

.nz NEWSLETTER – JUNE 2005

:: DNC OFFICE ::

In May the number of active .nz domain names increased from 185,129 to 188,454, a net increase of 3,325. This is the highest monthly increase since July 2004 when the net increase was 3,823.

Review of the Transfer to Another Registrar Policy

InternetNZ, through the Office of the Domain Name Commissioner, is reviewing its policy regarding the transferring of domain names between registrars. The current policy can be seen at http://dnc.org.nz/content/transfer_registrar.pdf.

Currently the Transfer to Another Registrar (TAR) policy refers to two forms of transfer – the transfer of individual domain names using the Unique Domain Authorisation Identification (UDAI) and the ability to transfer bulk domain names in particular circumstances. It is expected that the policy will continue to refer to both these forms of transfer.

It is not the intention at this time to review the use of the UDAI in the transfer process. If significant issues are raised during the policy review then this position may be reconsidered but the UDAI is a key feature of the SRS and any changes to using the UDAI in the transfer are likely to have major impacts on the registry and also on registrar systems.

Public comment is sought on how the current transfer process operates and especially on whether any additional validation steps should be introduced into the transfer process to improve the security of the process.

Comments can be sent by email to policies@dnc.org.nz by **5pm on Thursday 28 July 2005**.

For further information about the review go to <http://dnc.org.nz/transfer-review>

All submissions received will be published on that page.

NZOC Meeting

The minutes for the .nz Oversight Committee (NZOC) meeting held on Monday 16 May 2005 are available at: http://dnc.org.nz/content/minutes_NZOC_16_May_05.pdf

RAG Minutes

The minutes for the Registrar Advisory Group (RAG) meeting held on Thursday 26 May 2005 are available at: <http://dnc.org.nz/story/30209-61-37.html>

Registrar Sanction - Domain Name Management Services Limited

This was sanction on a registrar arising from the actions of a reseller. The following public statement was issued on 3 June 2005:

“The Domain Name Commissioner (DNC), Debbie Monahan, said today that Domain Name Management Services Limited (DNMSL) had been subject to a sanction resulting from action by its reseller, Go Kiwi Internet Limited (“GKI”).

The reason is that GKI’s actions could limit peoples’ choices when seeking .nz domain names.

GKI had been registering .nz domain names to its own name. Some of those domain names were for GKI to speculate on the names’ lease or resale value and not for GKI’s own use. Other domain names had been registered at the request of GKI’s clients and, to protect the clients, should have been registered to the clients’ names.

As a result, the DNC has had to impose sanctions against DNMSL, including directions to DNMSL to change its business practices. This includes changing into the names of clients those .nz domain names that the clients had requested. .nz domain names registered to GKI for speculation (or otherwise not for its own use) have been cancelled.

The DNC has been working with DNMSL for a number of months to encourage DNMSL to update all registrants’ details correctly.

Debbie Monahan said: “There must be fair and open competition for access to the .nz register and registry services and it is important that the confidence of registrants in the .nz domain name space is maintained.

“Registrants who approach a registrar or a reseller of registry services must be confident that if they don’t like the price offered for a .nz domain name they can then try another registrar to obtain the name at a better price or on better terms. That system will not work if the registrar or reseller is trying to sell at a profit domain names that it has already registered.”

There are also limits on the extent that a registrar can be linked to a person speculating in domain names.

There are over 350 domain names registered to GKI where DNMSL has not shown that the names were not for speculation. These names have been cancelled and, after the 90 day ‘pending release’ period will be available for public registration.

Ms Monahan invited any person whose registration was requested through DNMSL or GKI, and claims to have been adversely affected, to contact her before the 90 day “pending release period” has expired. It may be that the registration can be restored.

“DNMSL is responsible for ensuring that resellers of its registry services comply with the .nz policies and procedures. Because GKI has not complied with the .nz policies and procedures DNMSL has been held to be in breach,” Ms Monahan said.

The DNC will continue to work with DNMSL so that DNMSL is clear about its obligations under the .nz policies and procedures. The DNC expects that DNMSL and its resellers will comply with all .nz policies and procedures in future. “

DNMSL and the DNC met early June to discuss the investigation undertaken by the DNC and the sanction that had been imposed on DNMSL. At that meeting, DNMSL provided the DNC with the information she had been seeking regarding what domain names were being used for (or were intended to be used for) their DNMSL or GKI's own use.

DNMSL provided that information to the DNC's satisfaction for a large number of the names that had been cancelled. Both DNMSL and GKI agreed with the list of names registered solely for speculation and these names will remain cancelled.

Statistics

Figures as at 31 May 2005:

	<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	1000	1012	25	248	12
.co	157238	160056	4933	43601	2818
.cri	25	25	0	3	0
.geek	689	703	21	249	14
.gen	932	953	27	132	21
.govt	755	763	10	249	8
.iwi	53	53	1	15	0
.maori	375	371	16	35	-4
.mil	17	17	0	10	0
.net	10882	11111	361	2708	229
.org	10790	10999	335	2828	209
.school	2373	2391	39	1063	18
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>185129</i>	<i>188454</i>	<i>5768</i>	<i>51141</i>	<i>3325</i>

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 ::

An incident occurred in Albany site on the 24th of May which resulted in the SRS being unavailable for 56 minutes. The incident was caused by failure of equipment. As the result of this failure the Prime SRS site was switched to Wellington. Wellington remains the Prime site until all the equipment has been verified and one piece of equipment replaced. Once completed the Prime site will be switched back to Albany during a managed and scheduled outage. This was the first time that the Prime site has been switched (outside of the test programme); several improvements have been identified and are in progress. In summary, the switchover performed very well and service was reinstated in a good timescale.

Since the outage several changes and improvements have been undertaken including:

1. Changes have been made to the naming, CNAME and TTL configurations to simplify and accelerate access to the SRS in the event of a switch over.
2. Improvements to the paging system
3. Improvements to the front end switch over script to ensure that all scheduled jobs are restarted. This will ensure that all of the backends load the new configuration which points to the live site when the switch is made.

On 17 May NZRS withdrew access to the SRS from a registrar for a period of two days. Service was withdrawn because of ongoing abuse of the Whois service by the registrar. On several occasions NZRS had requested that the registrar cease activity that was deemed an abuse or misuse the SRS and was thereby posing a threat to the integrity or performance of the SRS system, but the registrar continued the behaviour. This is the first time that NZRS has had to withdraw service from a registrar since SRS went live in October 2003.

SRS Availability

System availability for May was 99.84%, against the SLA standard of 99.9%

SRS Availability	March	April	May
%	99.90	99.94	99.84

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	0.52	0.64	0.64
Domain Update	0.43	0.47	0.45
Domain Create	0.44	0.70	0.39
GetMessage performance	0.40	0.43	0.44
GetMessage (volume 000's)	40	46	45
Whois	0.18	0.20	0.21
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)	1422	1355	1693
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	295	303	386
UDAI Valid Query	0.26	0.29	0.28

- The Whois time has increased this month, but is not exhibiting unusual behaviours when viewed in the context of the last 12 months.
- The number of Whois queries has increased again this month, effectively doubling in the past 12 months.

DNS Availability

DNS Availability	March	April	May
%	100	100	100

Unscheduled Outages

Total unscheduled outages on the SRS during May – 73 minutes and 15 seconds

Date	Duration	Description
May	2 minutes 44 seconds	Off line micro outages
May 17 17:44	14 minutes 31 seconds	Erroneous code release incident
May 24 11:46	56 minutes	Loss of Albany Site and switch of Prime site to Wellington

Scheduled Outages and Updates

Date	Duration	Description
1 May 07:00	2 hours	Upgrade to SRS release 1.19
28 May 07:00	2 hours	Window to work on Albany Environment

Zone Pushes

After consultation with the Registrar Advisory Group (RAG) NZRS will be expanding the number of Zones pushes to be hourly from 25 July 9am.

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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