

## **.NZ NEWSLETTER - February 2003**

There were 22 organisations that had been authorised as .nz registrars as at the end of January 2003. Of those, ten had connected to the SRS and were undertaking their own registration and management transactions. The full list of authorised registrars can be found at <http://www.dnc.org.nz/story/30056-28-1.html>. A JavaScript function has been added to randomise the list each time the page is viewed.

Given the number of registrars connected, there is now a choice of registrars for registrants. Notice has previously been given of the DNC's intention to notify all registrants of domains that are currently billed directly by Domainz. Contact with registrants will be via an email to the Admin Contract, as recorded on the SRS. Emails will be sent out, about a week before the end of the month, to all those registrants whose domains are due for renewal the following month. This will allow for transfers to take place prior to the renewal date.

The first emails out to registrants will be sent around 24 March 2003. All authorised registrars who are connected to the SRS as at 20 March 2003 will be able to select to be on the list, and nominate to the DNC the URL they would like registrants directed to on their site. Registrars will have an opportunity to comment on a draft of the email that will be sent to registrants, and also on supporting documentation that will be available on the DNC site.

Selection of a registrar will be done by registrants utilising an automated web page through the DNC site. More detail on this will be provided when the draft documents are forwarded to registrars for comment. Organisations operating through Domainz, and who are not authorised registrars, need to contact Domainz if they wish to view a copy of the draft email.

From the start of April, emails will also start being sent out to registrants whose domains were renewed in the period between October 2002 and March 2003. A timetable will be developed for this and will be publicised.

Registrars will be able to be put on the list as they connect to the SRS. They will also be able to request to be taken off the list if that is their choice.

### **UDAI**

Registrars are reminded that they are required to release a UDAI upon request. This applies even if the registrant still owes them money. The DNC will respond quickly to any situation where a registrant is prevented from transferring due to the registrar not supplying the UDAI. If necessary, NZRS will be directed to undertake the transfer without the UDAI.

### **NZOC Teleconference Meeting**

The .nz Oversight Committee held a meeting via teleconference on 5 February. The minutes can be read at [http://www.dnc.org.nz/content/minutes\\_teleconference\\_050203.pdf](http://www.dnc.org.nz/content/minutes_teleconference_050203.pdf).

Key decisions at the meeting included:

- The working group for the Second Level Domains policy review will be Steven Heath, Mark Harris, Karaitiana Taiuru, Roger Hicks (NZOC Representative) and Debbie Monahan (Chair). The first meeting of the Working Group is planned to take place on 6 March.
- The Registrar Advisory Group (RAG) will consist of six registrar representatives, selected by way of a preferential vote by authorised registrars. Domainz will be one of the representatives whilst they are the Stabilising Registrar. More details on the RAG can be found in the [minutes](#). Details will be finalised during February/March with the group likely to be selected and hold an initial meeting at the start of the new financial year in April.
- A logo for use by authorised registrars has been designed and will shortly be circulated to authorised registrars. It is expected that registrars will place this on their sites to identify them as authorised registrars, and will include a link to the DNC site from that.
- It was agreed that the DNC should become a 'closed' registrar for those domains associated with the SRS. This is to prevent any unexpected issues such as what occurred when the domain srs.net.nz was accidentally amended to be 'delegate=no' meaning it was not pushed to the zone file. More detail on that is included later in this newsletter.

## **DNC as Registrar**

On 27 January, an error during a batch transaction meant that the domain srs.net.nz was accidentally switched to 'delegate=no'. This meant that the domain was not included in the 11am zone push. Any registrars who had refreshed their servers found themselves unable to access the SRS.

The issue was resolved by changing the delegation and undertaking an emergency zone push to activate the domain. This caused inconvenience to some people and showed up a potential risk.

As a way to mitigate the risk, it was agreed that the DNC should become a 'closed' registrar. This would mean that names associated with the operation of the SRS, plus derivations of those names, would be held by the DNC registrar.

Restrictions will be put on the DNC registrar, including a block on being able to register new domains. Any transactions by the DNC registrar would need the prior approval of the NZOC. Rules as to how the DNC registrar will operate will be specified and publicised. Please note that the DNC will be invoiced, and make payment to NZRS, in the same manner as all other registrars.

The issue arose as a result of a case-sensitive field producing an error. The default on the system was to select 'delegate=no'. It is recommended that registrars give thought to making their default setting 'delegate=yes' so that issues like this don't arise.

## Statistics

Figures as at 31 January 2003:

Note: these figures do not include names in the 'pendingrelease' status.

	<i>Active names as at 1 January</i>	<i>Active names as at end 31 January</i>	<i>New registrations January</i>	<i>Renewals January</i>	<i>Change over month</i>
.ac	654	666	26	79	12
.co	102251	102859	2131	10545	608
.cri	29	29	0	4	0
.gen	752	758	9	124	6
.govt	642	639	1	75	-3
.iwi	34	34	0	4	0
.maori	365	368	4	3	3
.mil	16	16	0	0	-0
.net	7453	7552	219	642	99
.org	6771	6859	154	687	88
.school	1866	1888	29	177	22
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>120833</i>	<i>121668</i>	<i>2573</i>	<i>12340</i>	<i>835</i>

## NZ REGISTRY SERVICES

The New Year and traditional summer holiday season had an anticipated effect on the number of transactions during January, with the first three weeks proving to be slow and the fourth week things picking up.

Two Registrars went on line during January giving a new total of 11 registrars online in production.

Domainz changed the status of the srs.net.nz to delegate = no. This change was effected in the 11am Zone push and immediately affected Registrars who were trying to connect to the SRS. Once identified the error was corrected by the registry and a special zone push done. The total outage to at least one registrar was an hour. This has lead directly to the DNC being set up as a closed Registrar, with the task of maintaining the critical names such as the srs.net.nz.

In late December Domainz changed the renewal default period from 12 months to one month; this had had a major effect on the number of renewal domain months. (a net drop of 30,000 domain months). In addition to this Domainz have not renewed domains for 12 months immediately after they have received the money, the DNC has taken this issue up with Domainz. There will be a catch up in February, this has skewed the renewal figures for January and will have an inflated effect in February's figures.

## Connections

The Receipt of applications has slowed, there is one application awaiting completion of all paperwork to be received by the Registry. As at 31 January there were 22 Registrars with access to the test system and 10 Authorised Registrars (plus Domainz) connected to the production system.

## Scheduled Outages and Updates

There was a scheduled outage of the production SRS on 22 January 2003 20:00 — 20:30 to allow for the next production release to put into production. The execution of the upgrade went smoothly and successfully. Although a minor modification was required to be backed out.

Prior to the upgrade a new RIK was published and all Registrars advised about the new RIK including a summary of the changes and highlights included in the RIK.

## SRS Availability

The SRS production system availability

	October	November	December	January
%	100	100	99.92	99.96

January period response time performance figures on the production environment were:

Avg Response time (in seconds)	December 2002	January 2003
Domain Details Query	0.930	0.397
Domain Update	0.190	0.218
Domain Create	0.244	0.238
GetMessage performance	0.505	0.630
GetMessage (volume)	21200	26389
Whois	0.171	0.172
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume)	489705	629940
Whois Server Queries (volume)	244233	353755

## Unscheduled Outages

There were two unscheduled outage to the production environment during January.

### Production SRS Outage Report

There was an outage to the system on 17 January at 13:05 — 13:21

*Impact* - high

*Cause* - master process for front end replication exiting

*Action required* - A series of minor changes have been implemented.

### Production SRS Outage Report

There was an outage to the system on 27 January at 11:20 — 12:20

*Impact* - medium/high

*Cause* - Domainz changed the status of srs.net.nz to delegate=no

*Action required* - A special zone push was done. The DNC has been set up as a Registrar and srs.net.nz has been moved to the DNC Registrar.

Note this outage is not included in the unscheduled outage statistics.

There were no unscheduled outages to the Test System.

## **Other News**

### *Zone Pushes*

The current number of DNS Zone Pushes being executed is 2 per day (11am and 7pm). NZRS are currently reviewing this and are proposing that the number is increased to a maximum of 6 per 24 hour period with the following timetable 3am, 7 am, 11am, 3pm, 7pm, and 11pm. As apart of the review NZRS are seeking feedback from registrars, stakeholders and interested parties:

- If there are any reasons that should be considered that would stop this from occurring.
- If there is a lead time to update your systems to cater with such a change, and what that lead might be.
- If there is a timetable that is preferred over that proposed.

When doing the review NZRS shall be taking into account the above when deciding the Zone Push timetable and roll out schedule.

The timetable that NZRS will be working to is:

28 February - Receipt of comments

7 March - Announcement of Zone push timetable and implementation schedule

Please email comments to [nick.griffin@nzrs.net.nz](mailto:nick.griffin@nzrs.net.nz).

### *Self Serving Name Servers*

Please note that domain names with self serving servers in uppercase are not included in the zone push. Please ensure that self serving name servers are input into SRS in lowercase. An enhancement is underway to allow self serving name servers in uppercase.

### *Minimum Billing*

The minimum billing by the registry is \$48+GST. This should be remembered by registrars particularly when going into production (if at the end of the month)

### *Delegate = y*

Some registrars have set the default for Delegate = n. There is not an SRS rule on this however the names will not be placed in zone pushes until this is set to y. It is recommended that Registrars check their defaults.

### *Registered Date and Billing Date*

A large number of Domain names that came across from DRS as apart of the migration have different Registered and Billing dates/times. This is a historic issue.

Currently in SRS for renewals the term is added to the current billing date to give the next billing date (or the previous valid day if this is not a valid date). A consequence of this renewal process is that the Registered date can differ from the Billing date. e.g. 31 Jan BilledUntil , renewed 1 month to 28 February, renewed 1 month to 28 March.

An enhancement to SRS is underway to ensure that the new BilledUntil date will fall on the monthly anniversary of the SRS registration date (or the previous valid day if this is not a valid date).

#### *Valid details*

There are several instances that details being input to SRS are incorrect. Some examples are:

- addresses being within NZ but having a foreign country code
- AreaCode for Phone and Fax not being valid to the country.

There is a requirement on Registrars for these details to be correct, can registrars review the addresses and the manner in which the country and area codes are input, with the possible use of default options.

#### **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](mailto:support@nzrs.net.nz). For all other matters, contact Debbie Monahan at [dnc@dnc.org.nz](mailto:dnc@dnc.org.nz)

#### **Please note**

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