

.nz NEWSLETTER – April 2012

:: Domain Name Commission ::

Application for a new 2LD - .kiwi.nz

An application has been received to create a new, open, second level domain (2LD) - .kiwi.nz. Copies of the application can be seen at

.pdf - http://dnc.org.nz/content/kiwi_nz.pdf
.html - http://dnc.org.nz/content/kiwi_nz.html

Comments are sought on this application. In particular, comment is sought on how the application meets the criteria for a new 2LD, namely that the 2LD:

- Represents an identifiable, significant community of interest; where:
'significant' can mean either quantitatively or qualitatively; and
the community of interest can be defined in a clear written statement
- Represents an on-going and long-lived community of interest
- Does not conflict with, duplicate or cause confusion about, any existing 2LD, and is a useful addition to the current DNS hierarchy
- Uses a name to represent the domain that is an obvious derivative of a word that properly describes the community of interest or a complete word.
- Does not bring the .nz domain name space in disrepute

Submissions should be sent by email to policies@dnc.org.nz, by fax to (04) 495 2115, or by mail to P O Box 11881, Wellington.

Submissions close at 5pm on Tuesday 29 May 2012. All submissions will be published at <http://dnc.org.nz/story/application-new-2ld-kiwinz> as they are received.

Proposed amendments to the .nz Authorisation Agreement

DNCL is seeking the views of Registrars, and other interested parties, on proposed amendments to the current Authorisation Agreement that DNCL signs with authorised .nz Registrars. The amendments add a new clause to the Agreement relating to .nz domain name take down requests.

Details of the proposed amendments are http://dnc.org.nz/content/Proposed_authorisation_agreement_amendments.pdf.

The addition of a take down clause is considered appropriate given the increase in reported incidents overseas where domain names have been taken out of the DNS, or cancelled, on the request of law enforcement or other agencies, rather than on the basis of a properly obtained court order making clear directives in respect of the domain name/s involved.

Our intention in adding this clause is to clarify that Registrars are not expected to respond to take down demands from law enforcement in the absence of a clear court order seeking that

action. If Registrars receive such a demand, they 'should' forward it to the Domain Name Commission for action with DNCL working with the appropriate agencies to resolve the matter. DNCL will accept the legal liability and support Registrars put in a difficult position.

DNCL does not condone criminal activity but considers that, like in our general legal system, due process needs to be followed and decisions made by appropriate judicial bodies. This stance was outlined in a post on the InternetNZ website which can be seen at <http://internetnz.net.nz/news/blog/2011/Takedown-domain-names-%E2%80%93-rule-law-and-due-process>. It is also supported by legal advice we have received and which can be read at http://dnc.org.nz/content/Take_down_domain_names_lawyers.pdf.

Our position is that we will work with law enforcement and other appropriate entities to assist them in their inquiries and offer them our knowledge of the subject matter. DNCL will not, however, cancel domain names merely on the request of those agencies. DNCL will respond to an appropriate court order clearly outlining the domain name at issue and the action to be taken. DNCL is also ready to assist any party that may be seeking such a court action to ensure that the order obtained is appropriate for DNCL to take the required action. The proposed amendments to the Authorisation Agreement clarify that DNCL are also prepared to take these actions on behalf of Registrars where they have received such a request directly.

Comments should be sent by email to policies@dnc.org.nz, by fax to (04) 495 2115, or by mail to P O Box 11881, Wellington. Comments on these proposed changes should be by Monday, 29 May 2012.

Zone Transfer Policy Amendments Notification

This is to advise of an update to the [Zone Transfer Policy](#) (ZTP) to govern the use of the zone data by .nz. The amended policy will take effect from Monday 14 May 2011.

The term 'zone file' has been updated in the policy to 'zone data' to reflect that the zone data is not stored in a single file but is a mixture of files and databases.

The following new clause 3.10 will be added to the ZTP. This clause allows .nz to conduct its own research and analysis on the zone data, and provide the results of that analysis to the applicant.

- 3.10 Upon receipt of an application the DNC may decide, based on the rationale provided for the application and in conjunction with NZRS, that it is more appropriate for NZRS to conduct additional research and analysis of the zone data and provide that, rather than releasing the zone data.

The following new section will be added to the ZTP, as section 4. *Use of the zone data by .nz*, to govern the use of zone data by .nz. The existing section 4 will be renumbered accordingly:

4. Use of the zone data by .nz
 - 4.1 DNC and NZRS can use the zone data to ensure the efficient management and operation of the .nz zone and .nz DNS, and for reasons of "public good" as determined by the DNC.
 - 4.2 Research and analysis of the zone data will:
 - 4.2.1 assist with the design and development of the DNS infrastructure supporting .nz;
 - 4.2.2 provide insight into how .nz is evolving and performing;
 - 4.2.3 provide visibility into the security posture of .nz; and

- 4.2.4 provide intelligence into different topics of interest to the domain name and technical communities.
- 4.3 NZRS will develop and maintain, as a part of the DNS Practice Statement, a technical policy that will govern how the scanning of .nz will operate. This technical policy may include:
 - 4.3.1 what the data will be used for and why;
 - 4.3.2 how scanning will be conducted, such as the acceptable rates and frequency;
 - 4.3.3 what data will be kept in either raw or aggregated forms; and
 - 4.3.4 what data will be published and in what form.

A preview of the amended policy that comes into effect on 16 May can be found here: [Pending Zone Transfer Policy](#)

Registrar Advisory Group Election

We are now inviting nominations from Registrars for two registrar representatives on the Registrar Advisory Group (RAG).

Nominations need to meet the following criteria:

- One nomination per registrar.
- Nominees need to have a clear relationship with an authorised registrar
- Nominees must be a named person; you cannot put forward a general representative that will be filled by an unspecified person.
- Include a short biography of the nominee (around 100 words).

Nominations, with biographies, should be sent to registrar@dnc.org.nz and need to be received by 7 May 2012.

Background

The Registrar Advisory Group (or RAG) was established by InternetNZ as part of its obligations under the Shared Registry System (SRS). The RAG is chaired by the Domain Name Commissioner and it is comprised of the DNC, NZ Registry Services (NZRS) Manager and six registrar representatives. It is the intention of the RAG to represent the interests of the registrar community at large. The RAG will provide a key advisory element in the ongoing monitoring of the market by the DNC.

RAG members offer advice and input to the DNC and the NZRS manager on issues that affect the .nz domain space. The members also offer advice on the preferred priority work areas. The RAG works as one point of contact between authorised registrars and the DNC and NZRS. It provides a forum for registrars to bring up issues that affect the .nz market and work to offer possible solutions. Input on technical issues will be provided via RAG, for example issues regarding the register, its interfaces and the .nz DNS as well as identifying possible SRS enhancements and modifications.

RAG meetings normally occur once a year with the majority of the communication done via email.

The DNC will cover travel costs associated with RAG meetings for New Zealand based members. For those based overseas their presence at meetings will be achieved via conference calls.

For further information please consult the RAG terms of reference document which can be seen at http://dnc.org.nz/content/Registrar_Advisory_Group_TOR.pdf

Statistics

In March, the number of active .nz domain names increased from 473,166 to 477,688, a net increase of 4,522.

Figures as at 31 March 2012:

	<i>1 March 12</i>	<i>31 March 12</i>	<i>New registrations March</i>	<i>Renewals March</i>	<i>Net Growth</i>
.ac	1,921	1,934	29	322	13
.co	410,365	414,389	8946	63,619	4,024
.cri	13	13	0	7	0
.geek	1,138	1,142	19	251	4
.gen	1,394	1,386	8	273	-8
.govt	1,111	1,114	5	1,077	3
.health	145	145	0	128	0
.iwi	78	78	0	12	0
.maori	666	678	18	98	12
.mil	33	33	0	12	0
.net	26,746	27,023	605	3,827	277
.org	26,300	26,475	460	3,684	175
.parliament	8	8	0	8	0
.school	3,248	3,270	30	1,200	22
TOTAL	473,166	477,688	10,120	74,518	4,522

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 ::

SRS

We have updated our CPAN libraries (community Perl modules) that are required to use the command line client programs (sendJSON, sendXML SRSCient2). We recommend that any registrar that is using our CPAN libraries to download the latest version and the latest RIK from our website: <http://nzrs.net.nz/srs/rik>

The most recent version of the SRS and RIK is 5.21, released 29/04/2012, with several minor bug fixes. Detailed information available at: <http://nzrs.net.nz/notices/updates>

Registrars can choose to use any of the SRS clients, the EPP Interface, or both. If there are any Registrars that would like to try using the EPP interface on the test or production system, then please contact Dave or Pearl on: support@nzrs.net.nz

DNS

The upgrade of all five .nz nameservers located across New Zealand was successfully completed during March and the first week of April. We are now focusing our efforts on continuing the DNSSEC deployment for the second level domains.

Availability

Availability %	SLA	Jan 12	Feb 12	Mar 12
SRS	99.90	99.99	99.96	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	Jan 12	Feb 12	Mar 12
Domain Details Query	≤0.5	0.02	0.01	0.01
Domain Update	≤0.8	0.25	0.22	0.20
Domain Create	≤0.8	0.30	0.25	0.23
Get Message	≤0.5	0.05	0.04	0.04
Whois	≤0.5	0.06	0.04	0.04
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)	N/A	9,876	10,475	8,611
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	N/A	851	887	973
UDAI Valid Query	≤0.5	0.13	0.09	0.08

Server DNS % Availability

	Jan 12	Feb 12	Mar 12
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 2011

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Unscheduled	1143 seconds
WHOIS Unscheduled	0
DNS	0

Scheduled Outages during March 2011

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Scheduled	7 hours 20 minutes
SRS Emergency Scheduled	0
Whois Scheduled	7 hours 20 minutes

Planned Scheduled Outages

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

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