

.nz NEWSLETTER – AUGUST 2006

:: DNC OFFICE ::

In July the number of active .nz domain names increased from 235,196 to 239,460, a net increase of 4,264. There were 7,056 domain name creates in July.

NZ Domain Registration Ltd

You will now probably be aware of the mass mail outs sent by 'NZ Domain Registration Ltd'.

This group has been sending out letters that look like an invoice offering alternative registrations of existing .nz registrations. An mp3 player is offered as an incentive for prompt payment against the letter. We have published a warning about this situation on our site which can be viewed at <http://dnc.org.nz/story/30259-29-1.html> . We have been working closely with the Commerce Commission on this issue to protect registrants, as well as raising awareness through media outlets

InternetNZ, through the Office of the Domain Name Commissioner (DNC), has obtained an interim injunction against NZ Domain Registration Limited (NZDRL). The injunction states that NZ Domain Registration Ltd is to be restrained from:

- removing from the jurisdiction or otherwise disposing of any of their assets, including and in particular any moneys forming an account in the name of the defendants held with any Bank or elsewhere;
- removing from the jurisdiction cheques or monies posted to the defendant at PO Box 9111 Newmarket, Auckland;
- soliciting domain name registrations by offering registrants of .nz domain names further registration of similar domain names or otherwise;
- purporting, directly or indirectly, to be a .nz domain name registrar, or a reseller of an authorised .nz domain name registrar; or
- trading in domain names under the name or style "NZ Domain Registrations".

The court order can be viewed at http://dnc.org.nz/content/court_order.pdf

The DNC is monitoring the situation and will investigate any possible breaches of .nz policy. If people have concerns about the actions of NZ Domain Registration Ltd please email info@dnc.org.nz.

If you think you may have already made a payment against one of these letters please let us know.

Dispute Resolution Service Decisions

The InternetNZ Dispute Resolution Service has now been in place for two months and a number of complaints have been lodged. Four cases have moved through the process to go before an Expert for decision, with one having been decided at the publication of this newsletter. This determination has been posted online at: www.dnc.org.nz/drs-decisions

Policy Review – Registering, Managing and Cancelling

InternetNZ, through the Office of the Domain Name Commissioner, is reviewing the existing Registering, Managing and Cancelling Domain Names Policy. The current policy can be seen at http://dnc.org.nz/content/registering_managing_cancelling.pdf

The Registering, Managing and Cancelling Domain Names (RMC) Policy sets out the general rules regarding the .nz domain name space including registration requirements, the information required to be on the .nz register and the general business processes that .nz operates.

Currently the policy defines such things as:

- Five day registration and renewal grace periods
- A maximum registration term of 120 months
- 90 day pending release period
- The requirement for registrars to send information to the registrant upon registration, including the UDAI (Unique Domain Authentication ID)
- Restrictions on when a domain name can be cancelled
- Locking of .nz domain names

Comment is being sought on the current RMC policy and what changes, if any, people think could be beneficial at this time.

Any comments should be received by midday on Friday 1 September. Submissions can be sent to policies@dnc.org.nz or by fax to +64 4 4952115 or by mail to P O Box 11881, Wellington, New Zealand.

All submissions will be published on the DNC website as they are received.

Statistics

Figures as at 31 July 2006:

	<i>Active names as at 1 July</i>	<i>Active names as at end 31 July</i>	<i>New registrations July</i>	<i>Renewals July</i>	<i>Net Growth</i>
.ac	1201	1202	16	304	1
.co	200923	204520	6006	48043	3597
.cri	18	18	0	3	0
.geek	869	872	20	184	3
.gen	1018	1027	17	284	9
.govt	852	853	3	631	1
.iwi	57	56	0	13	-1
.maori	421	436	19	76	15
.mil	21	21	0	10	0
.net	13633	13953	494	3072	320
.org	13651	13963	461	3121	312
.parliament	1	1	0	1	0
.school	2531	2538	20	1089	7
TOTAL	235196	239460	7056	56831	4264

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 ::

The Technical and Business Systems Review project has progressed during July with the interviews of key stakeholders and Registrars being completed. The next stage of the project, is to collate those interviews and meetings into the Requirements Definition Document.

The rollout of the replacement production servers is continuing with the .

SRS Availability

System availability for July was 99.89%, against the SLA standard of 99.90%

The SRS and Whois availability targets were missed in July due to the actions of one registrar. The vast majority of outage time was caused by a series of incidents between the 2nd and the 5th July. The registrar undertook an excessive number of requests that in effect caused a denial of service on the SRS. The registrar has been advised that should the behaviour reoccur that their access to the SRS will be denied. In addition changes have been made to the SRS to mitigate such behaviour. Approximately 41.5 minutes (83%) of the outages in the month were directly attributable to the registrar's actions between the 2nd and the 5th July.

In future where the system is made unavailable as the result of a Registrars action, the Registrar will be sanctioned, and also publicly named in this report.

SRS Availability	SLA	May	June	July
%	99.90	99.98	99.98	99.89

SRS Response Times

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

Avg Response time (in seconds)	SLA Target (From 1 May 2006)	May	June	July
Domain Details Query	≤1.5	0.05	0.06	0.05
Domain Update	≤0.8	0.43	0.46	0.46
Domain Create	≤0.8	0.32	0.51	0.57
GetMessage performance	≤0.8	0.04	0.04	0.05
Whois	≤0.8	0.15	0.18	0.20
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)		1,870	1,862	1,902
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)		239	243	212
UDAI Valid Query	≤0.8	0.20	0.21	0.20

DNS Availability

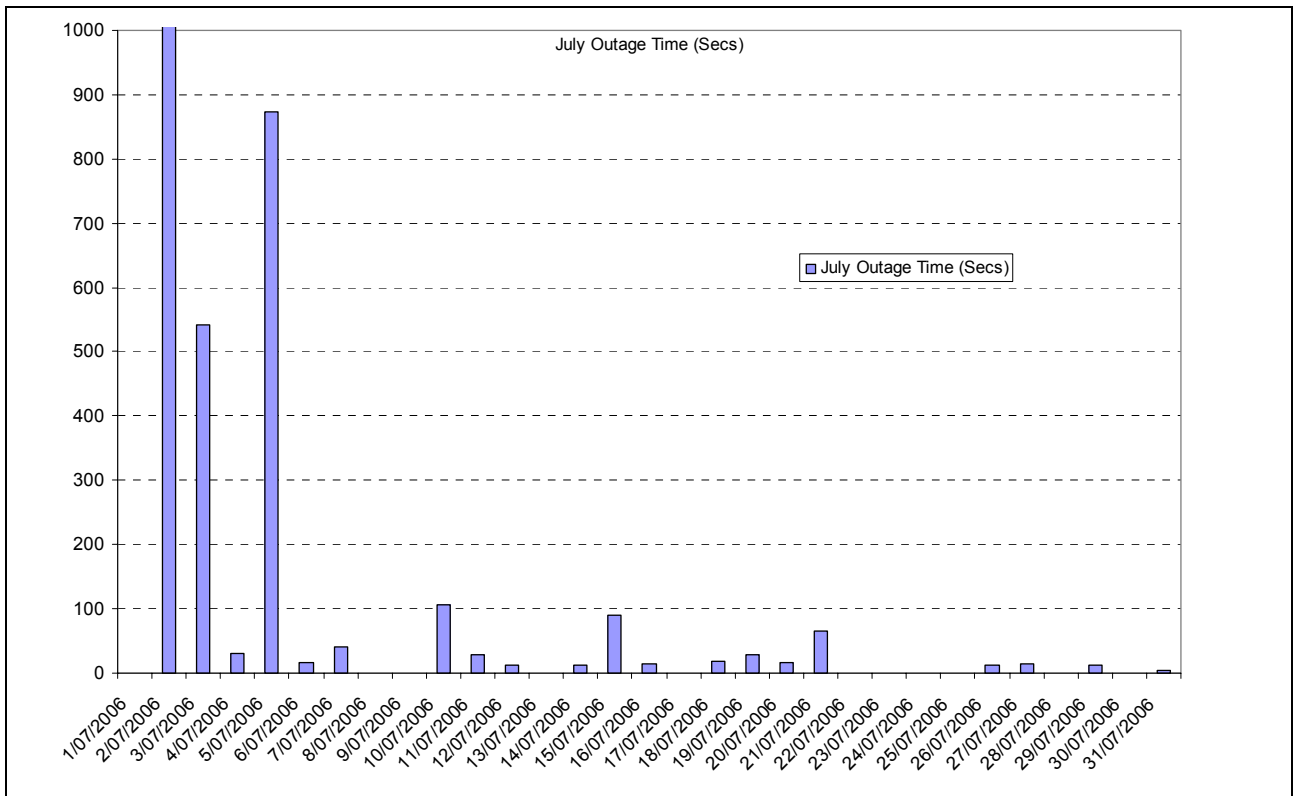
DNS Availability	SLA	May	June	July
%	100	100	100	100

Whois Availability

Whois Availability	SLA	May	June	July
%	99.90%	99.98	99.98	99.89

Unscheduled Outages

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Unscheduled	2997 seconds (49 minutes and 57 seconds)
WHOIS Unscheduled	2888 seconds (48 minutes and 8 seconds)
SRS Scheduled	2 hours



Scheduled Outages and Updates

The July Maintenance Window was utilised and an SRS update release was installed.

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

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