.nz NEWSLETTER – July 2010

:: Domain Name Commission ::

.nz domain names with macrons to launch next week

The beginning of next week marks an exciting new phase for the .nz domain name space. From 10am on Monday 26 July 2010, people will be able to register .nz domain names using the macronised vowels ā, ē, ī, ō and ū.

Registering a .nz domain name with macrons will take place in exactly the same way as registering any other .nz domain name – through a 'registrar' - and registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

New Zealand Domain Name Commissioner Debbie Monahan says the launch date for general registrations has been timed to coincide with the start of Māori Language Week, which is significant because, for the first time, New Zealand's indigenous language, Te Reo Māori, can be correctly represented online.

"Thanks to the successful completion of the global Internationalised Domain Name (IDN) initiative the New Zealand Internet is now more culturally representative

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"The addition of macrons to the .nz domain name space is a step forward for online identity and the Internet in New Zealand and I encourage those interested in securing a macronised name to take note of the opening of general registrations on 26 July.

"This is the culmination of years of hard work at both local and international levels, and I would like to thank New Zealand's IDN working group and .nz Registry Services for their valuable contributions."
More information about .nz domain names with macrons is available at
www.dnc.org.nz/story/nz-domain-names-macrons

Expert and Mediator - .nz Dispute Resolution Service

The Domain Name Commission is responsible for managing the .nz domain name space (all domain names ending .nz) and administers a Dispute Resolution Service (DRS).

The DRS is a quick and cost-effective way of resolving domain name disputes and offers an accessible alternative to the courts. We are currently inviting applications for one Expert and one Mediator position.

Under the .nz DRS, mediation is the first tier of dispute resolution, and involves the mediator facilitating telephone (and email) mediation between parties to a domain name dispute within a set timeframe. If Mediation doesn't resolve the dispute, then the Complainant may refer the matter to an Expert for determination.

When an Expert is assigned to a case, he or she must evaluate and prepare a written decision within a set timeframe. The decision is binding on both parties to the dispute and will be published in full on the Domain Name Commission's website at **www.dnc.org.nz/decisions**.

Mediators and Experts are assigned by rotation to a case, and can expect to handle approximately four cases a year, with a fixed remuneration per case. In order to be considered for one of these positions, you will have a general knowledge of domain name and trade mark issues as well as proven ability in your field. Suitable candidates may be involved in the internet industry, mediation or arbitration, or legal profession, and will be a member of an appropriate professional organisation.

Further information on the DRS and these positions is available at **www.dnc.org.nz/information-experts** and **www.dnc.org.nz/information-mediators**. Candidates should familiarise themselves with this material before applying. Applications are invited by sending your CV and a covering letter. Successful candidates will be retained on a fixed term contract.

Please send your application to **vacancy@dnc.org.nz** no later than **2 September 2010**.

Consultation Paper on Registrant Search Functionality

Following a previous public consultation regarding additional search functionality for .nz domain names, it has been agreed by the DNCL Board that limited searches by registrant name should be permitted. Searches by registrant name will be restricted to:

- Searches by registrants seeking a list of their own .nz domain names ; and
- Searches that have the sole purpose of supporting a Dispute Resolution Service complaint.

To allow such searches to be introduced, the current WHOIS policy needs to be reviewed. Changes identified to the WHOIS policy include:

- Including a "Registrant Info Service" search as a service under the WHOIS policy;
- Defining the restrictions on the Registrant Info Service search;
- Inserting a new clause outlining the Registrant Info Service including compliance matters;
- Inserting a new section detailing the process for the Registrant Info Service; and
- Outlining the information required on the forms to apply for the relevant service.

A marked-up copy of the current WHOIS Policy showing the proposed changes to incorporate a registrant search is available at
www.dnc.org.nz/content/Proposed_WHOIS_policy_amendments.pdf

Comments on the proposed changes to the WHOIS Policy, or on any aspect of the policy, 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 http://dnc.org.nz/registrant-search-functionality . Submissions should be received by midday on **Monday 6 September 2010.**

Statistics

In June, the number of active .nz domain names increased from 399,151 to 402,331, a net increase of 3,180

Figures as at 30 June 2010:

	Active names as at 1 June	Active names as at end 30 June	New registrations June	Renewals June	Net Growth
.ac	1,740	1,771	47	378	31
.co	345,367	348,082	7,913	63,452	2,715
.cri	14	14	0	1	0
.geek	981	994	27	206	13
.gen	1285	1,289	19	292	4
.govt	1046	1,053	7	989	7
.health	108	111	3	3	3
.iwi	70	72	1	16	2
.maori	576	583	15	89	7
.mil	23	26	3	5	3
.net	22,146	22,312	490	4,309	166
.org	22,800	23,017	511	4,275	217
.parliament	7	7	0	7	0
.school	2988	3,000	29	1,242	12
TOTAL	399,151	402,331	9,065	75,264	3,180

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 ::

Availability

Availability %	SLA	April	May	June
SRS	99.90	100	100	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	April	May	June
Domain Details Query	≤0.5	0.03	0.03	0.03
Domain Update	≤0.8	0.22	0.19	0.23
Domain Create	≤0.8	0.24	0.25	0.25
Get Message	≤0.5	0.03	0.03	0.03
Whois	≤0.5	0.09	0.09	0.08
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)	N/A	2,809	3,718	3,833
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	N/A	646	713	737
UDAI Valid Query	≤0.5	0.11	0.11	0.08

Server DNS % Availability

	April	May	June
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 June 2010

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Unscheduled	3 seconds
WHOIS Unscheduled	
DNS	

Scheduled Outages during June 2010

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Scheduled	
SRS Emergency Scheduled	
Whois Scheduled	
Whois Emergency Scheduled	

Planned Scheduled Outages

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

SRS EPP Changes

The next release of the SRS (Sunday 11th July 2010 07:00 – 09:00) introduces some major new changes that are a pre-requisite for the EPP proxy interface that we have been working on for the last 12 months. The new changes include an 'EPP style' message polling capability for the SRS GetMessage transaction and also include new SRS Contact Object transactions for creating and updating contact objects and associating them with domains. These changes are available for registrar testing in the RPS test system.

A beta EPP interface is available for registrar testing. If any registrars would like to be involved in testing the EPP interface, please contact Dave or Manuela: support@nzrs.net.nz

IDN

SRS code changes were implemented in the February release and the "Go Live" date is scheduled for July.

DNSSEC

Over the last few months we have been working in the test environment on the technical elements of signing the .nz zone.   Internal testing has been carried out using Open DNSSEC, which enables easier management of cryptographic key material and operations relating to DNSSEC. The timeline for this project is being put together and will be announced soon. If you would like any more details or would like to be involved in the DNSSEC project please contact our DNS specialist, Sebastian (sebastian@nzrs.net.nz)

Project Programme Update

As published last year we have moved to an annual Project Programme for systems and infrastructure development. This is a brief update on the current status of that programme:

Task	Status	Comments
Implementation of EPP	In Progress	See above
Implementation of IDN	In Progress	See above
DNSSEC Implementation	In progress	See above

Code review of the SRS	In progress	**The SRS is several years old now and this project will look at where the existing code base can be improved / refined.**
NTP Server	In Progress	Three NTP servers for the SRS and DNS are planned to be implemented over the next few months, and potentially offering a public time service as well.
SRS Test Cluster	Not started	
Hidden Primary (3rd)	Not started	

If registrars require any further information please let us know.

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