

.nz NEWSLETTER – May 2010

:: Domain Name Commission ::

Review of three .nz policies

As part of the ongoing review of .nz policies, three policies are now being reviewed.

The policies being reviewed are:

Process on de-authorisation of a registrar - Consultation

This policy relates to the process which is to be followed whether the de-authorisation is voluntary, or results from a serious breach of .nz policies.

Registrars can choose to cancel their own authorisation status, or the DNC may cancel the status in some circumstances. These circumstances and all notice periods are defined in the policy.

Transfer to another registrar - Consultation

This policy relates to the process which is to be followed when a .nz domain name is transferred from one registrar ('releasing registrar') to another ('gaining registrar').

The overarching principle behind this policy is that registrants are able to transfer .nz domain names from one registrar to another at any time, except during the registration grace period. The registrar must supply the UDAI on registration and at the request of the registrant to enable the transfer to take place.

Roles and Responsibilities - Consultation

This policy sets out the roles, rights and obligations of all parties involved in the Shared Registry System. It establishes the standards of behaviour required to operate in the .nz domain name space, and sets out the consequences of breaching those standards, including the possible sanctions.

No operational issues have been identified with the current policies. They are being reviewed as part of the regular, ongoing review of .nz policies.

The review period for all three policies will end at midday on 21 June 2010.

Submissions should be by email to policies@dnc.org.nz. They may also be made by fax to +64 4 495 2115 or by post to Domain Name Commission, PO Box 11 881, Wellington 6142, New Zealand. All submissions will be published at <http://www.dnc.org.nz/march10-reviews>.

Domain Name Commission Limited – Director Recruitment

Applications are sought from suitably qualified individuals to fill a Director position on the DNCL Board. In addition to holding existing directorships, or being a successful senior executive, the ideal candidate will have experience in community advocacy or similar.

Information for potential applicants, including a position description, can be found on the InternetNZ and DNCL websites.

If you have further questions about the role please contact Susi Cosimo on (04) 495 2117. Applications close 12pm, 28 May 2010, and should be addressed to Susi Cosimo, InternetNZ, P O Box 11-881, Wellington, or email vacancy@internetnz.net.nz.

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.

Statistics

In April, the number of active .nz domain names increased from 393,494 to 396,661, a net increase of 3,167.

Figures as at 30 April 2010:

	<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>Net Growth</i>
.ac	1746	1752	23	314	6
.co	340,200	343,095	7338	61844	2895
.cri	15	14	0	3	-1
.geek	952	963	20	201	11
.gen	1287	1293	20	299	6
.govt	1035	1041	6	962	6
.health	105	106	1	0	1
.iwi	70	70	0	13	-
.maori	582	581	13	76	-1
.mil	23	23	0	3	-
.net	21,936	22,070	448	4274	134
.org	22,547	22,654	393	4221	107
.parliament	7	7	0	7	-
.school	2,989	2992	22	1243	3
TOTAL	393,494	396,661	8,284	73,460	3167

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	February	March	April
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	February	March	April
Domain Details Query	≤0.5	0.03	0.04	0.03
Domain Update	≤0.8	0.24	0.36	0.22
Domain Create	≤0.8	0.25	0.33	0.24
Get Message	≤0.5	0.04	0.06	0.03
Whois	≤0.5	0.10	0.17	0.09
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)	N/A	2,875	3,015	2,809
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	N/A	631	694	646
UDAI Valid Query	≤0.5	0.11	0.23	0.11

Server DNS % Availability

	February	March	April
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	112 Seconds
WHOIS Unscheduled	0
DNS	0

Scheduled Outages during April 2010

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Scheduled	2 hours
SRS Emergency Scheduled	5 minutes
Whois Scheduled	2 hours
Whois Emergency Scheduled	5 minutes

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

A beta EPP interface is available for registrar testing. The interface will have a small subset of the EPP functionality. Regular incremental releases with additional functionality will be made to the test system throughout June. 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 scheduled for July.

One of the IDN changes will result in the creation of a new second level domain (SLD) under .nz: māori.nz. All existing and futures names registered under maori.nz will be duplicated under the new SLD māori.nz, we will use a DNAME record in the .nz zone.

Although the DNAME record has been standard for more than 10 years, we want to make sure domains under māori.nz will work properly. To do so, we have prepared a test page that will let us find out the level of DNAME support among cache resolvers.

We kindly ask you to visit <http://www.te-reo.maori.dns.net.nz> to help us with the testing process. We will collect visits to the page and DNS queries for particular names and correlate them to identify the number of resolvers supporting the DNAME record. Feel free to share this link with anybody, including other suitable mailing lists.

If you find any issue, have comments or suggestions, please let us know.

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
PGP Key Server	Completed	
Postgres/Apache/OS Upgrade	Completed	
Hardware Upgrade	Completed	
DNS Monitoring/Reporting	Completed	-
DNS Test Cluster	Completed	
DDOS Mitigation	Completed	
Intra-site Connection	Completed	
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.

Registrar Implementation Kit

The SRSClnt and SRS User Interface (SRS UI) applications that we distribute as part of the Registrar Implementation Kit (RIK) have had very few changes made to them since the SRS was launched. The SRSClnt was originally developed as an example client interface for registrars to look at and use to assist in developing an interface to the SRS.

Our recent customer satisfaction survey showed that a large proportion of registrars are using the SRSClnt and a number of registrars have said that they would like to see some improvements made to the SRSClnt and SRS UI. The main theme of the comments were around improving the installation/upgrade process and improving the interfaces. We agree with these comments and have decided to start a project to address these issues.

We would like to hear registrar views, suggestions and comments about any updates and improvements they would like to see made to the SRSClnt, SRS UI and anything else in the RIK.

Please send your comments and suggestions to Dave or Manuela at support@nzrs.net.nz

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