

## **.nz NEWSLETTER – October 2010**

**:: Domain Name Commission ::**

### **Expert appointed to Dispute Resolution Service**

Sheana Wheeldon has been appointed as an expert for the Dispute Resolution Service. A list of experts, and a short bio for each is available at <http://dnc.org.nz/story/experts>

### **Mediator appointed to Dispute Resolution Service**

Trish Blyth has been appointed as a mediator for the Dispute Resolution Service. A list of mediators is available on our website at <http://dnc.org.nz/story/mediators>

### **New member elected to Registrar Advisory Group**

Following an election on 29 October, Quintin Russ has been elected to the Registrar Advisory Group (RAG). He will be joining Lee Miller, Maria Brosnan, Glen Eustace, Peter Mott and Richard Clark.

The RAG was established by InternetNZ as part of its obligations under the Shared Registry System (SRS). The RAG is chaired by the Domain Name Commissioner and it is comprised of the DNC, NZ Registry Services (NZRS) Manager and six registrar representatives. It is the intention of the RAG to represent the interests of the registrar community at large. The RAG will provide a key advisory element in the ongoing monitoring of the market by the DNC.

For further information please consult the RAG terms of reference document which can be seen at [http://dnc.org.nz/content/Registrar\\_Advisory\\_Group\\_TOR.pdf](http://dnc.org.nz/content/Registrar_Advisory_Group_TOR.pdf)

### **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](#) and it includes the following:

- any party is free to identify possible policy requirements and notify these to the Domain Name Commission for consideration;
- a wide-ranging consultation process that is public and involves contacting interested parties. We include the Registrar Advisory Group, a key consultation point for policy setting in all our consultation processes. We also try to make sure that we include all parties who are likely to have an interest in a particular policy area;

- decisions on .nz policies will be made by the Domain Name Commission except those where the policy is likely to have a major impact on the strategic direction of the .nz space. In this situation, the InternetNZ Council will be formally involved in the approval process;
- a provision for an urgent policy amendment or establishment without consultation, for example in situations involving a security issue;
- that all policies are published.

Comments on the above approach, or any aspect of the policy, are sought and can be sent by email to [policies@dnc.org.nz](mailto: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](mailto: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 409,809 to 413,753, a net increase of 3,944.

Figures as at 30 September 2010:

	<i>Active names as at 1 September</i>	<i>Active names as at end 30 September</i>	<i>New registrations September</i>	<i>Renewals September</i>	<i>Net Growth</i>
.ac	1,806	1,807	24	330	1
.co	354,734	358,060	8,016	63,270	3,326
.cri	14	14	0	1	0
.geek	1,000	1,011	23	214	11
.gen	1,289	1,296	25	275	7
.govt	1,059	1,062	3	1,012	3
.health	119	124	5	44	5
.iwi	75	75	0	17	0
.maori	609	613	18	115	4
.mil	26	26	0	3	0
.net	22,649	22,973	634	4,305	324
.org	23,412	23,668	582	4,329	256
.parliament	7	7	0	7	0
.school	3,010	3,017	24	1,260	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>409,809</b>	<b>413,753</b>	<b>9,354</b>	<b>75,182</b>	<b>3,944</b>

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

<b>Availability %</b>	<b>SLA</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>September</b>
<b>SRS</b>	99.90	100	100	100
<b>Whois</b>	99.90	100	100	100
<b>DNS</b>	100	100	100	100

### SRS Response times

Performance figures on the production environment for the previous three months:

<b>Avg Response time (in seconds)</b>	<b>SLA Target</b>	<b>Jul 10</b>	<b>Aug 10</b>	<b>Sept 10</b>
Domain Details Query	≤0.5	0.02	0.02	0.04

Domain Update	≤0.8	0.22	0.21	0.22
Domain Create	≤0.8	0.26	0.26	0.26
Get Message	≤0.5	0.04	0.03	0.04
Whois	≤0.5	0.09	0.06	0.06
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)	N/A	3,645	5845	5,846
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	N/A	851	846	727
UDAI Valid Query	≤0.5	0.11	0.10	0.10

### Server DNS % Availability

	July	August	September
<b>NS1</b>	100	100	100
<b>NS2</b>	100	99.8	100
<b>NS3</b>	100	99.8	100
<b>NS4</b>	100	99.8	100
<b>NS5</b>	100	100	100
<b>NS6</b>	100	100	100
<b>NS7</b>	100	100	100

### Unscheduled Outages during September 2010

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Unscheduled	3 seconds
WHOIS Unscheduled	
DNS	

### Scheduled Outages during September 2010

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Scheduled	6 hours
SRS Emergency Scheduled	
Whois Scheduled	6 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. Currently we are making changes to the SRS system to support DS records and testing the signing architecture. We expect to have the .nz zone signed by the end of the year, the second level zones will follow in a reasonable timeframe. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate in contacting us at [support@nzrs.net.nz](mailto:support@nzrs.net.nz)

## **EPP**

We have deployed a functioning version of the SRS EPP interface to test and production systems. If there are any registrars that would like to assist us with our testing or are interested in using the EPP interface in production then please contact Dave or Manu on [support@nzrs.net.nz](mailto:support@nzrs.net.nz)

## **RIK Redevelopment Project**

Over the next few months we are planning to start work on a project to review and 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.
- SRSCClient – 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.

## **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](mailto:support@nzrs.net.nz) or on 04 931 6970. For all other matters, contact Debbie Monahan at [info@dnc.org.nz](mailto: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](mailto:unsubscribe@dnc.org.nz)