

## **.nz NEWSLETTER – MAY 2004**

### **:: DNC OFFICE ::**

In April, the number of active .nz domain names increased from 149,296 to 151,711, a net increase of 2,442. This is the third largest monthly net increase over the past year and saw the .nz domain name market grow beyond 150,000 with the 150,000<sup>th</sup> name being registered on 8 April.

### **NZOC Meeting**

The .nz Oversight Committee (NZOC) meeting was held on Monday 3 May. A copy of the minutes is available at: [http://www.dnc.org.nz/content/minutes\\_NZOC\\_3\\_May\\_04.pdf](http://www.dnc.org.nz/content/minutes_NZOC_3_May_04.pdf)

### **Roles and Responsibilities Policy Review**

The Roles and Responsibilities (RAR) policy is currently being reviewed. The current policy can be seen at: [http://dnc.org.nz/content/roles\\_and\\_responsibilities.pdf](http://dnc.org.nz/content/roles_and_responsibilities.pdf).

The RAR policy sets out the expectations of all parties involved in the .nz domain name space: InternetNZ, the registry, registrars and registrants. The policy establishes the standards of behaviour required to operate in the .nz name space and the consequences of breaching these standards.

This is one of the major .nz policies. A number of complaints have been investigated by the DNC where allegations of breaches of the Roles and Responsibilities policy have been made. This policy has been in force since 14 October 2002 so it is timely to seek feedback on whether the expectations it sets out are clear enough, and what changes may be made to the policy to ensure it meets the needs of registrants and registrars whilst maintaining the integrity of the .nz domain name space.

The need for amendments to the policy has already been identified by the DNC Office. These include:

- Clarifying the section regarding sanctions to make it clear that the list of sanctions mentioned is non-exhaustive and to specify more possible sanctions
- Specifying the actions that can be taken when a registrar cancels their agreement with a registrant but the registrant does not enter into a new agreement with another registrar (that is, they do not transfer their domain names)

- Clarifying the requirement that domain names be registered in the name of the party requesting the domain name, and not in the name of any organisation that may be acting for that party

Public comment on any aspect of the Roles and Responsibilities policy is sought by Thursday 10 June 2004.

All comments are welcome, please submit your comments via email to [policies@dnc.org.nz](mailto:policies@dnc.org.nz) or fax to 04 495 2115.

All submissions addressing the policy review will be published on the DNC site at: <http://dnc.org.nz/story/30164-35-1.html>

## Domain Names NZ Update

In November last year Domain Names Australia (trading in New Zealand as Domain Names NZ) was taken to court by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and by auDA. The case was heard in the Federal Court in Melbourne and at the time a decision was reserved.

Judgment has now been handed down in the case and Domain Names Australia (DNA) was found to have contravened section 52 of the Trade Practices Act. DNA, and director Chesley Rafferty, were subject to a three year injunction restraining DNA and Mr Rafferty from further breaching the legislation.

A copy of the judgment can be seen at:

[http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/cth/federal\\_ct/2004/424.html](http://www.austlii.edu.au/au/cases/cth/federal_ct/2004/424.html)

## Statistics

Figures as at 30 April 2004:

	<i>Active names as at 1 April</i>	<i>Active names as at end 30 April</i>	<i>New registrations April</i>	<i>Renewals April</i>	<i>Change over month</i>
.ac	842	857	20	224	15
.co	126762	128866	3451	34023	2104
.cri	27	27	0	23	0
.geek	607	619	12	61	12
.gen	838	835	11	205	-3
.govt	709	718	9	207	9
.iwi	48	50	2	13	2
.maori	318	334	18	14	16
.mil	17	17	0	5	0
.net	8390	8515	302	1845	125
.org	8584	8727	242	2116	143
.school	2127	2146	24	898	19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>149269</b>	<b>151711</b>	<b>4091</b>	<b>39634</b>	<b>2442</b>

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

System availability for April was 100%, against the SLA standard of 99.9%

SRS Availability	February	March	April
%	99.95	99.97	100

### SRS Response Times

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

Avg Response time (in seconds)	February	March	April
Domain Details Query	0.467	0.55	0.49
Domain Update	0.387	0.32	0.34
Domain Create	0.434	0.40	0.42
GetMessage performance	1.745	0.36	0.37
GetMessage (volume 000's)	61	44	42
Whois	0.236	0.19	0.19
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)	606	640	775
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	364	222	194
UDAI Valid Query	0.204	0.18	0.18

### DNS

DNS Availability	February	March	April
%	100	100	100

### Unscheduled Outages

There were no unscheduled outages during April.

## Scheduled Outages and Updates

The April maintenance window was not utilised.

The May maintenance window on 23 May was used to implement the Updated Registrar Implementation Kit (1.9.0).

### Registrar Implementation Kit (RIK version 1.9.0)

The new release of SRS coincided with a new release of the RIK (1.9.0). Please note that the source code for the SRSCClient and SendXML has not been changed in this release.

The new release of the RIK is available on the DNC web site [www.dnc.org.nz](http://www.dnc.org.nz) and the NZRS web site [www.nzrs.net.nz](http://www.nzrs.net.nz)

## Protocol

The "protocol.dtd" has changed in this release.

**It is recommended that Registrars upgrade their "protocol.dtd" to version 1.9**

## Summary of the new release of SRS (1.9)

### 1 - Replication

The changes to the SRS replication software that were scheduled to be included with the SRS 1.8 release were not released into production. Some problems related to transaction request and response size were highlighted by the stress testing phase of our testing. These problems have been resolved and the replication upgrade was implemented in SRS 1.9.

One of the major components of the replication changes is the incorporation of the Spread toolkit (<http://www.spread.org/>) to be used by the front-end replication to improve reliability of the message passing within the front-end replication.

SRS\_Release\_1.9.doc 1

The web site describes Spread this way:

Spread is a toolkit that provides a high performance messaging service that's resilient to faults across external or internal networks. Spread functions as a unified message bus for distributed applications and provides highly tuned application-level multicast and group communication support. Spread services range from reliable message passing to fully ordered messages with delivery guarantees, even in case of computer failures and network partitions.

The problem found during stress testing related to the ability of the Spread toolkit to handle large request sizes (in excess of 99k). To overcome this problem the request size of an SRS transaction is limited to 99k. A review of the SRS logs has shown that no Registrar transaction request has exceeded this limit to date.

**Impact: Request size greater than 99k will be rejected**

## **2 - Several domains not pushed to DNS servers**

- Problem:** An offline backend server was used for zone pushes. A heavy (update) transaction load at the time of a zone push resulted in a delay in updating the offline server and consequently several domains updated just before the zone push were not included in the push.
- Fix:** Zone pushes are now performed only from "Active" backend servers
- Impact:** No impact to registrars.

## **3 - CountResults parameter for query transactions**

- Enhancement:** A CountResults parameter has been added to the RegistrarAccountQry and DomainDetailsQry transactions. This parameter is an optional boolean parameter and the default value is false. There is no change to the existing functionality of these transactions when this parameter is not present (Default) or is present and set to false. When this parameter is present and is set to true then a response is returned with a Count parameter containing the value of the total number of matches found in the SRS database that satisfy the request query conditions.
- NOTE: No result rows are returned if the CountResults parameter is present and is set to true in the request. The Rows parameter in the response is set to zero (Rows="0").
- Fix:** N/A
- Impact:** No impact to registrars.

## **4- Domains cancelled+transferred+uncancelled**

- Problem:** Some domains have been cancelled within their Renewal Grace Period, and then transferred and un-cancelled (without a renewal) by another registrar and have been billed to the losing registrar. Only a few domains have been affected by this problem and NZRS have corrected the billing where this has occurred.
- This is a rare condition and has happened when the billed until date of the domain is in the past and the losing registrar had the domain active at some point between the billed until date and the date of the transaction. This can occur when the domain is cancelled within renewal grace period (so that it's billed until date is rolled back) or when the domain is cancelled with Term=0 (since this occurs after the billed until date has past, but before the renew schedule job runs).
- Fix:** Domains that meet the above criteria are now billed to the gaining registrar (.e. the registrar that gains a domain from a transfer).
- Impact:** When a domain is cancelled within Renewal Grace Period, the most recent renewal is rolled back. When a "PendingRelease" domain is un-cancelled without a renewal request and the domain is out-of-date, a billing catch-up occurs and the domain is auto-renewed. If a "PendingRelease" domain is transferred and un-cancelled, the gaining registrar is billed for any catch-up.

## **5- DomainDetailsQry – History search problem**

- Problem:** There was a bug in domain details query. It affects any non-registry query that has both a search date range and a result date range and the impact is that no details are returned.
- Fix:** A domain details query that has both a search date range and a result date range will return history details.
- Impact:** No impact to registrars.

### **Open Source**

Since NZRS published the SRS as open source, it has been down loaded over 362 times.

### **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](mailto:support@nzrs.net.nz). For all other matters, contact Debbie Monahan at [info@dnc.org.nz](mailto: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'.