

.nz NEWSLETTER – June 2008

:: DNC ::

Authorisation of Registrars (AOR) Policy Review

The Domain Name Commission is reviewing its policy regarding the Authorisation of Registrars (AOR). The current policy can be seen at http://dnc.org.nz/content/authorisation_process.pdf.

This policy details the process that potential registrars must follow to gain authorisation from the Domain Name Commission (“DNC”) in order to access the shared registry system (“SRS”), as per the Authorisation Agreement.

Based on the DNC experience in processing applications for authorisation, the following changes are proposed:

1. The addition of a clause allowing the DNC to require a period of operation, for up to 12 months) as a ‘formal reseller’ to an authorised registrar prior to authorisation being confirmed
2. The addition of a clause allowing site visits prior to authorisation if requested by the DNC
3. The addition of a time limit for the registrar to connect to the production environment before the authorisation is terminated for non-use
4. Making the time limit retrospective for those organisations already authorised but not connected to production (though with discretion for those with a legitimate reason for not yet being connected)
5. Amending the application form to make the obligations and declarations clearer
6. Increasing the application fee to \$3,000 plus GST, reflecting the time and cost spent on processing the applications

There will be a moratorium placed on new registrar applications whilst the review is underway. The moratorium will run for a maximum of two months.

Submissions should be by email to policies@dnc.org.nz. They may also be made by fax to +64 4 495 2115 or by post to Domain Name Commission, PO Box 11 881, Wellington, New Zealand. All submissions will be published at <http://dnc.org.nz/aor-review>. All submissions should be received by midday on Thursday 3rd July.

Application for a new Second Level Domain (2LD) – health.nz

An application has been received to create a new, moderated second level domain (2LD) - .health.nz. Copies of the application, and the proposed moderation policy, can be seen at

.pdf - http://dnc.org.nz/content//health_application.pdf

.txt - http://dnc.org.nz/content//health_application.txt

.html - http://dnc.org.nz/content//health_application.html

Comments are sought on this application, and on the moderation policy that will be used to accept registrations. In particular, comment is sought on how the application meets the criteria for a new 2LD, namely that the 2LD:

- Represents an identifiable, significant community of interest; where:
 - 'significant' can mean either quantitatively or qualitatively; and
 - the community of interest can be defined in a clear written statement
- Represents an on-going and long-lived community of interest
- Does not conflict with, duplicate or cause confusion about, any existing 2LD, and is a useful addition to the current DNS hierarchy
- Uses a name to represent the domain that is a obvious derivative of a word that properly describes the community of interest or a complete word.
- Does not bring the .nz domain name space in disrepute

Submissions should be by email to 2ld@dnc.org.nz . They may also be made by fax to +64 4 495 2115 or by post to Domain Name Commission, PO Box 11 881, Wellington, New Zealand. All submissions will be published at <http://dnc.org.nz/health-application> . All submissions should be received by 5pm on Wednesday 16 July.

Domain Name Commission Limited Board Meeting - Minutes

The first meeting of the Domain Name Commission Limited (DNCL) Board was held on Tuesday 27th of May. Meetings of the minutes can be viewed in either [.html](#) or [.pdf](#).

Internationalised Domains Names (IDNs) – Second Consultation

Previously, comment has been sought on potential issues associated with the implementation of IDNs in .nz, along with any other issues that the IDN working group (WG) should consider. (Submissions received can be viewed here <http://www.dnc.org.nz/idn-consult>). A meeting of the IDN WG was held on the 18th of February to discuss the submissions we received.

At this meeting the WG agreed that InternetNZ should proceed with the planned implementation of IDNs in .nz. The next phase of the process is to consider the options for how to equitably distribute the registrations of IDN variants of currently registered ASCII domain names in .nz.

To avoid potential disputes during the initial phases of IDN registrations in .nz a policy of a sunrise period for registrations has been suggested. Due to the nature of the Māori language it is impossible to automatically assign IDN variants to current .nz ASCII domain names.

The sunrise period will allow for current .nz registrants to have a chance to register the IDN variants of their ASCII names before open registration of IDNs in .nz are offered.

We are seeking comment on the proposed course of action outlined below.

1. The policies for IDN registrations are in line with the rest of the .nz policies and procedures (which can be viewed at www.dnc.org.nz/policies). They will express the

- same values as the core principles of the current system and particularly the “first come, first served” principle (excluding the sunrise period).
2. The cost to register an IDN will be the same as an ASCII .nz domain name.
 3. There will be no automatic assignment of IDN variants to current registrants of .nz ASCII names.
 4. If current .nz registrants wish to register an IDN variant of their current ASCII names, they must do so during the proposed sunrise period or risk losing the variant to another applicant on a first come first serve basis.
 5. Apart from the requirement of current .nz registrants to apply for IDN variants of their ASCII names, there will be no other provisions regarding initial registration principles for IDNs in .nz.

We are now seeking comment on the above planned course of action.

(Note: We are seeking comment on the proposed implementation of the five macronised vowels that appear in the Māori language, which are ā, ē, ī, ō and ū.)

Submissions can be sent by email to policies@dnc.org.nz, by fax to (04) 495 2115, or by mail to P O Box 11881, Wellington. As submissions are received they will be published on the DNC website at www.dnc.org.nz/idn-2ndconsult . Submissions should be received by 5pm on Thursday 17th July.

Statistics

In May, the number of active .nz domain names increased from 328,951 to 332,794, a net increase of 3,843.

Figures as at 31 May 2008:

	<i>Active names as at 1 April</i>	<i>Active names as at end 31 May</i>	<i>New registrations May</i>	<i>Renewals May</i>	<i>Net Growth</i>
.ac	1544	1589	61	335	45
.co	282531	285876	7196	59871	3345
.cri	16	16	0	3	0
.geek	848	850	21	209	2
.gen	1189	1193	19	306	4
.govt	951	951	4	844	0
.iwi	57	60	3	12	3
.maori	504	506	13	73	2
.mil	18	18	0	9	0
.net	19537	19709	530	3635	172
.org	19012	19267	485	3623	255
.parliament	5	5	0	5	0
.school	2739	2754	24	1186	15
TOTAL	328951	332794	8356	70111	3843

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 ::

Availability

SRS production system availability:

	SLA	March	April	May
SRS Availability %	99.90	100	100	100
Whois	99.90	100	100	100
DNS	100	100	100	100

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

Avg Response time (in seconds)	SLA Target	March	April	May
Domain Details Query	≤1.5	0.03	0.03	0.03
Domain Update	≤0.8	0.40	0.41	0.41
Domain Create	≤0.8	0.46	0.45	0.48
GetMessage performance	≤0.8	0.03	0.04	0.04
Whois	≤0.8	0.11	0.10	0.11
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)	N/A	3,200	3,081	3,315
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	N/A	386	299	441
UDAI Valid Query	≤0.8	0.14	0.14	0.15

DNS

Server % Availability

	Mar 08	Apr 08	May
NS1	100	100	100
NS2	100	100	100
NS3	100	99.97	100
NS4	100	100	100
NS5	100	100	100
NS6	100	100	100
NS7	100	100	100

Unscheduled Outages

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Unscheduled	111 seconds
WHOIS Unscheduled	104 seconds
DNS	0

Scheduled Outages

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Scheduled	2 hours
Whois Scheduled	2 hours
DNS	2.5 hours

DNS

A project to make improvements to the .nz DNS infrastructure is currently underway. The key phases that will be occurring in the next 6 months include:

- The development of a plug and play Anycast DNS server
- The building of an Anycast infrastructure for the DNS servers located in New Zealand
- The development and or sourcing monitoring tools
- Ceasing the Grace and Favour arrangements
- Locating DNS servers either at, or connected to Peering Exchanges.

June Maintenance Window

The June maintenance window will not be used this month.

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

If you would like to be notified of future updates, please use the [SUBSCRIBE](#) function on the DNC site and select the category 'Newsletters'. If you ever want to stop receiving our newsletter, please send an email with 'Unsubscribe' in the subject line to unsubscribe@dnc.org.nz.