.nz NEWSLETTER

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November's Registrar Advisory Group (RAG) meeting

On November 13 the Registrar Advisory Group (RAG) met to discuss .nz registrations at the second level, hear updates from NZRS and DNCL, and consider issues dealing with DNSSEC implementation.

The RAG consists of six Registrar representatives, the Domain Name Commissioner and the Chief Executive of NZRS.

RAG's Registrar representatives currently include: Mark Goldfinch (Modica Group), Kim Lowton (Netregistry Group), Quintin Russ (SiteHost) Lee Miller (Net24 Group), Maria Brosnan (Freeparking/WebFarm) and Glen Eustace (GodZone Internet Services).

Josh Cookson, who is responsible for DNCL's Registrar Liaison and Compliance, said the RAG meetings are a productive way to see issues from all perspectives and to try and find solutions that work for Registrars.

NZRS and DNCL representatives attend ICANN meeting in Argentina

This month DNCL Commissioner Debbie Monahan and Chief Executive of NZRS Jay Daley attended the ICANN meeting in Argentina.

Among other interesting topics, highlights at the event included panels on DNSSEC implementation, gTLD updates and Internet Governance discussions.

Published materials on the conference can be seen at: http://buenosaires48.icann.org/en/materials

The first .nz Registrar Conference a success

On November 14 the first .nz Registrar Conference was held, an event that is expected to become an annual one.

The conference played host to a wide variety of speakers on topics such .nz domain name insights, updates on DNCL policy and how Registrars can go about implementing DNSSEC.

NZRS's David Morrison, who organised the conference, said he had received a lot of great positive feedback and was looking forward to seeing even more Registrars attend in 2014.

Radio New Zealand website deploys DNSSEC

This month Radio New Zealand adopted DNSSEC for their public domains, a move that will make their website more secure overall.

Radio New Zealand's New Media Manager Richard Hulse said that the organisation had made the decision because it was considered best practice.

"I think that Government organisations, particularly those with public-facing websites, should be the leaders in embracing online best practice, especially where security is concerned," he said.

"We changed registrars in order to adopt DNSSEC, and they made it trivial for us to implement."

"If it is this simple, it's inevitable that it will become the norm."

DNCL acknowledges all domain name Registrars who are making efforts to make the DNS become more secure. Godzone and Metaname are already completely DNSSEC-friendly and recently Gandi, Catalyst and Key Systems have officially met the criteria to be able to handle Delegation Signer (DS) records. A number of other Registrars are at various stages in their DNSSEC projects.

DNCL currently gives Registrars two levels of DNSSEC compliance: being able to handle Delegation Signer records or be fully DNSSEC-friendly, a status that requires them to meet four levels of additional criteria. Delegation Signer records provide information about a signed domain and is a significant step towards being completely DNSSEC-friendly.

Registrars holding the DNSSEC friendly status are able to offer their customers the ability to have signed domains, a step forward towards more secure domain names.

Browsers offer the possibility of visual hints of DNSSEC usage in domains by using third-party tools, such as the key logo displayed in the image below. Those visual signals will become normal practice in the near future.

FAQ – Allowing registrations directly at the second level

Following on from the recent announcement that .nz domain names will be allowed to be registered directly at the second level, DNCL has created a FAQ sheet for those who want more information. This FAQ is available at http://dnc.org.nz/faq-registrations-directly-second-level

A final policy implementing the proposal will be subject to public consultation.

Statistics

In October, the number of active .nz domain names increased from 539,335 to 540,506, a net increase of 1,171. Figures as of 31 October, 2013:

	30 Sep 13	31 Oct 13	Creates	Renews	Net Change
.ac	2,028	2,032	27	316	4
.co	464,693	465,906	7,924	67,195	1213
.cri	12	12	0	1	0
.geek	1,209	1,218	18	297	9
.gen	1,345	1,350	15	325	5
.govt	1,126	1,062	0	1,046	-64
.health	181	183	2	149	2
.iwi	83	84	1	13	1
.kiwi	6,605	6,382	127	775	-223
.maori	1,126	1,129	13	131	3
.mil	36	36	0	11	0
.net	29,452	29,581	554	4,117	129
.org	28,075	28,159	412	3,926	84
.parliament	10	10	0	10	0
.school	3,354	3,362	23	1,161	8
TOTAL	**539,335**	**540,506**	**9,116**	**79,473**	**1,171**

Note: the above 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

Availability

Availability %	SLA	Aug 13	Sep 13	Oct 13
SRS	99.9	100	100	100
Whois	99.9	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 13	Sep 13	Oct 13
Domain Details Query	≤0.5	0.04	0.03	0.02
Domain Update	≤0.8	0.17	0.16	0.14
Domain Create	≤0.8	0.21	0.19	0.18
Get Message	≤0.5	0.05	0.05	0.05
Whois	≤0.5	0.08	0.06	0.05
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)	N/A	12465	13815	10556
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	N/A	1556	1382	1372
UDAI Valid Query	≤0.5	0.10	0.07	0.06

Server DNS % Availability

	Aug 13	Sep 13	Oct 13
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 October 2013

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Unscheduled	No unscheduled outages
WHOIS Unscheduled	No unscheduled outages
DNS	0

Scheduled Outages during October 2013

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Scheduled	2 hours
SRS Emergency Scheduled	0 hours
WHOIS Scheduled	2 hours

Planned Scheduled Outages

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

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

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