

Registrations directly at second level from 1pm, 30 September 2014

Earlier this month the Domain Name Commission announced that people will be able to register .nz names directly at the second level from 1pm, 30 September 2014.

All existing options like .co.nz, .org.nz and .govt.nz will continue to work as they always have and people will still be able to get names with them. What the change means is that from 1pm, 30 September 2014 people will be able to get names with them, without them, or both.

For example, someone could get anyone.nz as well as anyone.co.nz.

The decision to allow registrations directly at the second level was made last year by the InternetNZ Council and followed a number of public consultation rounds. Importantly, many .nz domain name holders may be able to get the shorter version of their name if they want it and could take advantage of a six-month period of time – called the Preferential Registration Eligibility (PRE) period to register or reserve the shorter version.

The Preferential Registration Eligibility (PRE) period will begin at 1pm, 30 September 2014 and end at 1pm, 30 March 2015.

From 1pm, 30 September 2014 existing holders of .nz domain names will have different options open to them, depending on when they originally registered their name. They may, for example, be able to get the shorter version of their name before anyone else, reserve it for free for two years or manage conflicted name issues.

The DNC has also put together a website at anyname.nz for holders of .nz domain names to check out their options. The site features plain English explanations about registrations directly at the second level and what this means for existing registrants. It features an infographic that registrants can use to navigate their options and a list of human-friendly FAQs covering off the registration, reservation and conflicted names processes.

The DNC will also be working closely with the Registrar community over the next few months to help them communicate the change with .nz registrants – letting people know exactly where their name fits into the picture.

For more information about what's changing visit anyname.nz.

UDAI policy consultation

In July, as part of the implementation of .nz registrations at the second level the Domain Name Commission proposed two changes to requirements on UDAs and held a public consultation seeking people's feedback.

The first proposed change was to extend the function of the UDAI to enable it to be used on the anyone.nz website to reserve a name at the second level, or to specify a preference in the case of a conflicted domain name.

The second change was to restrict the automatic generation of a UDAI by the registry to be on the initial registration only and UDAs expiring after 30 days. Currently the registry also automatically generates a UDAI when a name is transferred or where there is a change in the registrant name field. UDAs are able to be generated on request at any time and it is preferable, once the name is registered, that the registrant is aware of, and has requested, a new UDAI.

The consultation closed on 18 July. Three submissions were received. These can be read at the link below:

<http://dnc.org.nz/story/policy-consultation-changes-udais-registering-managing-and-cancelling-transfer-another-registr>

Statistics

In June, the number of active .nz domain names increased from 550,603 to 552,064, a net increase of 1,461. Figures as of 30 June 2014:

	31 May 14	30 Jun 14	Creates	Renews	Net Change
.ac	2,080	2,098	35	368	18
.co	474,446	475,702	8,096	66,989	1,256
.cri	12	12	0	1	0
.geek	1,197	1,192	12	265	-5
.gen	1,324	1,324	11	297	0
.govt	1,040	1,043	5	1,023	3
.health	193	193	0	172	0
.iwi	86	83	0	8	-3
.kiwi	7,925	8,010	168	265	85

.maori	1,102	1,072	24	144	-30
.mil	37	37	0	11	0
.net	29,351	29,421	518	4,176	70
.org	28,351	28,407	379	3,776	56
.parliament	10	10	0	10	0
.school	3,449	3,460	25	1,033	11
TOTAL	550,603	552,064	9,273	78,538	1,461

Note: the previous 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 14	May 14	Jun 14
SRS	99.9	100	100	99.82*
Whois	99.9	100	100	100
DNS	100	100	100	100

* The SLA for SRS availability was not met in June. Details below:

On 20 June from 7:00am to 8:14:45am there was an unscheduled outage to the SRS. The reason for the outage was a simple human error – with the wrong date inputted for the planned 2 hour scheduled maintenance window for 22 June.

There was no downtime for the public WHOIS during this period and no registrars contacted NZRS about the outage.

NZRS has since reviewed its processes for scheduling a release and is looking at changing the display format of the date of the maintenance window from a numeric format to a more human readable format to prevent issues like this happening in future.

SRS Response times

Performance figures on the production environment for the previous three months:

Avg Response time (in seconds)	SLA Target	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14
Domain Details Query	≤0.5	0.06	0.04	0.04
Domain Update	≤0.8	0.26	0.25	0.24
Domain Create	≤0.8	0.33	0.32	0.28

Get Message	≤0.5	0.10	0.09	0.09
Whois	≤0.5	0.09	0.08	0.08
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)	N/A	11,417	11,308	9,026
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	N/A	1,816	1,351	1,307
UDAI Valid Query	≤0.5	0.10	0.10	0.10

Server DNS % Availability

	Apr 14	May 14	Jun 14
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 2014

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Unscheduled	74 minutes 45 seconds
WHOIS Unscheduled	No unscheduled outages
DNS	No outages

Scheduled Outages during June 2014

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Scheduled	2 hours 15 minutes
SRS Emergency Scheduled	No scheduled outages
WHOIS Scheduled	2 hours 15 minutes

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.

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