

.nz NEWSLETTER – September 2009

:: Domain Name Commission ::

.nz Search Functionality

Currently it is only possible to search .nz domain names by a specific domain name using the WHOIS search. Comments are sought on a proposal to expand the .nz search functionality to include a search by registrant and also a wildcard-type search of a domain name. It is proposed to limit the nature and eligibility of the searches as outlined below.

Search by Registrant

- Nature of Search
 - i. This search would be restricted to a search by registrant name.
 - ii. A search would be for the name specified only but it would be possible for reasonable variants to be requested such as Robert and Bob or McLean and MacLean.
- Eligibility
 - i. Individuals would be able to search for a list of their own domain names with proof of identity.
 - ii. Organisations would be able to search for a list of their own domain names with requests accepted from Directors, Chief Executives or other persons that can demonstrate an authority to act.
 - iii. Agencies such as law firms, intellectual property advisors, accountants etc can search for a list on behalf of a client if they can show evidence of an authority to act on behalf of that person or organisation.
 - iv. Any person can search for a registrant where they intend to use the information as part of a Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) complaint, as per clause 5.1.3 of the [DRS policy](#) that allows the complainant to demonstrate that the respondent is engaged in a pattern of registrations.
- Cost
 - i. Free for people or organisations seeking a search for their own names, or where done by an agency on their behalf.
 - ii. A fee should be payable where the search is for use in a DRS complaint. This fee to be refunded if a corresponding, valid complaint is laid. The fee should be high enough to deter misuse of the process but low enough to not be an unfair barrier.

Wildcard-type Search of Domain Name

- Nature of Search
 - i. Variants of existing domain names for possible cyber or typo squatting; for example, wwwtrademe.co.nz or trdeme.co.nz.

- Eligibility
 - i. Registrants of an existing .nz domain name, or their authorised representative
 - ii. Search must relate to their domain name
 - iii. Different requests required for different domain names but multiple variants of one name possible
- Cost
 - i. Cost could be based on tiers – up to 20 variants searched for \$A, up to 40 for \$B and so on
 - ii. Eligibility is limited to only allow requests for variants of existing domain names. Therefore, fees should be based on cost recovery rather than any deterrent aspect. Fees would be evaluated once requirements, and therefore process and time, confirmed.

Comments are sought on the proposal to offer additional .nz search functions as outlined above. Any aspect of the nature, eligibility and cost is subject to consultation and input from the public. Based on submissions received, decisions will be made as to what, if any, additional search functions are added to .nz. If it is agreed that additional searches should be allowed, it will require a change to the current [WHOIS Policy](#). Changes will be drafted to that and will be the subject of a separate consultation.

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 <http://www.dnc.org.nz/additional-search>. Submissions should be received by midday on Tuesday 27th October.

Dispute Resolution Service news

A proportion of the complaints lodged through the Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) fail to demonstrate both rights in the name and unfair registration, or provide insufficient evidence to back up claims made in the complaint. The following information is provided to assist anyone asked to provide advice about the complaints process or who is thinking of lodging a dispute. The DRS is available for use in situations where there is a dispute over who should be the registrant of a domain name. We continue to encourage parties to provide the strongest possible case that they can in these disputes.

Both the Complainant and Respondent in a .nz domain name dispute should make their claim strong enough to demonstrate to the Expert that they should be the registrant for a particular domain name.

The .nz DRS policy, http://dnc.org.nz/content/dispute_resolution_service.pdf, specifies a non-exhaustive list of factors that Complainants can consider when presenting evidence of unfair registration in their Complaint. It also provides a similar list of factors that Respondents can use to rebut those claims of unfair registration.

No matter what grounds are used for the complaint or response, it's important that any statement made is backed up with evidence. When presenting the argument it should not be assumed that the claim is obvious. The Experts make their determinations based on the documents that are supplied. Whether your customer is making the complaint or defending their registration of the name, it's important that the Expert is provided with as much information as they need to make an informed decision.

Staff at DNC Ltd are happy to assist you with any questions you might have about the .nz DRS process. You can contact them by email at info@dnc.org.nz

Statistics

In August, the number of active .nz domain names increased from 366,031 to 370,084, a net increase of 4053.

Figures as at 31 August 2009:

	<i>Active names as at 1 August</i>	<i>Active names as at end 31 August</i>	<i>New registrations August</i>	<i>Renewals August</i>	<i>Net Growth</i>
.ac	1676	1691	30	367	15
.co	315703	319397	8099	61621	3694
.cri	15	15	0	3	0
.geek	887	905	37	251	18
.gen	1219	1236	32	0	0
.govt	996	1000	6	318	17
.health	4	4	0	909	4
.iwi	69	69	0	12	0
.maori	568	565	13	101	-3
.mil	21	22	1	5	1
.net	20774	20931	537	4086	157
.org	21192	21321	428	4163	129
.parliament	7	7	0	7	0
.school	2900	2921	31	1240	21
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>366031</i>	<i>370084</i>	<i>9214</i>	<i>73083</i>	<i>4053</i>

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 ::

Project Programme

The Postgres/Apache upgrade of the SRS systems will be completed in the September maintenance window.

Availability

Availability %	SLA	June	July	August
SRS	99.90	100	100	99.58
Whois	99.90	100	100	99.58
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	June	July	August
Domain Details Query	≤0.5	0.04	0.04	0.04
Domain Update	≤0.8	0.31	0.33	0.37
Domain Create	≤0.8	0.38	0.38	0.38
Get Message	≤0.5	0.04	0.05	0.04
Whois	≤0.5	0.09	0.09	0.1
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)	N/A	2349	2316	2661
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	N/A	413	419	367
UDAI Valid Query	≤0.5	0.12	0.12	0.14

Server DNS % Availability

	June	July	August
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 July 2009

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Unscheduled	3 hours 7 minutes and 56 seconds
WHOIS Unscheduled	3 hours 6 minutes and 23 seconds

Outage Type	Total Duration
DNS	0

Scheduled Outages during July 2009

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

SRS Releases / Planned Scheduled Outages

Sunday, 27th September 07:00 - 10:00 NZDT (3 hours) for SRS Release and Maintenance.

The SRS Primary site will be switched from Albany to Wellington during this maintenance window. This will allow us to carry out some planned hardware upgrades in Albany. The switch over of the SRS Primary site will be effected by changing CNAME records of srs1.srs.net.nz. No changes are required by registrars. The switch over should be transparent, it should have no impact on registrars. Registrars that are using an IP address for the above access should change to use the host names.

During the maintenance window we will be upgrading the SRS to Apache2. Again this should have no impact on registrars.

Next scheduled outage: Sunday, 18th October 07:00 – 09:00 NZDT (2 hours) SRS Release and Maintenance.

For more information check <http://www.nzrs.net.nz/notices/updates.shtml>

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. 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.