

.nz NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 2003

:: DNC Office ::

Summary of the .nz market

Since the last newsletter, 1 registrar has been authorised and 4 have connected. This means there are now 44 parties authorised as registrars, with 39 of those connected to production and offering .nz registration and management services.

The number of active .nz domain names increased from 135,069 to 137,078, a net increase of 2,009. Registrations in the new .geek.nz second level domain increased from 492 to 593. One interesting feature of the September figures was the drop in the number of .maori.nz domain names from 428 to 308, a loss of 120 names. The .maori.nz domain was established last September so it appears as though a number of registrants have chosen not to renew their maori.nz names.

Policy Consultations – Reminder

InternetNZ through the Office of the DNC is currently consulting on the following issue:

Second Level Domains Policy Review – a first-principles review of the Second Level Domains (2LD) policy. Particular issues include the status of the existing 2LDs, the 2LD creation process, and whether direct registrations should be allowed at the second level. Submissions close on **Monday 10 November**: more information at <http://dnc.org.nz/story/30136-35-1.html>

Domain Names NZ

The Commerce Commission has issued Domain Names NZ with a formal warning following their mass mail out to domain name registrants. A copy of the Commerce Commission media release can be seen at http://www.comcom.govt.nz/publications/display_mr.cfm?mr_id=1252. The Domain Name Commissioner appreciates the assistance of, and the efforts taken by, the Commerce Commission in working through this matter.

Lame Delegations

Anecdotal comments have been heard in the past about how .nz has a large number of lame delegations. There was nothing specific but with the comments continuing to be made it was decided to undertake a check of all name servers of domain names delegated in the .nz DNS.

All authoritative name servers for all delegated domains were checked for those where the name server did not respond, responded non-authoritatively, or responded with no data. Where such responses were obtained, the delegation could be classed as "lame". If all listed name servers

were lame, the domain name could be called "fully lame", and those where some but not all of the listed name servers responded, the domain name could be categorised as "partially lame".

Another check was undertaken for 'misconfigurations' where, if for a given domain name, the list of authoritative name servers provided to the registry did not agree with the list on the authoritative name servers themselves, the domain name could be said to be misconfigured.

Two checks have so far been done, one in early September, and the other earlier this month. A summary of the results can be seen below:

	September 2003		October 2003	
Total Domains	135,541		137,967	
Fully lame	4,437	3.3%	4,592	3.3%
Partially lame	4,295	3.2%	5,422	3.9%
Total lame	8,732	6.4%	10,014	7.3%
Misconfigured and partially lame	1,762	1.3%	2,238	1.6%
Misconfigured but fully delegated	13,697	10.1%	13,464	9.8%
Total misconfigured	15,459	11.4%	15,702	11.4%

It is planned to repeat this exercise in December and to contact all those organisations with name servers that are hosting over 50 domain names, and where the percentage of lame delegations is over 10%.

If any organisation reading this is interested in the results of their name servers, you can email info@dnc.org.nz with details of your name servers and we will send you the detailed results of the October check of those name servers.

Registrar Advisory Group (RAG) election

Congratulations to Tim John from Domainz, who was the candidate elected in the RAG election which closed on 10 October.

DNC Prize Draw Winner Announced

Congratulations to the Te Awamutu Residential Trust, the registrant of residential.org.nz – the domain name drawn as the winner of the DNC Registrar Selection Process prize. The Te Awamutu Residential Trust has won a trip for two to Plantation Island, Fiji. The prize package includes flights, accommodation and meal deals. The prize draw was made at the Office of the Domain Name Commissioner under police supervision.

Statistics

A new selection of statistics is available on the DNC website. The material includes the statistics presented below, as well as a range of other tables. See <http://dnc.org.nz/statistics> for more information.

Figures as at 30 September 2003:

	<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>Change over month</i>
.ac	784	797	22	157	13
.co	114429	116159	3273	23817	1730
.cri	27	27	0	0	0
.geek	492	593	102	87	101
.gen	828	828	13	156	0
.govt	679	687	10	136	8
.iwi	45	45	0	16	0
.maori	428	308	12	137	-120
.mil	15	15	0	3	0
.net	7549	7689	272	1303	140
.org	7762	7875	202	1400	113
.school	2031	2055	30	630	24
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>135069</i>	<i>137078</i>	<i>3936</i>	<i>27842</i>	<i>2009</i>

Note: these figures do not include names in the 'pendingrelease' status. They incorporate all active domain names in the .nz register.

:: .nz REGISTRY SERVICES ::

On 14 October the SRS was one year old; it has been a year of change, milestones and growth for SRS.

Some of the highlights were, we started with one Registrar and 116,808 names, we now have 40 Registrars and 137,078 names. During the year NZRS has undertaken several reviews including reviews of Insource Outsource, Replication and DNS zone pushes. The .geek.nz 2ld was launched successfully during August.

Thank you to all the Registrars and their teams in passing another milestone.

Scheduled Outages and Updates

There were no scheduled or unscheduled outages during September. SRS availability was 100% for the month.

SRS Availability	July	August	September
%	99.93	99.84	100

September period response time performance figures on the production environment were:

Avg Response time (in seconds)	July	August	September
Domain Details Query	0.289	0.268	0.308
Domain Update	0.405	0.340	0.270
Domain Create	0.495	0.578	0.410
GetMessage performance	3.788	0.433	0.443
GetMessage (volume)	35254	38793	70617
Whois	0.204	0.200	0.215
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume)	1358205	1070777	1016290
Whois Server Queries (volume)	967517	645403	908019
UDAI Valid Query	0.182	0.172	0.172

WHOIS

A white-list of authorised IP numbers from registrars has been implemented. The rate limits of non-white-list IP numbers has been tightened and improved monitoring and reporting of usage has been implemented. Registrars are responsible for the traffic that originates from their sites.

Three IP addresses were blacklisted.

Insourcing Outsourcing Review

Prior to going live with SRS in October 2002 a decision was made to outsource the SRS and DNS hosting and support. Part of the decision to outsource was that a review Insourcing v Outsourcing be undertaken. This review has been undertaken and the conclusion of the review is that outsourcing is the preferred approach for NZRS for SRS Support, DNS support and hosting.

However, while outsourcing is preferred, there is a series of recommendations that will be undertaken and implemented during the next year.

Moving the primary SRS site to Albany

To move the primary SRS site to be in Albany several items are required to be in place prior to the final cutover. These included the installation of additional servers, network capability, ASN, and a dedicated DNS server for SRS.net.nz which would allow for switching of the primary SRS site between the two locations automatically or under a managed situation.

The additional line into Albany went operational on 19 August. A monitoring and stabilisation period of one month was scheduled but the outages on 23 and 28 August highlighted the requirement for the SRS to have a dedicated DNS server to allow switching between locations.

The implementation of the SRS DNS server occurred on 15 October. The SRS DNS server is in a transition phase until Albany is cutover to be the primary site. This phase is scheduled to last 3 weeks. The cutover to have Albany as the primary site is scheduled on 2 November.

Further improvements to the infrastructure will be undertaken as part of the NZRS Continuous Improvement Programme.

Replication Review

During the first 9 months of operation several of the outages that occurred were either caused by or had an impact on the replication aspects of SRS. Recognising this, a review of the replication has been undertaken and the recommendations from this review have been signed off and are now in the process of being developed and rolled out over the next 4 months.

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'.