

.nz NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2005

:: DNC OFFICE ::

In February the number of active .nz domain names increased from 176,094 to 179,149, a net increase of 3,055. This is the highest monthly increase since July 2004 when there was a growth of 3,823 domain names.

Second Level Domains Policy

A reminder that the new Second Level Domains (2LD) Policy came into effect on 1 March 2005.

The final version of the new policy, produced by the 2LD Working Group, was approved by the .nz Oversight Committee (NZOC) and the InternetNZ council late last year.

A copy of the new 2LD policy is available at
http://dnc.org.nz/content/second_level_domains.pdf

NZOC Meeting

A .nz Oversight Committee (NZOC) meeting was held on Monday 14 March 2005. A copy of the minutes will be available on the DNC website shortly.

Application for a new Second Level Domain – PARLIAMENT.NZ

An application has been received to create a new, moderated second level domain (2LD) – parliament.nz. A copy of the application, and the proposed moderation policy, can be seen at http://dnc.org.nz/content/parliament_application.pdf. A text version is also available at http://dnc.org.nz/content/parliament_application.txt.

Comments are sought on this application, and on the moderation policy that will be used to accept registrations. In particular, comment is sought on how the application meets the criteria for a new 2LD, namely that the 2LD:

- Represents an identifiable, significant community of interest; where 'significant' can mean either quantitatively or qualitatively and the community of interest can be defined in a clear written statement
- Represents an on-going and long-lived community of interest
- Does not conflict with, duplicate or cause confusion about, any existing 2LD, and is a useful addition to the current DNS hierarchy
- Uses a name to represent the domain that is a obvious derivative of a word that properly describes the community of interest or a complete word

- Does not bring the .nz domain name space into disrepute

Submissions should be made by email to 2LD@dnc.org.nz. They may also be made by fax to +64 4 4952115 or by post to Office of the Domain Name Commissioner, InternetNZ, PO Box 11881, Wellington, New Zealand. Submissions close at 5pm on Thursday 5 May 2005.

Submissions will be published on the DNC website at <http://dnc.org.nz/parliament-application>.

Domain Name Fee

InternetNZ is maintaining the wholesale domain name fee charged to authorised .nz registrars by nz Registry Services (NZRS).

The President of InternetNZ, Keith Davidson states "The InternetNZ Council has confirmed that the wholesale Domain Name Fee will remain at \$1.75 per domain name per month".

Mr Davidson added "The review of the fee is undertaken annually by NZRS and the NZ Oversight Committee (NZOC), the recommendation from the joint review was that the Fee should remain at the same level as set last year and the InternetNZ Council have adopted that recommendation."

Statistics

Figures as at 28 February 2005:

	<i>Active names as at 1 February</i>	<i>Active names as at end 28 February</i>	<i>New registrations February</i>	<i>Renewals February</i>	<i>Change over month</i>
.ac	971	984	20	216	13
.co	149544	152214	3974	39894	2670
.cri	26	25	0	5	-1
.geek	644	655	19	131	11
.gen	915	932	20	239	17
.govt	737	742	7	192	5
.iwi	52	53	0	17	1
.maori	376	380	5	60	4
.mil	16	17	1	9	1
.net	10290	10447	279	2296	157
.org	10209	10355	231	2556	146
.school	2314	2345	30	1047	31
TOTAL	176094	179149	4586	46662	3055

Note: these figures do not include names in the 'pendingrelease' status. They incorporate all active domain names in the .nz register. For more statistics, see <http://dnc.org.nz/statistics>

:: .nz REGISTRY SERVICES ::

SRS availability on 20 February

On 20 February as part of a project undertaken by Catalyst to commission the generator, all equipment in the Catalyst site was required to be powered down.

At 00:29 the SRS was set to Maintenance mode (where the system is in Read only status) by a scheduled automatic task for a period of 5 minutes, The reset to Writeable mode did not occur as scheduled and the system was left in Maintenance mode until it was reset at 09:35.

The second step to set the SRS to Update mode was not completed and the alerts did not occur as Maintenance Mode is a valid status. The manual step to confirm the status of the system was not undertaken.

It should be noted that during the times (00:29 – 09:34) above that the:

- Full DNS service continued to operate
- SRS was in Read Only Mode
- Whois service continued through out
- The security and integrity of the SRS was maintained at all times.
- SRS primary site is in Albany.

Process improvements

Since this outage, the alerts have been modified to page in the event that the system is placed in Maintenance mode. Additional steps have been improved in the manual checking of systems to occur after all system outages, or when the system is placed into maintenance mode.

These changes are have been utilised in the 20 March maintenance window.

Summary

The outage on Sunday 20 February was 9 hours and 6 minutes. The cause of the outage was a manual operational failure by Catalyst to ensure the SRS had returned to normal service.

The DNS, Whois, and SRS (read only) services remained available through out. The security and integrity of the service was also maintained.

Process improvements have been put in place to ensure an outage of this nature does not reoccur.

SRS Availability

System availability for February was 98.64%, against the SLA standard of 99.9%

SRS Availability	December	January	February
%	99.98	99.95	98.64

SRS Response Times

Response time performance figures on the production environment for the previous three months were:

Avg Response time (in seconds)	December	January	February
Domain Details Query	0.52	0.51	0.40
Domain Update	0.41	0.38	0.39
Domain Create	0.45	0.46	0.24
GetMessage performance	0.34	0.37	0.35
GetMessage (volume 000's)	39	42	35
Whois	0.18	0.18	0.17
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)	951	922	1007
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	231	282	122
UDAI Valid Query	0.23	0.24	0.24

DNS Availability

DNS Availability	December	January	February
%	100	100	100

Unscheduled Outages

There were four unscheduled outages during February with a total outage time of 9 hours and 13 minutes.

Date/Time	Duration	Description
Date: Feb 10 2005 Time: 22:42	82 Seconds	The SRS front end replication stopped and was automatically restarted
Date: Feb 13 2005 Time: 11:57	64 Seconds	The SRS front end replication stopped and was automatically restarted
Date: Feb 20 2005 Time: 00:34	32,760 Seconds	The system was put into maintenance mode (scheduled downtime) for 5 minutes, but it failed to recover
Date: Feb 20 2005 Time: 15:25	68 Seconds	The SRS front end replication stopped and was automatically restarted

Scheduled Outages and Updates

In February there were two scheduled outages.

Date/Time	Description
Date: 20/02/2005 Time: 5 minutes	Go into maintenance mode during Release Domains Processing. The system did not go back into writeable mode at the end of this outage
Date: 27/02/2005 Time: 2 hours	Upgrade to SRS Release 1.17

IPv6 Glue Announcement

NZRS is pleased to advise that it has added the support of IPv6 glue records to the Shared Registry System (SRS) and DNS. The adoption of IPv6 Glue will bring benefits to the registry in that it will allow for registrants who wish, to start investing in IPv6 technology.

Registrars are now able to provide IPv6 Glue records to the SRS, and this information will be included in the zone files output from the SRS. Note. AAAA (and not A6) records will be published in the zone files.

In order to allow for IPv6 Glue records, the SRS will accept an additional field (IP6Addr) in the definition of a nameserver. It is not a mandatory field. NOTE. If IP addresses are required, there MUST be an IPv4 address provided, not just an IPv6 address.

The full technical details supporting IPv6 Glue records are available at www.nzrs.net.nz

The enablement of IPv6 is one of the strategic programs that NZRS is undertaking across the next 2 years.

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

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