

.nz NEWSLETTER – November 2010

:: Domain Name Commission ::

Dispute Resolution Service

Domain names within the .nz space are registered on a first-come, first-served basis, however disputes do arise about who should be the registrant of a domain name.

The Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) has been developed to assist with disputes of this nature. Anyone who wishes to make a complaint about the registration of a .nz domain name may use this system. They must have rights to a name which is identical or similar to the domain name in dispute, and show that the current registration is unfair.

Multiple domain names can be included in the same complaint, provided they have the same registrant, and are asserting the same set of rights.

If a complaint relies on multiple sets of rights, for different domain names, (such as in the case of DRS 459 duracell.co.nz and braun.co.nz, published at <http://dnc.org.nz/decisions>) then each must be submitted as a separate complaint.

More information on using the DRS is available at <http://dnc.org.nz/story/drs-home>

Policy Development Process Review

This consultation closes at midday on 6 December 2010

Domain Name Commission is seeking comments on the approach it uses to review and create policies for the .nz domain name space. The current policy is available [here](#).

Comments on the approach, or any aspect of the policy, are sought and can be sent by email to policies@dnc.org.nz, by fax to (04) 495 2115, or by mail to PO Box 11881 Wellington. As submissions are received they will be published on the DNC website [here](#). Submissions should be received by midday on 6 December 2010.

.nz DNSSEC Policy Amendments Consultation Paper

This consultation closes at midday on 6 December 2010

.nz is preparing to introduce the Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC) to strengthen the security and reputation of .nz.

This consultation is the second on the .nz DNSSEC implementation. The first consultation identified issues for Registrants and Registrars. That paper also proposed policy principles that would ensure protection for Registrants in maintaining the Chain of Trust throughout the management of any DNSSEC signed domain names. Submissions received during that public

consultation were generally supportive of the proposed approaches. Details of that work are available here: <http://dnc.org.nz/story/consultation-dnssec-implementation>

This consultation follows on from the first one and details below the proposed amendments to the .nz policies to allow for the implementation of DNSSEC in line with the approach detailed in the initial consultation. Comments are now sought on the proposed amendments.

Proposed .nz policy changes

It is proposed the following clauses are added to the following .nz policies:

Registering, Managing and Cancelling Domain Names

(<http://dnc.org.nz/content/rmc.html>)

- In relation to managing signed domain names, Registrants, or their DNS Operator, will be responsible for:
 - generating and managing their keys;
 - generating the DS Record; and
 - determining how often they perform key rollovers.
- When a Registrant elects to un-sign a signed name, the Registrar will remove the DS Records for that name as soon as it is practical to do so.

Transfer to Another Registrar

(<http://dnc.org.nz/content/tar.html>)

DNSSEC Transfers

In relation to DNSSEC the following apply:

- Registrars that are not DNSSEC-capable must check if a name is signed before it is transferred in. If the name is signed then the registrar must notify the registrant of the implications of transferring in a signed name, and the registrant must confirm the transfer, before the registrar can initiate it.
- The following cooperation and participation will be required by registrars, when involved in the transfer of a signed domain name, where the registrant wants to modify DNSSEC related information:
 - The gaining registrar must provide the new DNSKEY to the losing registrar.
 - The losing registrar must add the new DNSKEY to their DNS for the domain name and continue to serve this until they are notified that the change is complete.
 - The gaining registrar provides the DS Record to the losing registrar, who then provides it to the registry.
 - Once the new DNSKEY and DS Record are visible to DNS resolvers then any changes to the name servers can be processed.
 - The name is then transferred.
 - The losing registrar must remove the domain name from their system when requested, but must not remove it before being requested to do so.
 - The gaining registrar can then delete the old DNSKEY provided by the losing registrar.

- Where a forced bulk transfer is required, signed names will be transferred to a DNSSEC-Capable Registrar.

Roles and Responsibilities – Domain Name Commission Responsibilities

(<http://dnc.org.nz/content/rolesandresponsibilities.html>)

- The DNC will establish and maintain a contact repository of DNS Operators who offer DNSSEC services.

Addition of 'DS Record' to the list of specified fields in the following policies

- Clause 4.2 of the Whois Server Policy (<http://dnc.org.nz/content/WHOIS.html>) lists the output from a WHOIS query.
- Clauses 7.1 and 8.1 of the Registering, Managing and Cancelling Domain Names policy (<http://dnc.org.nz/content/rmc.html>) list the data that is to be supplied and maintained by Registrars.
- Clause 4.2 of the Privacy Policy (<http://dnc.org.nz/content/privacypolicy.html>) includes a list of all of the personal information that will be used by NZRS to facilitate a whois search.

Comments on the proposed policy amendments, should 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://dnc.org.nz/story/consultation-dnssec-policy>. Submissions should be received by midday on 6 December 2010.

As the .nz DNSSEC project progresses resources for Registrants and Registrars, such as FAQ's, will be added to the DNCL website.

Statistics

In September, the number of active .nz domain names increased from 413,753 to 417,103, a net increase of 3,350.

Figures as at 31 October 2010:

	<i>Active names as at 1 October</i>	<i>Active names as at end 31 October</i>	<i>New registrations October</i>	<i>Renewals October</i>	<i>Net Growth</i>
.ac	1,807	1,801	21	309	-6
.co	358,060	361,102	7,768	62,270	3,042
.cri	14	14	0	1	0
.geek	1,011	1,018	28	220	7
.gen	1,296	1,297	14	300	1
.govt	1,062	1,065	5	1018	3
.health	124	126	2	73	2
.iwi	75	76	2	14	1
.maori	613	615	7	99	2
.mil	26	27	1	3	1
.net	22,973	23,148	537	4,327	175
.org	23,668	23,775	406	4,244	107
.parliament	7	7	0	7	0
.school	3,017	3,032	19	1,272	15
TOTAL	413,753	417,103	8,810	74,157	3,350

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	August	September	October
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	Aug 10	Sept 10	Oct 10
Domain Details Query	≤0.5	0.02	0.04	0.04

Domain Update	≤0.8	0.21	0.22	0.23
Domain Create	≤0.8	0.26	0.26	0.27
Get Message	≤0.5	0.03	0.04	0.03
Whois	≤0.5	0.06	0.06	0.07
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)	N/A	5845	5,846	6,003
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	N/A	846	727	766
UDAI Valid Query	≤0.5	0.10	0.10	0.11

Server DNS % Availability

	August	September	October
NS1	100	100	100
NS2	99.8	100	100
NS3	99.8	100	100
NS4	99.8	100	100
NS5	100	100	100
NS6	100	100	100
NS7	100	100	100

Unscheduled Outages during October 2010

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Unscheduled	6 seconds
WHOIS Unscheduled	
DNS	

Scheduled Outages during October 2010

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Scheduled	4 hours
SRS Emergency Scheduled	
Whois Scheduled	2 hours
Whois Emergency Scheduled	

Planned Scheduled Outages

Details of future SRS releases and planned scheduled outages can be found on our website. <http://nzrs.net.nz/notices/updates>

DNSSEC

We are actively working on the DNSSEC deployment for .nz. We have chosen a signing architecture based on OpenDNSSEC and the Sun Crypto Accelerator 6000 for the Hardware Security Module.

Changes to the SRS system to support DS records have been completed. This functionality is currently turned off in the production SRS and it will be activated when the DNSSEC deployment begins. The SRS RPS test system is available for registrars that wish to test their interface with DS records.

Testing of the signing architecture has been delayed due in part to a change in the OS for the signing box from Debian to CentOS. We expect to begin end to end testing in January/February and the DNSSEC deployment for the .nz and the second level zones to begin after the successful completion of the testing. If you have any questions, please contact Dave or Sebastian on support@nzrs.net.nz

EPP

We have deployed a functioning version of the SRS EPP interface to the SRS test and production systems. If there are any registrars that would like to use the EPP interface on the test or production systems then please contact Dave or Manu on support@nzrs.net.nz

RIK Redevelopment Project

We have started work on a project to update the RIK (Registrar Information Kit). This project aims to update the RIK, making it easier for registrars to install, upgrade and use.

The main streams of work will be:

- Packaging – making the RIK easy to install and upgrade on the majority of *nix platforms.
- SRSCient – allowing full coverage of SRS Registrar functionality, as well as making it easy to keep up to date with any new transactions.
- SRS libraries – ensuring they are well documented and easily understandable by developers to use directly or as a reference implementation.

We would like to hear from any registrars that are currently using the RIK and in particular would like to know which libraries and modules you are using.

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