

.geek.nz Submission

From: Dean Pemberton
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I would like to start by thanking InternetNZ and the Domain Name Commissioner for their help and understanding so far in this process.

It would have been very easy for both parties to take this submission less than seriously. Both of them have handled this matter strictly according to the established process and I would like to thank them for that.

It is hard to know how to follow up a landslide vote with new information. With this in mind my submission will fall back on the qualifying criteria for a new 2ld, and once again show without doubt that .geek.nz is worthy of creation.

The requirements are.

1. There is a clear common interest shared by the entities that would reside within the domain - i.e. there exists a community of interest.
2. Communities of interest do not overlap, so far as is practicable.
3. The domain name clearly indicates or describes the nature of the community of interest.
4. The community of interest is certain of continued existence. These requirements are addressed in the following sections.

Community of Interest:

I can think of no greater proof of 'Community of Interest' than the fact that over 900 people voted in favour of the creation of the .geek.nz domain. This clearly shows that there is a large amount of support for this proposal, and demonstrates the community that it will serve. If further clarification is needed then the list of people on the <http://geek.nznog.org/> page gives a better indication of the occupations of community members.

No Overlap:

On more than one occasion, people have tried to make a point that .geek.nz and .gen.nz overlap. This is just not the case, and once again the vote proves this.

The .gen.nz domain is rather lifeless. It does not give the sense of community or belonging that .geek.nz would bring. Members of the geek community feel no more a part of .gen.nz than members of the Maori community did when they proposed .maori.nz.

The strong support shown in the straw poll clearly shows that a .geek.nz domain does not suffer from this lack of enthusiasm. It is clear that the members of the geek community are behind the .geek.nz name.

Ewen McNeill puts forward some excellent points in his submission regarding .gen.nz's place as a 'misc' domain rather than one which should be considered as overlapping other more specific domains.

The .gen.nz domain does not hold any attraction to the geek community, therefore there will be no overlap. Geeks will want to register in .geek.nz.

Clearly Described:

At the start of this process some people asked "How do you plan to describe who is and who is not a 'geek'?"

I have always maintained that it is not up to me, nor anyone else, to grant access into some sort of club. If someone decides that they identify with the geek community, then they are automatically part of it.

Even with that loose idea of membership, over 900 people still came and made it clear that they identified with it.

The word 'geek' clearly identifies them, and .geek.nz is an extension of that. It is once again, allowing a group of people to claim the right to name themselves.

Continued Existence:

I think that of all the requirements, this one was never contested.

It is a simple piece of reasoning that if geek-dom in NZ were to ever become extinct, that worrying about having to delete the .geek.nz domain name would be the least of the worries.

Geeks in NZ have always played important roles in the development of the Internet.

To worry about Geeks dying out in NZ while not also worrying about the Internet in NZ crumbling as a whole does not make sense.

So there you have it. There is a clear community of interest. The straw poll showed that there is a great interest in the creation of the domain. I have just reiterated again how the domain fulfils the requirements. I do not feel there is much more I need to add.

Dean Pemberton