# .nz NEWSLETTER – October 2007

**:: DNC OFFICE ::**

In September, the number of active .nz domain names increased from 296,722 to 300,397, a net increase of 3,675.

**Internationalised Domain Names (IDN) in .nz - Consultation**

Currently, domain names in the .nz space only allow the 26 basic English (Latin) alphabet characters a-z, digits and the '-' hyphen. The Māori alphabet has an additional five characters, the macronised vowels ā, ē, ī, ō, and ū, which are currently not allowed in .nz domain names.

Some countries are beginning to implement Internationalised Doman Names (IDNs). IDNs allow the use of virtually any internationally recognised characters. This enables the registration of domain names in languages that use non-English characters, such as Te Reo Māori.

A working group (WG) has been established by the InternetNZ committee responsible for the .nz domain space, the .nz Oversight Committee, to consider the implementation of IDNs into the .nz domain name space.

The initial focus of the IDN implementation will be on the 5 macronised vowels required to correctly spell Māori words in domain names. It does not affect web content, which may already use any script.

For more information on IDNs a list of resources can be viewed www.dnc.org.nz/idn-links

For this initial consultation the WG is seeking comments on the following

1) What issues do you think are associated with implementing IDNs? What is their impact, and how do you think they should be prioritised?

2) What other matters do you think the WG should consider.

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 www.dnc.org.nz/idn-consult . Submissions should be received by Wednesday 19th December.

**Registrar Compliance**

Following a detailed investigation, a registrar has been found to have breached the .nz policies and procedures. Over a short period last year, DiscountDomains took actions around the 'Release Domains' period that were contrary to how a .nz registrar should operate. In essence, DiscountDomains 'tested' their capture process by seeking to register domain names that were coming out of pending release that they had no intention of retaining. The names

registered during the process under investigation were all cancelled within the five day registration grace period.

The registrations breached the .nz policies and procedures because they were not made at the request of an independent registrant or for DiscountDomains' own use, they interfered with domain name registration by competing registrants and undermined the "first come, first served" principle on which the registration of .nz domain names is based.

It was accepted by the DNC that DiscountDomains had not intentionally sought to breach the requirements, and in fact they held an honest belief that what they were doing was acceptable. That belief was incorrectly held however, and the DNC would like to reiterate that domain names registered by authorised .nz registrars should be for a registrar's own use only. That use should also be a legitimate, and ongoing, use.

**Registering, Managing and Cancelling (RMC) Policy Review – Third Consultation**

*We would like to remind readers that we are currently reviewing the Registering, Managing and Cancelling Policy. To date no submissions have been received regarding this policy review.*

Submissions close at midday on Monday 12 November 2007 and can be emailed to policies@dnc.org.nz. Submissions can also be faxed to 04 4952115 or posted to P O Box 11881, Wellington. All submissions will be published on the DNC website at www.dnc.org.nz/rmc-3rdconsult

**Statistics**

Figures as at 30 September 2007:

| | Active names as at 1 September | Active names as at end 30 September | New registrations September | Renewals September | Net Growth |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| .ac | 1349 | 1352 | 21 | 302 | 3 |
| .co | 254285 | 257488 | 6317 | 52308 | 3203 |
| .cri | 16 | 16 | 0 | 3 | 0 |
| .geek | 761 | 773 | 16 | 206 | 12 |
| .gen | 1121 | 1133 | 27 | 283 | 12 |
| .govt | 909 | 913 | 5 | 765 | 4 |
| .iwi | 59 | 59 | 0 | 12 | 0 |
| .maori | 486 | 468 | 12 | 95 | -18 |
| .mil | 18 | 18 | 0 | 9 | 0 |
| .net | 17813 | 17994 | 425 | 3407 | 181 |
| .org | 17245 | 17519 | 422 | 3351 | 274 |
| .parliament | 4 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| .school | 2656 | 2659 | 17 | 1138 | 3 |
| TOTAL | 296722 | 300397 | 7263 | 61883 | 3675 |

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 | July | August | September |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| SRS Availability % | 99.90 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Whois | 99.90 | 99.96 | 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 | July | August | September |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Domain Details Query | ≤1.5 | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.03 |
| Domain Update | ≤0.8 | 0.49 | 0.44 | 0.41 |
| Domain Create | ≤0.8 | 0.54 | 0.48 | 0.47 |
| GetMessage performance | ≤0.8 | 0.03 | 0.04 | 0.03 |
| Whois | ≤0.8 | 0.12 | 0.13 | 0.11 |
| Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's) | N/A | 2,300 | 2,719 | 2,934 |
| Whois Server Queries (volume 000's) | N/A | 256 | 255 | 248 |
| UDAI Valid Query | ≤0.8 | 0.14 | 0.15 | 0.15 |

## DNS
### Availability and Outages

Server                    % Availability

|  | Mar 07 | Apr 07 | May 07 | Jun 07 | Jul 07 | Aug 07 | Sep 07 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| NS1 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| NS2 | 99.86 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| NS3 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| NS4 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 99.63 | 100 |
| NS5 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| NS6 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| NS7 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 99.78 | 100 |

## Unscheduled Outages

| Outage Type | Total Duration |
|---|---|
| SRS Unscheduled | 14 seconds |
| WHOIS Unscheduled | 0 seconds |

## Scheduled Outages

| Outage Type | Total Duration |
|---|---|
| SRS Scheduled | 2 hours and 15 minutes |
| Whois Scheduled | 2 hours and 15 minutes |
| DNS | 4 hours |

## Scheduled Outages and Updates

| Outage Type | Total Duration |
|---|---|
| Sunday 28th October 07:00 - 09:00 | 2 hours |

**Glue Records and IPv6**

**NZRS Recommendation**

NZRS recommend that all registrars should have the capability to update IPv6 "glue records" by July 2008.

This recommendation means that registrars have the ability to set IPv6 delegations, registrars could effect the change manually using XML or could implement the SRS User Interface which handles IPv6 records.

While the ability to handle IPv6 records is not currently a technical requirement for registrars it may become a requirement in the future.

**Background**

The SRS accepts authoritative name server delegation details for domains and these details are published in the authoritative name servers for the .nz zones. Each name server must contain information for a fully qualified domain name field (FQDN). There is no requirement that any name servers are within the domain for which they are authoritative.

Registrars may also provide details of the IP addresses (IPv4 and/or IPv6) for the name servers, these details are also known as "Glue Records". "Glue Records" are only required if the name server is "self-serving". I.e. Glue records are needed when the authoritative name server for a domain is within the domain itself.

The SRS was modified in June 2004 to support "IPv6 glue records":

1. The SRS accepts an additional field (IP6Addr) in the definition of a name server. It is not a required field. This field may only be supplied if IP addresses are required (the name server is "self-serving"). If IP addresses are required, there MUST be an IPv4 address provided, not just an IPv6 address (AAAA record).

2. The IP6Addr field is validated against the RFC 2460 and RFC237 (section 2.2) specifications.

3. AAAA records are published in the zone files.

If registrars provide IPv6 addresses, there MUST also be an IPv4 address provided. NZRS recommend that domains are still accessible via IPv4 name servers.

The list of authorised registrars who are capable of updating the SRS with IPv6 glue records is published on the DNC website.

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
If you would like to be notified of future updates, please use the SUBSCRIBE function on the DNC site and select the category 'Newsletters'.