

.nz NEWSLETTER – JANUARY 2004

:: DNC OFFICE ::

Summary of the .nz market

For December, the level of active .nz domain names increased from 141,165 to 142,468, a net increase of 1,303.

The annual statistics for the end of the 2003 calendar year show a gain of 21,635 domain names for the year. This is an annual growth rate of 18%, which is 2% higher than the annual growth rate in 2002, of 16,945.

On average during 2003, the net growth of domain names per month was 1,800, although there was significant monthly variation. For example, in February and June last year the net growth was less than 850 while in September the net growth was 3,013.

Domain Name Fee Reduction

InternetNZ announced on 14 January that the wholesale domain name fee charged to authorised .nz registrars by nz Registry Services (NZRS) will be reduced by 12.5%.

From 1 July 2004 registrars will pay a fee of \$1.75 per domain name per month (GST exclusive) instead of \$2.00 per domain name per month which they currently pay.

The InternetNZ council agreed to reduce the wholesale fee after a joint recommendation was made by the .nz Oversight Committee (NZOC) and NZRS.

2LD Policy Review

The 2LD working group met in December and reviewed the submissions received from the first round of public consultation. After reviewing the submissions the general content of a draft 2LD policy was agreed upon by the working group. A draft policy is due to be released for public comment in February 2004.

Domain Names NZ Update

In November Domain Names Australia (trading in New Zealand as Domain Names NZ) was taken to court by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and by auDA. The case was heard in the Federal Court in Melbourne and Finkelstein J reserved the decision. This decision has not been released yet.

The DNC Office is still receiving emails from people affected by the scam and is still working with the Commerce Commission on the matter.

Statistics

Figures as at 31 December 2003:

	<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>Change over month</i>
.ac	809	812	12	144	3
.co	119666	120773	2350	26306	1107
.cri	27	27	0	1	0
.geek	593	583	15	149	-10
.gen	843	848	12	57	5
.govt	698	700	2	130	2
.iwi	46	45	1	13	-1
.maori	305	310	10	23	5
.mil	15	14	0	3	-1
.net	7976	8071	200	1459	95
.org	8103	8191	155	1448	88
.school	2084	2094	19	727	10
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>141165</i>	<i>142468</i>	<i>2776</i>	<i>30460</i>	<i>1303</i>

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

:: .nz REGISTRY SERVICES ::

SRS Open Source Code Release Update

The project to publish the Shared Registry System source code as Open Source has been continuing and is on track for a 30 January 2004 release.

The SRS will be released on Sourceforge. We have set up a project where interested parties will be able to access the code.

The project is called "Domain Name Registry System" (hence the "dnrs"), this is because SRS is already in use.

The link to access the project is <http://sourceforge.net/projects/dnrs/>

Request for Information for Outsourcing of Services

NZRS published on 19 January a Request for Information for Outsourcing Services with responses closing on 30 January.

Maintenance Windows

Maintenance Windows for the next 5 months have been set and are noted below:

29 February 07:00 – 09:00
28 March 07:00 – 09:00
25 April 07:00 – 09:00
23 May 07:00 – 09:00
27 June 07:00 – 09:00

Accommodation

NZRS, InternetNZ and the DNC have secured new premises and will be moving into joint accommodation in March. More details will be provided in the February Newsletter.

Scheduled Outages and Updates

There was a scheduled outage on 28 December between 7:00am and 10:00 am to allow for upgrades of operating systems and of SRS registry functions, the DTD was also upgraded. As a result of the upgrade one registrar was affected.

SRS Availability

SRS Availability	October	November	December
%	100	99.91	99.8

SRS Response Times

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

Avg Response time (in seconds)	October	November	December
Domain Details Query	0.315	0.369	0.361
Domain Update	0.306	0.265	0.401
Domain Create	0.417	0.475	0.539
GetMessage performance	0.388	0.485	0.397
GetMessage (volume)	57,776	42,817	50,886
Whois	0.189	0.196	0.206
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume)	611,506	352,796	379,632
Whois Server Queries (volume)	218,383	234,634	225,716
UDAI Valid Query	0.172	0.229	0.196

Unscheduled Outages

There were three outages in December which left system availability at 99.8%.

	Outage 1	Outage 2	Outage 3
Date	7/12/2003	12/12/2003	30/12/2003
Time	00:40	10:40	09:08
Duration	1 hour 20 minutes	4 minutes	5 minutes
Cause	<p>There was a series of network outages in the TelstraClear network. There was no change of the BGP Routing information offered by TelstraClear to the Albany server. Thus there was nothing to tell any upstream routers to forward packets to the alternative network (Xtra) instead of the TelstraClear network. The outage was TelstraClear network wide and not limited to SRS or NZRS sites.</p> <p>The SRS continued to be fully operational during this time. The Wellington and Albany sites continued to talk to each other throughout this period.</p>	Problem with the scheduled jobs daemon	Auto re-start script failure
Affect	Previously documented	The outage was caused by srsapp2 being shut down for resynchronisation (see WR31003). Catalyst didn't mark this server as inactive on the Wellington frontend, which caused whois to fail until it was marked. This is really a bug in the front-end replication that has been fixed in the new version	The auto-restart script was triggered, but wasn't able to restart, because it was unable to remove a PID file.
Status	<p>Catalyst has upgraded the monitoring scripts to ensure alerts are generated in similar circumstances.</p> <p>The alerts also include the pinging of over 35 addresses outside of the NZRS/SRS and suppliers networks from both Wellington and Albany sites, to allow us to assess the timings.</p>	No further work was necessary to avoid this problem in the future.	Catalyst have modified the auto-restart script to correct this problem.

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.

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