.nz NEWSLETTER – MAY 2005

:: DNC OFFICE ::

In April the number of active .nz domain names increased from 182,095 to 185,129 a net increase of 3,034.

NZOC Meeting

A .nz Oversight Committee (NZOC) meeting was held on Monday 16 May 2005. A copy of the minutes will be available on the DNC website shortly.

Key issues discussed at the meeting include:

Dispute Resolution Process

Rick Shera, Chair of the Dispute Resolution Working Group (WG), attended the meeting to discuss the WG's recommendations with NZOC.

NZOC unanimously agreed to implement a domain name dispute resolution process for the .nz domain name space. They agreed with the WG's recommendation to implement a dispute resolution process based on the Nominet UK model.

For further information see the media release below.

Transfer to Another Registrar Policy Review

NZOC agreed that a review of the Transfer to Another Registrar (TAR) policy should be undertaken. The policy review is due to commence later this year.

Roles and Responsibility Policy Review

NZOC approved the proposed new Roles and Responsibility (RAR) Policy. The policy will be put to the InternetNZ Council for their approval. Subject to Council's approval, NZOC agreed that the new policy should be implemented on 1 August 2005.

Whois Policy

A reminder that the revised new Whois policy came into effect on Monday 9 May 2005.
A copy of the new policy can be seen at http://dnc.org.nz/content/whois.pdf

Domain Name Dispute Process to be Implemented

At its meeting on 16 May, the .nz Oversight Committee of InternetNZ unanimously decided to implement a dispute resolution process for .nz domain names.

Rick Shera, chair of the InternetNZ Working Group set up to look at this issue, said "The growth in the .nz name space has meant that disputes caused by such issues as cybersquatting and reverse domain name hijacking have continued unabated. However resolving such issues in Court is a massive investment in time, cost and people's patience – the committee established that there was definitely a need for a better route to conflict resolution.

"We looked at a number of well established systems from around the world and eventually decided that we should model ourselves on the UK Nominet process". Extensively modified to suit the New Zealand environment, the new process will try to solve problems through mediation in the first instance. The process is free to registrants and so means that people will no longer have to spend large sums defending a name they believe they have a right to. Clearly if the dispute remains unresolved the Courts are the next option.

Commenting on the new, more user friendly process, Colin Jackson, Acting Chair of .nz Oversight Committee said, "InternetNZ already has a good name for its stewardship of the .nz domain. This new dispute resolution model will further improve the way the .nz name space is administered, for the benefit of all .nz registrants and the New Zealand local internet community."

It is expected that the dispute resolution process will be in place sometime early next year. This allows time for public consultation to further ensure that the policy and processes implemented are both robust and totally appropriate for the .nz environment.

Statistics

Figures as at 30 April 2005:

	Active names as at 1 April	Active names as at end 30 April	New registrations April	Renewals April	Change over month
.ac	995	1000	22	226	5
.co	154721	157238	4189	41518	2517
.cri	25	25	0	14	0
.geek	675	689	22	103	14
.gen	930	932	13	240	2
.govt	746	755	10	232	9
.iwi	53	53	0	12	0
.maori	371	375	18	47	4
.mil	17	17	0	11	0
.net	10648	10882	355	2574	234
.org	10555	10790	317	2806	235
.school	2359	2373	21	1032	14
TOTAL	182095	185129	4967	48815	3034

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 99.94%, against the SLA standard of 99.9%

SRS Availability	February	March	April
%	98.64	99.90	99.94

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	0.40	0.52	0.64
Domain Update	0.39	0.43	0.47
Domain Create	0.24	0.44	0.70
GetMessage performance	0.35	0.40	0.43
GetMessage (volume 000's)	35	40	46
Whois	0.17	0.18	0.20
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)	1007	1422	1355
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	122	295	303
UDAI Valid Query	0.24	0.26	0.29

- The increase in the time taken to do a domain create does not reflect an underlying change in system performance. The contributing factor to the increase is the concentration of Registrar updates around the domain release process. This is when registrar or registrars try to access the same domain name at the same time, the requests are not allowed to be processed in parallel. One will queue up behind the other increasing the transaction time. This is supported by the fact that by excluding the domain creates submitted between 24:00 and 01:00 each morning, the figure drops to **0.50** seconds. There were over 250 queries in the 24:00 to 01:00 period. The average time for these was 4 seconds.

- Fixes for both the parallel processing issue and the locking issue are being worked on in May and are scheduled for release in the next scheduled maintenance window.

DNS Availability

DNS Availability	February	March	April
%	100	100	100

Unscheduled Outages

There were seven unscheduled outages in April, for a total unavailability time of 26 minutes and 7 seconds. The main outage occurred on 19 April when the primary front end server was unavailable for a period of approximately 25 minutes. The issue was resolved by restarting the front end replication process.

Date	Duration	Description
April	1 minute, 19 seconds	6 Micro outages of less than 1 minute
Apr 19 07:30	24 minutes, 48 seconds	Front End Replication stopped functioning correctly

Scheduled Outages and Updates

The maintenance window was not utilised in April.

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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