.nz NEWSLETTER – August 2008

:: DNC ::

Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) – Mediators and Experts

The Domain Name Commission operates a dispute resolution service (DRS) for .nz domain names. The service provides an alternative to the Courts in situations where two parties are in dispute over who the registrant of a .nz domain name should be. The DRS operates in a three-tiered manner, with the first tier being informal mediation, the second tier being expert adjudication and the third being an appeal process.

Mediators

The DRS uses a panel of nine mediators. Once appointed, a mediator is assigned to a dispute on a "first cab off the rank" basis as disputes are lodged with the service.

Mediators will then attempt to broker a solution to domain name disputes, using facilitation and negotiation skills to find common ground between complainants and respondents. The mediation period of the dispute process is of short duration and mediation will mainly be conducted by telephone.

If the dispute is not able to be resolved by mediation, an expert may be assigned to the case to adjudicate.

Applications for three Mediator positions are currently being sought - please note that existing Mediators whose terms are up will be invited to reapply. The following information for applicants is available:

- A Detailed Information Paper providing background to the position;

- The Advertisement seeking candidates for the mediator positions;

- A Role Description for the mediator positions;

- An Agreement that mediators will be required to sign; and

- The Policy for the DRS.

Applications for these positions close at 5pm on Thursday 25 September 2008. Applications, consisting of a curriculum vitae and covering letter, should be emailed to mediators@dnc.org.nz

Experts

The DRS uses a panel of eight Experts to conduct determinations. Once appointed, an Expert is assigned to a dispute on a "first cab off the rank" basis as disputes are lodged with the service.

Experts adjudicate between complainants and respondents to determine the rightful holder of the name, giving consideration to the submissions made in the written complaint, response and reply, and additional written materials submitted as annexes. The Expert's decision is delivered as a written report, and is published on the DNC website. The decision is able to be appealed, in which case a panel of three Experts will consider the appeal case.

Applications for three Expert positions are currently being sought - please note that existing Experts whose terms are up will be invited to reapply. The following information for applicants is available:

- A Detailed Information Paper providing background to the position;

- The Advertisement seeking candidates for the Expert positions;

- A Role Description for the Expert positions;

- An Agreement that Experts will be required to sign; and

- The Policy for the DRS.

Applications for these positions close at 5pm on Thursday 25 September 2008. Applications, consisting of a curriculum vitae and covering letter, should be emailed to experts@dnc.org.nz.

DNCL Board Meeting - Minutes

The DNCL board meeting was held on Wednesday 15 August. The minutes of this meeting are now available. They can be viewed in either .html or .pdf format.

Statistics

In July, the number of active .nz domain names increased from 336,305 to 339,612, a net increase of 3,307.

Figures as at 31 July 2008:

	Active names as at 1 July	Active names as at end 31 July	New registrations July	Renewals July	Net Growth
.ac	1582	1605	32	365	23
.co	288994	292048	6938	60879	3054
.cri	16	16	0	3	0
.geek	853	861	23	235	8
.gen	1178	1200	26	321	22
.govt	958	961	3	860	3
.iwi	60	63	3	13	3
.maori	507	516	13	85	9
.mil	18	18	0	10	0
.net	19894	19932	469	3569	38
.org	19480	19612	421	3721	132
.parliament	5	5	0	5	0
.school	2760	2775	28	1195	15
TOTAL	336305	339612	7956	71261	3307

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
SRS production system availability:

	SLA	May	June	July
SRS Availability %	99.90	100	100	99.99
Whois	99.90	100	100	100
DNS	100	100	100	100

Response time performance figures on the production environment for the previous three months were:

Avg Response time (in seconds)	SLA Target	May	June	July
Domain Details Query	≤1.5	0.03	0.04	0.03
Domain Update	≤0.8	0.41	0.49	0.46
Domain Create	≤0.8	0.48	0.57	0.51
GetMessage performance	≤0.8	0.04	0.05	0.04
Whois	≤0.8	0.11	0.14	0.12
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)	N/A	3,315	4,165	3,074
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	N/A	441	887	531
UDAI Valid Query	≤0.8	0.15	0.19	0.17

DNS
Server   % Availability

	May 08	June 08	July 08
NS1	100	100	100
NS2	100	100	100
NS3	100	100	100
NS4	100	100	99.99
NS5	100	100	100
NS6	100	100	100
NS7	100	100	100

Unscheduled Outages

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Unscheduled	297 seconds
WHOIS Unscheduled	41 seconds
DNS	0

Scheduled Outages

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Scheduled	2 hours
Whois Scheduled	2 hours
DNS	0
Scheduled Maintenance Window	Sunday 31st August 07:00 - 09:00 NZS

DNS

The DNS project which will make improvements to the .nz DNS infrastructure is well underway. The key phases that will be occurring in the next 6 months include:

- The development of a plug and play Anycast DNS server has now been completed .
- NZRS is working with Waikato University's Wand Project on the selection of monitoring tools
- The selection of the hosting sites that will be used to replace the current Grace and Favour arrangements is well underway and expected to be completed during September.

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'. If you ever want to stop receiving our newsletter, please send an email with 'Unsubscribe' in the subject line to unsubscribe@dnc.org.nz .