

.nz NEWSLETTER – September 2012

DNSSEC

The deployment of DNSSEC across the .nz unmoderated second level domains was completed during August, with the signing of co.nz. The deployment schedule in <http://nzrs.net.nz/dns/dnssec> has been updated to include the moderated second level domains. The deployment will be completed by mid September.

There are now 26 signed domains under .nz that can be fully validated.

A DNSSEC Friendly Criteria has been developed to identify Registrars that meet a higher level of service relative to offering DNSSEC services in the .nz space. Information about this can be found here: <http://dnc.org.nz/dnssec>

Two sets of FAQs have been prepared to provide information tailored to Registrants and Registrars respectively. Registrant information is available at <http://dnc.org.nz/story/dns-security-faq> and more technical information specifically for registrars is at <http://dnc.org.nz/story/dnssec-registrars-faq>

:: Domain Name Commission ::

New second level domain - .kiwi.nz

.kiwi.nz launch pushes domain names past half-million mark

InternetNZ (Internet New Zealand Inc) subsidiary the Domain Name Commission has today launched a new second level domain – .kiwi.nz – a move that has pushed the total number of .nz registrations past 500,000.

Domain Name Commissioner Debbie Monahan expresses delight at the half-million .nz registrations and .kiwi.nz launch, describing today as a landmark day for the New Zealand Internet.

The 500,000 milestone comes nearly ten years after InternetNZ introduced a competitive market for .nz domain name registrations. There are now over 80 organisations providing .nz registration services, and Monahan credits their role and commitment in spurring the tremendous growth in .nz names.

“Ultimately, this is the result of the willingness of many thousands of people who have chosen .nz names to represent themselves online, and the hard work that .nz registrars have done in promoting the .nz domain name space.”

Over the past ten years the .nz domain name space has experienced average yearly growth of 38,280, with the upward trajectory showing no signs of slowing. Monahan says this is partly because people identify strongly with the .nz domain. She points to a recent report from Europe which found that most businesses continue to put their faith in the local country's domain, favouring these over generic names such as .com.

“New Zealanders have a choice when it comes to registering domain names, and we acknowledge and thank the half-million holders of .nz names for their support,” she says.

Monahan expects today’s introduction of the .kiwi.nz second-level will give further impetus to the .nz domain name space. What better way to demonstrate that New Zealand is your home than to register a new .kiwi.nz domain name,” she says.

Registrations for .kiwi.nz opened at 10am and in the first fifteen minutes over 1000 names were registered. Monahan thanks InternetNZ subsidiary NZRS for its firm stewardship of the .nz registry during today’s launch, saying it coped admirably with the influx of .kiwi.nz registrations.

DNCL Second Level Consultation and Submissions

The Domain Name Commission is proposing to extend the .nz domain name space by allowing anybody to register domain names at the ‘second level’. This has the potential to significantly alter New Zealand’s domain name space so it’s important we get your views.

A consultation on this proposal has recently closed. Submissions received during the consultation period are published at http://dnc.org.nz/second_level_proposal_c1

Public meetings were held in Dunedin, Christchurch, Auckland and Wellington. In addition an online meeting was held, the video of this is available at www.R2.co.nz/20120905

Key features of the .nz proposals include:

- Registration of .nz domain names could be at the second or third levels on an ongoing basis.
- Existing second level domains (such as .co.nz) will remain and continue to be supported.
- There will be no impact on any currently registered .nz domain names.
- Registrations at the second level will be on a “first come, first served” basis, except during the Sunrise Period and where there are currently multiple registrations of the same name in different second level domains.
- The Sunrise Period will be a designated window, where existing .nz domain name holders (registrants) can register their domain name/s at the second level if they are the only one that has that name at the third level.
- If two or more domain name holders have the same name at the third level, no-one will be able to register that name at the second level unless they obtain the consent of the other third level name holders. Alternatively, if all agree, it could become a second level domain instead.
- A temporary amendment to the Dispute Resolution Service Policy to cover sub-domains of generic domain names registered at the second level.
- The above list is a very brief overview of the proposals.

The above list is a very brief overview of the proposals. The Consultation Paper at http://dnc.org.nz/content/Second_Level_Consultation_Paper.pdf and http://dnc.org.nz/content/Second_Level_Consultation_Paper.html provides more detail about what is proposed. It also includes marked up versions of the main policies affected so that people can get an indication of how it may be implemented.

Statistics

In August, the number of active .nz domain names increased from 494,185 to 498,077, a net increase of 3,892.

Figures as at 31 August 2012:

	1 August 12	31 August 12	New registrations August	Renewals August	Net Growth
.ac	1,967	1,947	54	335	-20
.co	428,773	432,398	10,234	66,315	3,625
.cri	14	14	0	2	0
.geek	1,215	1,187	30	293	-28
.gen	1,440	1,411	30	310	-29
.govt	1,111	1,109	1	1,077	-2
.health	149	149	0	140	0
.iwi	77	76	3	17	-1
.maori	1,138	1,112	30	125	-26
.mil	34	35	1	12	1
.net	27,898	28,197	775	4,004	299
.org	27,050	27,185	551	3,957	135
.parliament	9	9	0	9	0
.school	3,310	3,248	14	1,232	-62
TOTAL	494,185	498,077	11,723	77,828	3,892

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 ::

SRS

The change to the production SRS and EPP SSL host certificates has been postponed and will now occur during the 5.27 release cycle on Sunday 28th October 2012 due to a bug discovered in the version of OpenSSL shipped with the NZRS RIK CPAN libs where the CApath is not processed correctly.

This bug prevented RIK version 5.24 from correctly validating certificates signed with the new NZRS CA as intended.

RIK version 5.26 has now been published on the NZRS website (<http://nzrs.net.nz/srs/rik>) which resolves this issue, and we have provided additional steps below to assist registrars in preparing for the certificate changeover on Sunday 28th October 2012.

Availability

Availability %	SLA	Jun 12	Jul 12	Aug 12
SRS	99.90	100	99.98	100
Whois	99.90	100	99.99	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	Jun 12	Jul 12	Aug 12
Domain Details Query	≤0.5	0.02	0.01	0.01
Domain Update	≤0.8	0.18	0.19	0.20
Domain Create	≤0.8	0.22	0.24	0.25
Get Message	≤0.5	0.05	0.05	0.03
Whois	≤0.5	0.07	0.07	0.07
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)	N/A	5993	6265	6206
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	N/A	1016	1051	1123
UDAI Valid Query	≤0.5	0.09	0.10	0.10

Server DNS % Availability

	Jun 12	Jul 12	Aug 12
NS1	99.92	99.80	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 August 2012

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Unscheduled	68 seconds
WHOIS Unscheduled	59 seconds
DNS	0

Scheduled Outages during August 2012

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Scheduled	4.5 hours
SRS Emergency Scheduled	0
Whois Scheduled	4 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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