.nz NEWSLETTER – June 2003

:: DNC Office ::

Summary of the .nz market

There are now 28 authorised registrars on the production SRS, or 30 registrars in total on the SRS counting Domainz (Stabilising Registrar) and the DNC Registrar. In all, there are now 36 authorised .nz registrars.

Statistics for May showed an increase of 821 .nz domain names. This net growth is the lowest since August 2002 and appears to be due to a large number of cancellations as the level of new registrations was high at 3,814. There was a large drop in .net.nz names, with the total number of names in that 2LD dropping by 353. This correlates to a large increase in .net.nz names in May 2002, linked to the Internet Name Group's misleading marketing campaign, so it appears that a lot of the names registered last year have not been renewed.

Registrar Advisory Group

The first meeting of the Registrar Advisory Group (RAG) took place on Monday 9 June in Auckland. The registrar representatives are Tim John (Domainz), Mark Mackay (ProDNS/Orcon Internet), Peter Mott (2day.com), Craig St George (FreeParking), Peter Mancer (Watchdog Corporation) and Lee Miller (RegisterDIRECT). Nick Griffin (NZRS Registry Manager) and Debbie Monahan (DNC) are also involved.

At the meeting it was agreed that all registrars should be invited to join the RAG email list, enabling everyone to see the matters being discussed and contribute to the discussion. All registrars have now been contacted about this but if you are a registrar and haven't yet subscribed, you are able to visit http://listserver.internetnz.net.nz/mailman/listinfo/rag and do so from there.

2LD Presentation – Festival of Technology

The DNC gave a presentation to the InternetNZ Festival of Technology on 19 June, outlining the ongoing review of the Second Level Domains policy from first principles. The presentation includes an introduction to the Working Group and the review, survey data on public perceptions of second level domains, and pros and cons of the status quo and two reform options.

The presentation is available at http://dnc.org.nz/content/2ld_presentation.pdf.

Email out to registrants

This continues to proceed, with two months' names being emailed during May. The response rate has increased slightly, with approximately 18% making new selections, and Domainz has maintained its retention rate at around 55% of those making selections.

DNC Imposes First Major Sanction on a Registrar

On 6 June 2003, the DNC announced that Domainz Ltd would be the subject of a sanction involving a suspension on new applications and transfers in for a period of 48 hours. More details on this are available at http://www.dnc.org.nz/story/30116-33-1.html. Domainz have stated that they will serve the sanction from 9am on Wednesday 16 July through to 9am on Friday 18 July. If anyone has any questions on this please email info@dnc.org.nz.

NZOC Meeting - 16 June

The .nz Oversight Committee (NZOC) met on 16 June. Formal minutes will be published shortly, but some of the discussions included:

▪ NZRS (Nick Griffin and Carol Stigley – NZRS Chair) attended part of the meeting. Discussion included the April and June outages, and related plans being undertaken in relation to those outages including moving the primary SRS site to Albany, and improved network capability.

▪ In relation to the current topic internationally regarding Internationalised Domain Names, the DNC will consult with registrars, and other interested groups, on proposed amendments to the Registering, Managing and Cancelling policy to specify the characters permitted in the .nz register.

▪ The current Zone Transfer Policy is not sufficiently detailed to operate in the SRS environment. NZOC has agreed to review this policy now. Consultation on this review will begin in July. Until the review is completed there will be a moratorium on new applications for the zone file.

Issues with Policies

If a registrar, or any other company or individual, has an issue with any of the .nz policies and procedures they are invited to email policies@dnc.org.nz with details of their concerns. If the issue raised indicates that a review is required the DNC will raise the matter with NZOC.

Statistics

Figures as at 31 May 2003:

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

	Active names as at 1 May	Active names as at end 31 May	New registrations May	Renewals May	Change over month
.ac	707	673	31	130	-34
.co	107523	108610	3241	18245	1087
.cri	29	27	0	4	-2
.gen	775	788	24	113	13
.govt	659	662	7	93	3
.iwi	38	39	1	7	1
.maori	386	388	6	5	2
.mil	16	16	0	4	0

.net	7885	7532	262	1532	-353
.org	7194	7277	213	1042	83
.school	1944	1965	29	453	21
TOTAL	*127156*	*127977*	*3814*	*21628*	*821*

:: .nz REGISTRY SERVICES ::

Connections

One registrar went on line during May giving a total of 30 registrars in production. This includes Domainz and the DNC. There are 34 authorised registrars accessing the test environment. There are two registrars who have not applied for connection to SRS.

Scheduled Outages and Updates

SRS Maintenance was undertaken on 18 May to upgrade to SRS 1.5.0

An additional SRS environment (SRSRPS - SRS Registrar Pre-release System) containing the new release was available from 2 May 2003 to authorised registrars to allow for testing of the upgrade. Limited numbers of registrars utilised the test system prior to the upgrade so the process for future upgrades will be re-evaluated.

SRS Availability

	February	March	April	May
%	99.97	99.94	99.64	99.97

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

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

Unscheduled Outages

There was one unscheduled outage to the production environment during May. This occurred on 25 May 2003 for ten minutes from 08:57 to 09:07. It was caused by a front end replication problem. The system was rebooted and the details put into the replication review.

Network Connectivity

In light of recent network outages, connectivity to SRS is being upgraded with the addition of additional network capability to SRS sites.

Move to Albany

Planning is well underway to make the Albany site the prime SRS location. The SRSRPS server has been converted to the forth production application server located in Albany. An additional data line to the site is being arranged from a different network supplier. The switch to Albany being the prime production location should be completed within 2 months.

SRS Billing Module

In response to feedback from Registrars regarding the manner in which the Billing Catch up operates a modification is being progressed and is scheduled for testing by Registrars on 28 July.

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.

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'.