

## **.nz NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2004**

### **:: DNC OFFICE ::**

In May, the number of active .nz domain names increased from 151,711 to 154,558, a net increase of 2,847. There were a total of 4,583 creates during May – this is the third highest amount of creates in one month over the last year and the third time that the number of new domain names registered has been over 4,500 for the month.

### **Second Level Domains Policy Review**

The 2LD Working Group (WG) has been reviewing the Second Level Domains policy. During May the WG developed procedures around the 2LD policy and called for public comment which closed on June 9. Comments received were taken into account before the draft policy was finalised. The WG will now put the results of their work, by way of the draft policy, to the .nz Oversight Committee (NZOC) for their consideration.

Key elements of the final draft are an easier process for the addition of new second level domains, and a pre-registration system to test the viability of new open 2LDs before they are added to the .nz domain name space.

You can find information about the review here:

[http://www.dnc.org.nz/content/2LD\\_review\\_overview.html](http://www.dnc.org.nz/content/2LD_review_overview.html)

### **Reminder of Domain Name Fee Reduction**

A reminder to all .nz registrars that from 1 July 2004 the wholesale domain name fee charged will be reduced from \$2.00 per domain name per month to \$1.75 per domain name per month (GST exclusive).

InternetNZ announced the reduction in wholesale fees in January, after a joint recommendation was made by the .nz Oversight Committee (NZOC) and NZRS to the InternetNZ Council to lower the fee.

The announcement regarding the reduction in the fee can be read at

<http://www.dnc.org.nz/story/30151-29-1.html>.

## Statistics

Figures as at 31 May 2004:

	<i>Active names as at 1 May</i>	<i>Active names as at end 31 May</i>	<i>New registrations May</i>	<i>Renewals May</i>	<i>Change over month</i>
.ac	857	873	22	253	16
.co	128866	131334	3951	37228	2468
.cri	27	28	1	12	1
.geek	619	629	19	66	10
.gen	835	833	9	231	-2
.govt	718	718	0	257	0
.iwi	50	50	0	14	0
.maori	334	346	18	24	12
.mil	17	17	0	8	0
.net	8515	8659	266	2057	144
.org	8727	8898	265	2149	171
.school	2146	2173	32	980	27
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>151711</b>	<b>154558</b>	<b>4583</b>	<b>43279</b>	<b>2847</b>

Note: these figures do not include names in the 'pendingrelease' status. They incorporate all active domain names in the .nz register. For more statistics, see <http://dnc.org.nz/statistics>

## :: .nz REGISTRY SERVICES ::

### SRS Availability

System availability for May was 99.97%, against the SLA standard of 99.9%

SRS Availability	March	April	May
%	99.97	100	99.97

### SRS Response Times

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

Avg Response time (in seconds)	March	April	May
Domain Details Query	0.55	0.49	0.47
Domain Update	0.32	0.34	0.40
Domain Create	0.40	0.42	0.45
GetMessage performance	0.36	0.37	0.51
GetMessage (volume 000's)	44	42	42
Whois	0.19	0.19	0.20
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)	640	775	862
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	222	194	203
UDAI Valid Query	0.18	0.18	0.20

### DNS Availability

DNS Availability	March	April	May
%	100	100	100

### Unscheduled Outages

There were no unscheduled outages during May.

### Scheduled Outages and Updates

There was a scheduled outage on the 23rd May. The May maintenance window was used to implement the upgrade to the SRS and RIK. The implementation took 15 minutes longer than the scheduled maintenance window.

## **Maintenance Windows**

The scheduled maintenance windows for the next six months are:

Sunday 25th July 2004,	07:00 - 09:00
Sunday 29th August 2004,	07:00 - 09:00
Sunday 26th September 2004,	07:00 - 09:00
Sunday 31st October 2004,	07:00 - 09:00
Sunday 28th November 2004,	07:00 - 09:00
Sunday 19th December 2004,	07:00 - 09:00

## **Domain Name Fee Reduction**

As mentioned earlier in the newsletter the implementation of the new domain name fee takes effect from 1 July 2004 when the Domain Name fee will be reduced from \$2.00 to \$1.75 per domain name per month (GST exclusive).

## **IPv4 and IPv6 Glue**

### *Introduction*

InternetNZ requested that NZRS investigate the cost of implementing IPv6 into the SRS and DNS. As a result of that investigation NZRS is proposing that the SRS and DNS be modified to accept IPv6 glue records.

Currently the SRS accepts nameserver details for domains by allowing registrars to specify a number of nameservers. Each nameserver must contain information for a fully qualified domain name field (FQDN), and may also provide details of an IPv4 field (IP4Addr address Glue Record). The IP4Addr is always acceptable, and is required if the nameserver is "self-serving". i.e. IP4Addr Glue records are needed when the authoritative nameserver for a zone is within the zone itself.

### *Summary of Proposed Changes*

- 1 Registrars will be able to provide IPv6 Glue records to the SRS, and this information will be included in the zone files output from the SRS. Note. AAAA (and not A6) records will be published in the zone files.
- 2 The SRS IPv4 validation rules will change – rejecting nameservers if an IP4Addr is provided and the nameserver is not "self-serving".
- 3 All domain level XML requests/responses from the SRS that currently contain the IP4Addr field could also contain the IP6Addr field.
- 4 The "protocol.dtd" will change. It is recommended that Registrars upgrade their "protocol.dtd".
- 5 For the IPv6 glue records change, Registrars may not be required to make any changes, apart from updating to the new protocol.dtd, if they do not wish to provide IPv6 glue records.

## *Proposed Time Table*

02/07/2004	- Draft DTD available
19/07/04 to 16/08/04	- Changes available to Registrars in RPS test system
29/08/2004	- Changes released to SRS Production

## *IPv6 Glue*

NZRS are proposing to add support of IPv6 glue records to the SRS and DNS. The adoption of IPv6 Glue will bring benefits to the registry in that it will allow for registrants who wish to start investing in IPv6 technology.

1. In order to allow for IPv6 Glue records, the SRS will accept an additional field (IP6Addr) in the definition of a nameserver. It is not a required field. This field may only be supplied if IP addresses are required (the nameserver is "self-serving"). NOTE. If IP addresses are required, there MUST be an IPv4 address provided, not just an IPv6 address.
2. The IP6Addr field will be validated against the [RFC 2460](#) and [RFC2373](#) (section 2.2) specifications.
3. AAAA (and not A6) records will be published in the zone files.

## *IPv4 Glue*

The DNS system is currently ignoring all IP4 addresses that are not required (if a nameserver is not "self-serving"). NZRS are proposing that the SRS does not allow this potentially misleading information to be stored or returned to users. The following change will be made to the existing validation rules for IPv4:

- 1 The IP4Addr may only be supplied if the IP address is required (the nameserver is "self-serving").
- 2 If an IP4Addr is supplied as part of an update transaction request and it is not required (is not "self-serving") then the transaction will be rejected.

## *SRS Protocol Changes*

Where a nameserver record is used in a SRS request transaction or output in a SRS response transaction, the IP6Addr field will be optionally allowed. The following components in the SRS will be affected by this change:

- The DomainUpdate transaction
- The DomainDetailsQuery transaction
- The Whois transaction
- The Whois daemon
- The GetMessage transaction
- The ActionDetailsQuery transaction
- The DomainCreate transaction
- The BuildDnsZoneFiles transaction

## *References*

- [[RFC-2373](#)] Hinden, R. and S. Deering, "IP Version 6 Addressing Architecture", [RFC 2373](#), July 1998.
- [IPv6] Deering, S. and R. Hinden, "Internet Protocol Version 6 (IPv6) Specification", [RFC 2460](#), December 1998.

## **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 [info@dnc.org.nz](mailto:info@dnc.org.nz).

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