

.nz NEWSLETTER – June 2010

:: Domain Name Commission ::

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**.

DNCL Annual Report

The DNCL annual report is now available online and can be viewed [here](#) .

Minutes of DNCL Board Meeting – 1 June 2010

The minutes of the DNCL board meeting held on 1 June are available in either [.html](#) or [.pdf](#) .

Proposed Registering, Managing & Cancelling policy amendments

DNCL is seeking comments on proposed changes to the Registering, Managing and Cancelling Domain Names (RMC) policy. The proposed changes all relate to the requirements around name servers.

1. Clause 4.2.5

Currently clause 4.2.5 of the RMC policy reads:

4.2.5 Domain names commencing 'xn--' are not permitted.

It is proposed that this is amended to:

4.2.5 Domain names must conform to a supported encoding scheme.

Currently the encoding scheme for IDN Applications uses 'xn--' however it is possible that future schemes may differ. The change proposed will allow .nz to keep up with technical developments without having to amend general policies.

2. Clauses 4.3 and 4.4

Currently these clauses read:

- 4.3 No name servers are required to be configured for a domain name to be registered. Note however, that though none are required for registration, domain names with fewer than two name servers will not be delegated in the DNS. These will be recorded as TXT-only entries and a system-generated comment will be assigned next to these entries.
- 4.4 Where name servers are configured, registrants are also responsible for ensuring that at least two name servers remain configured and operable. Listed domains that are found to have fewer than two operable name servers at any time will not be delegated in the DNS.

It is proposed that they are amended to:

- 4.3 Name server data is not required for a domain name to be registered. If valid name server data is provided it will be published in the DNS when delegation is requested.
- 4.4 Name server data will be validated when provided to ensure that it meets minimum technical and operational criteria to ensure the security, stability and resilience of the DNS.
- 4.5 Name server data may be revalidated at any time and may be removed from the DNS should the technical and operational criteria not be met.

The changes will allow .nz to validate name server data as appropriate and should enable the overall standard of name server information, and therefore DNS operations, to improve. Details of the supported encoding schemes will be included as part of NZRS' technical policies.

Comments on the proposed changes to the RMC 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. Submissions should be received by midday on **Monday 28 June 2010**.

Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs) in .nz – Sunrise Registration Period Open

The sunrise period for IDN registrations is open and we have been receiving applications.

If, as the current registrant, you wish to apply for a macronised vowel variant of your .nz name you can do so [here](#). You can also find more information regarding the IDN sunrise period by visiting this link.

The sunrise registration period closes on **Tuesday 6 July**.

Statistics

In May, the number of active .nz domain names increased from 396,661 to, a net increase of.

Figures as at 31 May 2010:

	<i>Active names as at 1 May</i>	<i>Active names as at end 31 May</i>	<i>New registrations May</i>	<i>Renewals May</i>	<i>Net Growth</i>
.ac	1752	1740	21	328	-12
.co	343,095	345,367	7,964	63,354	2272
.cri	14	14	0	1	-
.geek	963	981	33	204	18
.gen	1293	1285	17	283	-8
.govt	1041	1046	5	972	5
.health	106	108	2	0	2
.iwi	70	70	1	14	-
.maori	581	576	12	84	-5
.mil	23	23	0	3	-
.net	22,070	22,146	453	4,352	76
.org	22,654	22,800	423	4,313	146
.parliament	7	7	0	7	-
.school	2992	2988	20	1257	-4
TOTAL	396,661	399,151	8,951	75,172	2,490

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	March	April	May
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	March	April	May
Domain Details Query	≤0.5	0.04	0.03	0.03
Domain Update	≤0.8	0.36	0.22	0.19
Domain Create	≤0.8	0.33	0.24	0.25
Get Message	≤0.5	0.06	0.03	0.03
Whois	≤0.5	0.17	0.09	0.09
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)	N/A	3,015	2,809	3,718
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	N/A	694	646	713
UDAI Valid Query	≤0.5	0.23	0.11	0.11

Server DNS % Availability

	March	April	May
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 April 2010

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Unscheduled	1 Second
WHOIS Unscheduled	0
DNS	0

Scheduled Outages during April 2010

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Scheduled	4 hours
SRS Emergency Scheduled	0
Whois Scheduled	4 hours
Whois Emergency Scheduled	0

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