

.nz NEWSLETTER – January 2008

:: DNC OFFICE ::

In November, the number of active .nz domain names increased from 311,198 to 314,053, a net increase of 2,855.

.nz Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) – Policy Review

On 1 June 2006, the .nz Dispute Resolution Service (DRS – www.dnc.org.nz/drs) came into effect. Its implementation followed a public consultation on the options for resolving disputes over who should be the registrant of a .nz domain name (refer www.dnc.org.nz/ldrp-consultation). The intention in establishing the DRS was to provide parties with a low cost alternative to the Courts to resolve .nz domain name disputes.

The DRS is based on the [NominetUK](http://www.nominet.uk) dispute resolution process and incorporates a mediation step, at no cost to the parties, in the process before any payment is required to refer the dispute for an Expert determination. With 89 valid complaints received in the first 18 months, and with around 40% of those resolved at mediation, it would appear that the DRS is meeting a need.

Generally the policy appears to be operating well. The Domain Name Commission intends to add an additional clause enabling a term of settlement, that is within the power of the DNC, to be enforced by the DNC if the parties fail to do so. For example, when the parties agree to transfer a domain name to a different registrant but one party doesn't sign the forms required by the registrar, the DNC will be able to direct the registrar to make the required change.

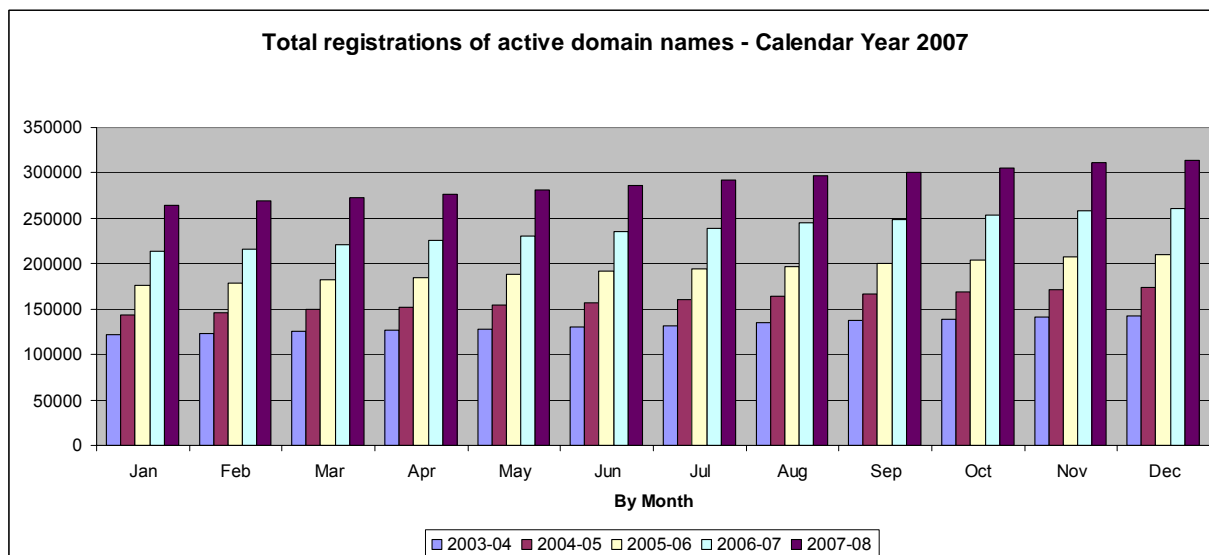
One issue raised by the Experts relates to the quality of the complaints received, in that the information required to prove the two elements (rights in the name, and that the registration in the hands of the respondent is unfair) is often lacking in sufficient detail to make the case. This issue is one of education, though any ideas that people may have on how the quality might be improved would be welcomed.

At the time the DRS was implemented, it was agreed that there would be a review sometime after its first year of operation. This is now the opportunity to comment on the policy and its operational implementation. 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. As submissions are received they will be published on the DNC website at www.dnc.org.nz/drs-consult. Comments should be received by midday on Wednesday 13 February 2008.

Calendar Year 2006-2007 – Domain Name Statistics

The month by month domain name growth stats for the calendar year running 2006-2007 are outlined below. Total .nz domain registrations grew from 261,283 at the end of 2006 to 314,053 in December 2007.

The graph shows that there has been further healthy growth in the .nz domain name market, with monthly increases being consistently higher than in previous years.



Statistics

Figures as at 31 December 2007:

	<i>Active names as at 1 December</i>	<i>Active names as at end 31 December</i>	<i>New registrations December</i>	<i>Renewals December</i>	<i>Net Growth</i>
.ac	1394	1413	40	287	19
.co	267079	269562	5921	53033	2483
.cri	16	16	0	4	0
.geek	783	793	20	190	10
.gen	1148	1151	13	281	3
.govt	928	931	3	800	3
.iwi	60	59	0	13	-1
.maori	493	483	8	59	-10
.mil	18	18	0	9	0
.net	18551	18715	427	3324	164
.org	18051	18218	346	3194	167
.parliament	5	5	0	5	0
.school	2672	2689	19	1116	17
TOTAL	311198	314053	6797	62315	2855

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 ::

Happy New Year and welcome to 2008. We hope that you enjoyed the summer break and are now refreshed for the challenges of 2008.

NZRS will be undertaking a major upgrade of the SRS on Sunday 24th February. Details about the upgrade are detailed below.

SRS Outage

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There will be a scheduled shut down of SRS to allow for a major SRS upgrade to SRS (Version 2.00).

The outage will occur on Sunday 24th February 2008 07:00 - 10:00 NZ Daylight Time for 3 hours.

During this maintenance window we are also undertaking a front end switch test, switching the front end from Albany to Wellington and then back to Albany.

After the maintenance window, the front end will be operating from Albany as per the normal operation of the SRS and the front end switch test should have no affect on Registrars.

Registrar Impact (IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ)

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The major change in this release is to enable the SRS to authorise multiple Registrar PGP keys. The reason for this change is to help facilitate the change of Registrars PGP keys. I.e the old key and new key can exist at the same time.

Registrars sign requests with a single key and the SRS will validate that signature against several keys (old & new) in turn until one matches. Once the Registrar has successfully transitioned to the new key the old key can be removed. All transactions sent by Registrars are validated using the PGP key.

This change is not backwards compatible with previous SRS versions.

NZRS recommend all Registrars upgrade to version 2.00.

Registrars that use the SRSCClient or SRS User Interface (UI) MUST upgrade to version 2.00.

Registrars that validate against the DTD MUST upgrade to version 2.00.

All other registrar systems MAY continue to operate without upgrading. NZRS recommend that Registrars that choose not to upgrade, SHOULD test their system against the SRS RPS test environment. Registrars that do not upgrade MAY encounter errors, in particular when sending RegistrarUpdate or RegistrarDetailsQry transactions. NZRS will perform these functions, if required, on behalf of Registrars for a period of 3 months after this release.

Registrar Pre-Release Testing Environment (SRS RPS)

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The SRS RPS test environment is available for registrars to test this release.

NZRS recommend that all registrars test their SRS interface against this environment.

Registrar Implementation Kit (RIK)
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The SRSCClient source code has NOT changed in this release. However the Protocol.DTD has changed (See below).

Registrars that use the SRSCClient MUST upgrade to use the latest version of the RIK. The new version of the RIK is available from the NZRS website:

The URL is <http://www.nzrs.net.nz/rik/>

SRS User Interface (UI)
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The registrar query and update functions of the SRS UI has changed in this release. The latest version is available for download from the Registrar section of the NZRS website.

Protocol
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The protocol.dtd has changed in this release. The data structure of the Registrar has changed to allow for multiple public keys. The Major version number has changed from 1 to 2.

The new version of the DTD is available from the NZRS website:

The URL is http://www.nzrs.net.nz/downloads/protocol_v2-00.dtd

Test SRS System
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The Test SRS system will continue to mirror the production environment and will receive the new release on the Monday morning after the production release.

Summary of the new release of SRS (2.00)
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- 37934 Replication - Improvements to Deep Sanity check
- 38808 Replication - Fix Spread-listener issue when the Spread connection breaks
- 42979 Allow multiple Registrar PGP Keys
- 50888 Remove error messages from ui install
- 51053 Allow the UpgradeManager to bypass the uberlock correctly in readonly mode
- 51221 Tidyup Front End XML parsing

Availability

SRS production system availability:

	SLA	October	November	December
SRS Availability %	99.90	99.99	100	100
Whois	99.90	100	100	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	October	November	December
Domain Details Query	≤1.5	0.02	0.03	0.03
Domain Update	≤0.8	0.38	0.36	0.38
Domain Create	≤0.8	0.45	0.41	0.44

GetMessage performance	≤0.8	0.02	0.04	0.04
Whois	≤0.8	0.10	0.10	0.11
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)	N/A	3,300	2,736	2,588
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	N/A	270	266	356
UDAI Valid Query	≤0.8	0.14	0.14	0.14

DNS

Server

% Availability

	Oct 07	Nov 07	Dec 07
NS1	100	100	100
NS2	100	100	100
NS3	100	99.97	99.85
NS4	100	100	100
NS5	100	100	100
NS6	100	100	100
NS7	100	100	100

Unscheduled Outages

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Unscheduled	26 seconds
WHOIS Unscheduled	17 seconds
DNS	1 hr 8 min 29 sec – NS3

Scheduled Outages

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Scheduled	n/a
Whois Scheduled	n/a
SRS – Whois – Emergency Outage	n/a
DNS	15 mins NS4

Scheduled Outages and Updates

There are no scheduled outages planned for January; there is a three hour outage scheduled for 24 February.

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'.