SRS UI and anything else in the RIK.

Please send your comments and suggestions to Dave or Manuela at support@nzrs.net.nz

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

If you would like to be notified of future updates, please use the [SUBSCRIBE](#) function on the DNC site and select the category 'Newsletters'. If you ever want to stop receiving our newsletter, please send an email with 'Unsubscribe' in the subject line to unsubscribe@dnc.org.nz