

# .geek.nz Submission

**From:** Ewen McNeill  
**Received:** 27 April 2003

I am in support of the creation of the geek.nz second level domain, as proposed by Dean Pemberton on 28 August 2002, and documented at <http://www.dnc.org.nz/story/30058-30-1.html>

I believe that the proposal has demonstrated a clear community of interest in the geek.nz second level domain, and that a significant number of people will register names under the second level domain (based on the number of people who signed up at <http://geek.nznog.org/>). Certainly I believe there will be considerably more names than the existing cri.nz and perhaps recent second level domains such as maori.nz. The community of interest is highly technical and more likely to want several domains of their own than the average member of the public.

Some have suggested that gen.nz could be used as a substitute. However the availability of a "misc" category such as gen.nz isn't a particularly strong argument against adding a more suitable, clearly defined category. I say this as a holder of a gen.nz domain (mcneill.gen.nz), which I use essentially for the same purpose as I would use a geek.nz domain; I chose to get a gen.nz domain at the time I registered it simply because there was nothing more suitable available.

Using a "misc" category like "gen.nz" leads to:

- more name space conflicts (eg, common names can only belong to one community if they are to all fit in "gen.nz", whereas with geek.nz there would be a "[www.geek.nz](http://www.geek.nz)" central page or similar);
- the identification of the "geek" contingent of the gen.nz domain names is harder than with a separate second level domain;
- not all holders of domains under gen.nz will be interested in some of the more "geeky" experimental aspects of the DNS which were mentioned in the proposal; whereas "geeks" with names under geek.nz are more likely to be interested in participating, particularly if these factors are part of the charter of the second level domain when it is created. (I certainly would like to see both DNSSEC deployed and also perhaps IPv6 records deployed, at least in a test capacity, and geek.nz would make a useful testbed.)

With the exception of the "misc" gen.nz category I believe that the geek.nz community of interest does not overlap with other second level domains. (And

"gen.nz" being a "misc" category will inherently overlap with any category someone might suggest, as discussed above.)

It seems to me that "geek.nz" clearly captures the nature of the community of interest; over the past 3-4 years "geek" has been claimed as the self-identified name of people who are interested in detailed technical things, sometimes to the exclusion of other things. At least within the geek community the term is now worn with pride, so I do not expect the choice of name to put anyone off.

Finally some people have suggested that the proposal is a joke, or a "flash in the pan" and will not see continued interest. While it may originally have been raised in discussion as a joke, it has become a "ha ha, only serious" idea. (For a definition see generally:

[http://www.clueless.com/jargon3.0.0/ha\\_ha\\_only\\_serious.html](http://www.clueless.com/jargon3.0.0/ha_ha_only_serious.html))

In other words on further discussion many people have realised that it is a good idea, and that they are interested in the things that could be done with a geek.nz second level domain as discussed in the proposal. The signup list at <http://geek.nznog.org/team.html> indicates a significant number of people who have taken the time to register their interest.

I believe that these highly technical people, these geeks, have been with the Internet from its early days in New Zealand (the signup list mentioned above reads rather like a "who's who" of the Internet in New Zealand), and that they will continue to be around. Many of the people who have expressed an interest are people who continue to make the Internet work in New Zealand, and I'm sure they'd like a geek.nz domain name as a badge of honour, and once they have it will want to keep it.

As I said at the beginning, I am strongly in support of the creation of the geek.nz second level domain.

Ewen McNeill