

## **.nz NEWSLETTER – July 2003**

**:: DNC Office ::**

### **Summary of the .nz market**

As at 20 July, there are now 31 registrars on the production SRS, including Domainz (Stabilising Registrar) and the DNC Registrar. In all, there are now 38 authorised .nz registrars.

Statistics for June showed an increase of 1950 .nz domain names over the figures at the end of May. There were 3829 new domain names registered in June, the fourth month in succession that the number of domain names created has been over 3000 for the month.

### **Implementation of the new second level domain - .geek.nz**

The Council of InternetNZ endorsed the creation of the new second level domain '.geek.nz' at its meeting on Friday 4 July.

Registrations for .geek.nz will be available at 11am on Tuesday 26 August 2003. It will be open for anyone to register a domain name in and will operate on the basis of "first come, first served", the standard practice for .nz registrations in the open 2LDs.

### **Zone Transfer Moratorium**

There is an ongoing concern with the lack of criteria for access to the zone file and the various public uses of the information in it. The issue of what criteria applies for access to the zone file, what the zone file is used for, what is public and what is not, all needs to be addressed.

NZOC agreed at its meeting on 16 June that the Zone Transfer Policy should be reviewed, and that a moratorium on any applications for access to zone files should be put in place until the review is completed. The moratorium applied from the date of the meeting – 16 June.

The DNC will prepare a discussion paper for consultation, and circulate it seeking feedback. All interested parties are encouraged to contribute to this consultation, to assist with the development of robust criteria in the new policy.

### **International Domain Names (IDN) – Registering, Managing and Cancelling Domain Names (RMC) policy change**

International Domain Names are an important issue for .nz to be aware of and keep an eye on. At its meeting on 16 June, NZOC agreed that the .nz register remain a standard register not dealing with International characters in domain names, and that the RMC Policy be amended to clarify the characters that will be acceptable on the .nz register. NZOC also agreed to follow international developments involving IDN and in future will consider the use of Maori macrons in .nz names.

It is planned to amend the relevant clause of the RMC policy, clause 4.2, to ensure it is clear that the only characters acceptable are the roman alphabet characters, numbers and embedded hyphens. The RMC policy is at [http://dnc.org.nz/content/registering\\_managing\\_cancelling.pdf](http://dnc.org.nz/content/registering_managing_cancelling.pdf)

Any feedback on this issue is welcome at [policies@dnc.org.nz](mailto:policies@dnc.org.nz).

### Domain Name Allocation process coming to an end

Registrars and other interested parties should note that the current Domain Name Allocation (DNA) policy and process only applies while Domainz is the Stabilising Registrar. With InternetNZ looking to sell Domainz, the use of the DNA process will cease at the date ownership of Domainz transfers away from InternetNZ.

It appears likely that, provided the sale process goes as planned, a sale will occur around 5 September 2003, before the formal end date of the Stabilising Registrar agreement (30 September). If Registrars wish to make use of the DNA process to bulk transfer domain names they are being bulk-billed for by Domainz, they should ensure they do so as soon as possible.

### Email out to registrants

This continues to proceed, with two months' names being emailed during June. The response rate was similar to that in May, with approximately 18% making selections. The number actively selecting Domainz was around 52% of those making selections.

### Statistics

Figures as at 30 June 2003:

Note: these figures do not include names in the 'pendingrelease' status. They incorporate all active domain names in the .nz register.

	<i>Active names as at 1 June</i>	<i>Active names as at end 30 June</i>	<i>New registrations June</i>	<i>Renewals June</i>	<i>Change over month</i>
.ac	673	745	26	148	72
.co	108610	110656	3298	19279	2046
.cri	27	27	0	0	0
.gen	788	791	18	121	3
.govt	662	667	6	268	5
.iwi	39	40	2	16	1
.maori	388	397	8	2	9
.mil	16	15	0	9	-1
.net	7532	7188	232	1386	-344
.org	7277	7416	205	1265	139
.school	1965	1985	34	445	20
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>127977</b>	<b>129927</b>	<b>3829</b>	<b>22939</b>	<b>1950</b>

## :: .nz REGISTRY SERVICES ::

### Connections

Since the last newsletter 1 new registrar has gone live in production giving a total of 31 registrars in production. This includes Domainz and the DNC. There are 34 authorised registrars accessing the test environment.

### Scheduled Outages and Updates

There were no scheduled outages during June

### SRS Availability

	February	March	April	May	June
%	99.97	99.94	99.64	99.97	99.46

June period response time performance figures on the production environment were:

Avg Response time (in seconds)	April 2003	May 2003	June 2003
Domain Details Query	0.487	0.366	0.488
Domain Update	0.549	0.441	0.644
Domain Create	0.428	0.492	0.809
GetMessage performance	2.218	3.961	13.362
GetMessage (volume)	26125	28810	33012
Whois	0.193	0.197	0.227
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume)	836194	680683	704559
Whois Server Queries (volume)	253770	274158	335222
UDAI Valid Query	0.179	0.183	0.228

As can be seen from the above table, performance during June deteriorated from that in May. This was monitored and an additional index has been added to assist the performance of these tasks. Since the additional index was implemented there has been an improvement in response times as can be seen from the table below:

Avg Response time	SLA	June	6 -10 July
Domain Details Query	1.50	0.488	0.380
Domain Update	0.40	0.644	0.350
Domain Create	0.60	0.809	0.448
GetMessage performance	0.6	13.362	3.488
Whois	0.5	0.227	0.188
UDAIValidQry Query	0.5	0.228	0.170

### Unscheduled Outages

There were two unscheduled outages during June, as detailed below.

<b>Date</b>	7 June	15 June
<b>Time</b>	08:09 – 10:13	08:37 - 10:26
<b>Duration</b>	124 minutes	109 minutes
<b>Impact</b>	High	High – users outside of WIX
<b>Cause</b>	CityLink Failure	TelstraClear routing problem
<b>Action required</b>	Ensure alternative routes to Server locations.	Ensure alternative routes to Server locations.

Work is continuing to make the Albany site the prime SRS location. NZRS are waiting on a third party to complete their tasks before the move to Albany can be finalised.

### **Enhancement to the Renew Parameter - Override Automatic Billing Catch-up**

The purpose of this enhancement is to provide the registrars with a method of overriding the automatic billing catch-up process when a domain is out-of-date.

If a valid renew request is present in a DomainUpdate transaction then no billing catch-up will occur. A renew request in a DomainUpdate transaction will either be rejected (invalid request) or the domain will be renewed for the appropriate term (term specified in the transaction, or the default term or the term on the domain).

This enhancement is being progressed and the first draft documentation was distributed to registrars for comment, these comments have been included or responded to in the second draft that was also sent out to registrars. The Billing Business Rules document is currently being updated to accommodate these changes and will be published/sent to registrars on 28 July.

The modification is scheduled to be ready for testing by Registrars on 28 July. Based on consultation with registrars a two week testing timeframe is scheduled 28 July – 8 August.

### **.geek implementation**

.geek has been approved by the InternetNZ Council and testing is underway regarding the rollout of the .geek 2ld on 26 August.

### **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](mailto:support@nzrs.net.nz). For all other matters, contact Debbie Monahan at [info@dnc.org.nz](mailto:info@dnc.org.nz).

### **Please note**

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