.nz NEWSLETTER – May 2009

:: DNC ::

Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs) – Sunrise Registration Policy Consultation

Draft Policy for Sunrise Registration Period

Previously, comment has been sought on potential issues associated with the implementation of IDNs in .nz, along with any other issues that the IDN working group (WG) should consider. (Submissions received can be viewed here). Following this a second round of consultation (submissions seen here) was held to seek comment on a proposed course of action and on the idea of a sunrise registration period.

Based on submissions received and on input from the IDN WG a decision was made to hold a sunrise registration period for IDNs. The sunrise registration period will be held to help avoid potential disputes during the initial phases of IDN registrations in .nz. Due to the nature of the Māori language it is impossible to automatically assign IDN variants to current .nz ASCII domain names.

A policy outlining the rationale, requirements and process for this initial registration period has been drafted and we are now seeking comment on the proposed policy. The draft policy can be viewed in either .html or .pdf. A Māori translation of the policy is expected to be sent from the translation shortly and when received will be made available on the consultation site.

The sunrise period will allow for current .nz registrants to have a chance to register the IDN variants of their ASCII names before open registration of IDNs in .nz are offered.

Submissions can 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://www.dnc.org.nz/idn-sunrise-policy. Submissions should be received by 5pm on Monday 24th August.

Required notification of company changes – reminder to Registrars

.nz Authorised Registrars are required to notify the Domain Name Commission if there are any changes in their company structure.

As per clause 23 of the Registrar authorisation agreement, .nz authorised Registrars may not transfer this agreement or any benefit or obligation of it to another person or business. If your management or control is altered without our written consent, then this will be treated by us as a transfer of this agreement entitling us to end it.

Registrar Security Issue

Over recent months Registrars locally and around the world have been the focus of attacks that use direct methods (eg SQL injection) and indirect methods (eg phishing). These attacks have focused on the domain name nameserver details, attempting to change the nameserver entries for various domains to servers under the attacker's control. Examples of the attacks include:

Traffic to Google sites in Uganda, Morocco and Kenya was disrupted this week......
http://www.infoworld.com/t/authentication-and-authorization/google-blames-dns-insecurity-web-site-defacements-722

Puerto Rico sites redirected in DNS attack.....
http://news.cnet.com/8301-1009_3-10228436-83.html

And the attack on the Authorised .nz Registrar Domainz last month.

The Domainz security issue involved their system being compromised and some sensitive information for a few high profile names, including login and password information, was accessed by a third party.

The issue was promptly identified and resolved by Domainz staff. However during this time the registration details of certain high profile .nz domain names, specifically name server delegations, were altered.

These attacks are likely to continue and be emulated by others.

Registrars are reminded that they are expected to have adequate security systems and measures in place to safeguard the rights of registrants and the integrity of the .nz register.

Registrars should also consider other mitigating steps to this type of attack like two-factor authentication or out-of-band validation of nameserver changes. If you have implemented other measures or have suggestions for improvements that Registrars could implement then please share them. If there are any technical enhancements that NZRS could make to the SRS interface that would be of benefit, then please let us know.

ICANN Sydney Meeting

InternetNZ encourages all New Zealanders with an interest in global Internet governance to attend a meeting of ICANN being held next month in Sydney. ICANN (the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names & Numbers) is the US-based organisation that globally coordinates the Internet's unique identifiers. ICANN meets three times a year in geographically diverse locations and is meeting at Sydney's Hilton Hotel from 21 – 26 June. Registration for the event is free.

This is the third time that ICANN has met in Australasia. The organisation is currently chaired by longstanding InternetNZ member Peter Dengate Thrush. InternetNZ Executive Director Keith Davidson says InternetNZ has been a supporter of the ICANN model since its inception in 1998, and in 2006 hosted an ICANN meeting in Wellington at which over 700 people attended.

"The core of the Internet requires global coordination to make it work. These meetings provide a valuable forum for communities of interest associated with ICANN to share their views and develop policy. "Almost 200 New Zealanders attended the Wellington meeting and gained insight into ICANN's functions. We strongly encourage more New Zealanders to use the close proximity of the Sydney meeting as an opportunity to experience ICANN," says Davidson.

Significant issues scheduled for discussion will include ICANN's independence from the US Government, new generic top-level domains (gTLDs) and a fast track process for Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs).

You can register online and view the full event programme at:http://syd.icann.org/

DNCL Boarding Meeting - Minutes

The minutes of the DNCL board meeting held on 11th May 2009 are now available in .html or .pdf.

Statistics

In April, the number of active .nz domain names increased from 353,430 to 355,779, a net increase of 2349.

Figures as at 30 April 2009:

	Active names as at 1 April	Active names as at end 30 April	New registrations April	Renewals April	Net Growth
.ac	1665	1639	25	358	-26
.co	304330	306376	6580	59797	2046
.cri	15	15	0	4	0
.geek	873	867	16	199	-6
.gen	1204	1202	11	298	-2
.govt	988	988	2	900	0
.iwi	67	68	1	11	1
.maori	544	539	16	73	-5
.mil	18	20	2	8	2
.net	20336	20451	445	3924	115
.org	20545	20746	442	3868	201
.parliament	6	6	0	6	0
.school	2839	2862	32	1194	23
TOTAL	353430	355779	7572	70640	2349

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

SRS production system availability:

	SLA	February	March	April
SRS Availability %	99.90	99.92	99.99	99.95
Whois	99.90	99.92	100	100
DNS	100	100	100	100

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

Avg Response time (in seconds)	SLA Target	February	March	April
Domain Details Query	≤1.5	0.04	0.04	0.05
Domain Update	≤0.8	0.39	0.36	0.38
Domain Create	≤0.8	0.44	0.42	0.44
GetMessage performance	≤0.8	0.05	0.05	0.03
Whois	≤0.8	0.12	0.12	0.11
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)	N/A	2851	3411	3172
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	N/A	382	470	481
UDAI Valid Query	≤0.8	0.17	0.17	0.13

Server DNS % Availability

	February 09	March 09	April 09
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 2009

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Unscheduled	21 minutes and 24 secs
WHOIS Unscheduled	2 minutes and 8 secs
DNS	0

Scheduled Outages during April 2009

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Scheduled	2 hours
Whois Scheduled	2 hours

SRS Releases / Planned Scheduled Outages

24th May 2009 07:00 – 09:00 am NZDT

Scheduled outage to the SRS to upgrade the SRS to release version 3.01.

Next scheduled outage: Sunday, 28th June 07:00 – 09:00 NZST

For more information check http://www.nzrs.net.nz/notices/updates.shtml

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. 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 .