.nz Newsletter – July 2013

Last call for Kiwis to speak up on proposed changes to the .nz domain name space

Only one day remains for New Zealanders to voice their opinions on proposed changes to New Zealand's Domain Name System (DNS).

The Domain Name Commission Limited's (DNCL) proposal, which is in its second round of consultation, puts forward the idea of opening domain name registrations directly at the second level.

Should the proposal go forward, this means that people who want to register, say, anyname.co.nz might one day be able to simply register anyname.nz. You will note that the '.co' portion is no longer included. This would mean that second level domains like .ac, .co, .geek, .gen, .kiwi, .māori, .net, .org and .school might no longer be required, though people could still opt for them if they wanted to.

Domain Name Commissioner Debbie Monahan urges New Zealanders to weigh up the pros and cons of the issue and to alert the DNCL of their views through the submission process.

"It's possible that allowing registrations directly at the second level could cause confusion in the short-term. However, it could also improve the .nz domain name space in the long-term," she says.

"One advantage of the change is that people would no longer have to choose a second level domain that they did not identify with it. There is no technical reason for second levels to have to exist and this proposal would offer more consumer choice.

"However, we also acknowledge that existing domain name holders might feel as though they have to register their domain names at both second and third levels, for example getting both anyname.co.nz and anyname.nz."

DNCL encourages New Zealanders to consider these issues carefully and voice their views through the submission process. The greater range of quality opinions DNCL receives, the better. The cut-off date for submissions is midday Wednesday 31 July, 2013.

Full details of the consultation document and background material are available at http://dnc.org.nz/second_level_proposal_c2. Online submissions can be made at https://www.research.net/s/dnc_consultation2.

For further information please e-mail info@dnc.org.nz.

Technical fix leads to seventeen domain names being cancelled

NZRS recently discovered that it has been possible to register Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs) that did not conform to policies on acceptable characters.

As a result, 17 impermissible Unicode characters were registered, one of which was used by NZRS to check the issue.

An analysis of the 16 other names showed that they were registered through the same registrar and reseller and contact was made with those parties. These domain names have now all been cancelled.

The structure of permissible .nz domain names are outlined in section 4.2 of DNCL's 'Registering, Managing & Cancelling Domain Names' policy (http://dnc.org.nz/content/registering_managing_cancelling.pdf).

The DNCL Board has written to the NZRS Board in relation to the process issue at the registry that resulted in the names being registered contrary to .nz policy.

Whilst DNCL is satisfied at an operational level that the root cause was identified and remedied to prevent any such failures in the future, DNCL is seeking confirmation that the NZRS Board is confident all the issues have been appropriately addressed.

DNCL has also requested a review of the IDN implementation be undertaken and reported to DNCL so that there can be confidence in the technical solution around .nz IDNs.

Statistics

In June, the number of active .nz domain names increased from 534,006 to 535,705, a net increase of 1,699. Figures as of 30 June, 2013:

	31 May 13	30 June 13	Creates	Renews	Net Change
.ac	2,019	2,031	23	352	12
.co	457,741	459,070	8,543	70,948	1329
.cri	12	12	0	1	0
.geek	1,226	1,239	23	288	13
.gen	1,383	1,383	9	349	0
.govt	1,122	1,125	3	1,092	3
.health	169	172	3	148	3
.iwi	78	82	4	13	4
.kiwi	8,788	8,950	164	340	162
.maori	1,187	1,147	32	157	-40
.mil	34	35	1	10	1
.net	29,096	29,229	521	4,220	133
.org	27,804	27,876	374	4,147	72
.parliament	10	10	0	10	0
.school	3,337	3,344	17	1,199	7
TOTAL	**534,006**	**535,705**	**9,717**	**83,274**	**1,699**

Note: the above 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

Availability

Availability %	SLA	Apr 13	May 13	Jun 13
SRS	99.9	100	100	100
Whois	99.9	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	Apr 13	May 13	Jun 13
Domain Details Query	≤0.5	0.04	0.04	0.03
Domain Update	≤0.8	0.19	0.24	0.20
Domain Create	≤0.8	0.27	0.30	0.24
Get Message	≤0.5	0.04	0.05	0.04
Whois	≤0.5	0.09	0.09	0.08
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)	N/A	8224	9039	8712
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	N/A	1156	1395	1275
UDAI Valid Query	≤0.5	0.12	0.6	0.10

Server DNS % Availability

	Apr 13	May 13	Jun 13
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 2013

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Unscheduled	No unscheduled outages
WHOIS Unscheduled	No unscheduled outages
DNS	0

Scheduled Outages during June 2013

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Scheduled	3 hours
SRS Emergency Scheduled	0
Whois Scheduled	3 hours

Planned Scheduled Outages

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

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

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