

.nz NEWSLETTER – JULY 2004

:: DNC OFFICE ::

In June, the number of active .nz domain names increased from 154,558 to 156,939, a net increase of 2,381.

NZOC Meeting

The .nz Oversight Committee (NZOC) meeting was held on Monday 28 June. A copy of the minutes is available at: http://dnc.org.nz/content/minutes_NZOC_28_June_04.pdf

The following are some of the key issues that were discussed at the meeting.

Second Level Domains Policy Review

The final report from the 2LD Working Group was presented to NZOC. This included the revised 2LD policy and process, and marked the end of a long but successful review process.

NZOC will meet again in August to set the application and pre-registration fees, finalise the policy and it will then be referred to InternetNZ Council for endorsement at their next meeting being held in late August.

NZOC thanked the WG for their efforts and congratulated them on an excellent outcome.

Zone Transfer Policy Review

NZOC discussed the latest draft of the revised Zone Transfer Policy. NZOC agreed that a form agreement should be developed and that the policy should be supplemented by a practice note.

Whois Policy Review

The Whois Policy Review is scheduled to commence later in the year.

David Russell, a member of the .nz Oversight Committee (NZOC) has been appointed Convenor of the Whois Policy Review Working Group. It is anticipated that towards the end of July NZOC will be in a position to call for expressions of interest from people wanting to be part of the Working Group.

Registrar Sanction

It was announced on 19 July that Actrix Networks Limited will be the subject of a sanction. Actrix were found to be in breach of the .nz policies and procedures after they cancelled a domain

name when they shouldn't have. The domain name was subsequently released after the 90 day 'pending release' period and re-registered by a third party.

The Domain Name Commissioner (DNC), Debbie Monahan, noted that the registrant contributed to the breach. The registrant had failed to pay Actrix a significant sum of money owing for services, not connected with the domain name registration, over an extended period.

The registrant's actions did not excuse Actrix's breach of the .nz policies and procedures, but were considered by the DNC when imposing the sanction. The DNC says that the sanction is lenient in relation to the breach and its consequences for the registrant.

The sanction imposed upon Actrix means that for a single and continuous period of 24 hours during a normal working week, Actrix will be unable to accept new registrations or transfers. However Actrix will be able to continue to manage and renew their existing names.

In imposing the sanction, the DNC acknowledged that Actrix has since amended its processes to be acceptable and noted that the sanction does not signal a lack of confidence in Actrix as a registrar. Ms Monahan added that breaches of .nz policies and procedures are taken seriously and that those who wittingly or unwittingly break the rules can expect that there will be consequences.

Actrix intends to execute their 24 hour sanction from 6am Wednesday 28 July to 6am Thursday 29 July.

Statistics

Figures as at 30 June 2004:

	<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	873	888	26	222	15
.co	131334	133399	3684	35301	2065
.cri	28	28	0	2	0
.geek	629	644	22	63	15
.gen	833	829	15	197	-4
.govt	718	715	3	242	-3
.iwi	50	49	0	12	-1
.maori	346	351	8	17	5
.mil	17	17	0	7	0
.net	8659	8794	265	1882	135
.org	8898	9047	237	2193	149
.school	2173	2178	26	904	5
TOTAL	154558	156939	4286	41042	2381

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 Availability

System availability for June was 100%, against the SLA standard of 99.9%

SRS Availability	April	May	June
%	100	99.97	100

SRS Response Times

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

Avg Response time (in seconds)	April	May	June
Domain Details Query	0.49	0.47	0.45
Domain Update	0.34	0.40	0.46
Domain Create	0.42	0.45	0.51
GetMessage performance	0.37	0.51	0.44
GetMessage (volume 000's)	42	42	30
Whois	0.19	0.20	0.23
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's))	775	862	865
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	194	203	218
UDAI Valid Query	0.18	0.20	0.24

DNS Availability

DNS Availability	April	May	June
%	100	100	100

Unscheduled Outages

There were no unscheduled outages during June.

Scheduled Outages and Updates

The June maintenance window was not utilised.

The next SRS maintenance window is Sunday 25th July 2004 07:00 - 09:00 NZDT
For this maintenance window we are planning to test the processes and procedure to switch the primary SRS site from Auckland to Wellington.

Please note there will be NO CHANGE to the primary SRS site before or after the maintenance window. The SRS front end server will continue to operate from the Albany site.

IPv6 and IPv4 Changes

Introduction

Currently the SRS accepts nameserver details for domains by allowing registrars to specify a number of nameservers. Each nameserver must contain information for a fully qualified domain name field (FQDN), and may also provide details of an IPv4 field (IP4Addr address Glue Record). The IP4Addr is always acceptable, and is required if the nameserver is "self-serving". I.e. IP4Addr Glue records are needed when the authoritative nameserver for a zone is within the zone itself.

Summary of Proposed Changes

1. Registrars will be able to provide IPv6 Glue records to the SRS, and this information will be included in the zone files output from the SRS. Note. AAAA (and not A6) records will be published in the zone files.
2. The SRS IPv4 validation rules will change – rejecting nameservers if an IP4Addr is provided and the nameserver is not "self-serving".
3. All domain level XML requests/responses from the SRS that currently contain the IP4Addr field could also contain the IP6Addr field.
4. The "protocol.dtd" will change. It is recommended that Registrars upgrade their "protocol.dtd".
5. For the IPv6 glue records change, Registrars may not be required to make any changes, apart from updating to the new protocol.dtd, if they do not wish to provide IPv6 glue records.

Proposed Time Table

02/07/2004 - Draft DTD available

19/07/04 to 16/08/04 - Changes available to Registrars in RPS test system

29/08/2004 - Changes released to SRS Production

IPv6 Glue

NZRS are proposing to add support of IPv6 glue records to the SRS and DNS. The adoption of IPv6 Glue will bring benefits to the registry in that it will allow for registrants who wish to start investing in IPv6 technology.

1. In order to allow for IPv6 Glue records, the SRS will accept an additional field (IP6Addr) in the definition of a nameserver. It is not a required field. This field may only be supplied if IP addresses are required (the nameserver is "self-serving").
NOTE. If IP addresses are required, there MUST be an IPv4 address provided, not just an IPv6 address.
2. The IP6Addr field will be validated against the [RFC 2460](#) and [RFC237](#) (section 2.2) specifications.
3. AAAA (and not A6) records will be published in the zone files.

IPv4 Glue

The DNS system is currently ignoring all IP4 addresses that are not required (if a nameserver is not "self-serving"). NZRS are proposing that the SRS does not allow this potentially misleading information to be stored or returned to users. The following change will be made to the existing validation rules for IPv4:

1. The IP4Addr may only be supplied if the IP address is required (the nameserver is "self-serving").
2. If an IP4Addr is supplied as part of an update transaction request and it is not required (is not "self-serving") then the transaction will be rejected.

SRS Protocol Changes

Where a nameserver record is used in a SRS request transaction or output in a SRS response transaction, the IP6Addr field will be optionally allowed. The following components in the SRS will be affected by this change:

- The DomainUpdate transaction
- The DomainDetailsQuery transaction
- The Whois transaction
- The Whois daemon
- The GetMessages transaction
- The ActionDetailsQuery transaction
- The DomainCreate transaction
- The BuildDnsZoneFiles transaction

References

- [[RFC-2373](#)] Hinden, R. and S. Deering, "IP Version 6 Addressing Architecture", [RFC 2373](#), July 1998.
- [IPv6] Deering, S. and R. Hinden, "Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6) Specification", [RFC 2460](#), December 1998.

SRS server system error

"SRS server system error - please inform the SRS system administrator. Please attach the full original XML Request and XML Response"

Recently a registrar encountered the above error message. This error message is not common but could be returned for a number of reasons including network failure, timeouts due to heavy load on the system, large response sizes, failure of an SRS process, slow network - one backend at one site could have processed the response but due to slow response times across the network the front end has not received a response from the servers at the other site.

In these events the front end will send back the above error message. However it is possible that the backends will/have processed the request.

For this error we recommend waiting five minutes and resending exactly the same request (using the same action id). If the backend has successfully processed the original request the original valid response will be returned. Otherwise if the backend did not successfully process the original request then the second request sent will be processed and the response will be returned. If you still get the error message then please contact NZRS (support@nzrs.net.nz).

Could you please let us know anytime you get this system error message.

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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