

## **.nz NEWSLETTER – March 2010**

**:: Domain Name Commission ::**

### **Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs) in .nz – Sunrise Registration Period launch**

#### **For Registrants**

A Sunrise Period for the registration of .nz domain names which include vowels with macrons (ā, ē, ī, ō and ū) will shortly be opening. The Sunrise Period begins on 6 April and runs until 6 July and allows any current .nz domain name registrant to apply for any or all versions of their domain name including macrons over the vowels.

The domain names with macrons do not need to be linguistically correct - any existing domain name which includes vowels is eligible for registration including macrons. There is no restriction on the number of variants that can be registered, or on the total number of domain names that a registrant can hold. Domain names with macrons will attract registration fees from the registrar of your choice, in the same way that all other domain name registrations do.

If you think that you would like to apply for a domain name with macrons which matches your existing .nz name, you should check the information about these names which will be available at [www.dnc.org.nz/idns](http://www.dnc.org.nz/idns) from Tuesday 6 April, when the sunrise registration period opens. For now, you should familiarise yourself with the .nz policy relating to the IDN Sunrise Period which can be seen [here](#).

#### **For Registrars**

A reminder to all .nz authorised registrars that the sunrise registration period will launch on Tuesday 6 April. All registrars must be able to process registrations for IDNs if requested to after the launch date of 26 July.

During the Sunrise Period the DNC office will collect and collate applications from current .nz domain name registrants for domain names which match existing registrations but include macrons. At the conclusion of the Sunrise Period, each registrar will be provided with a list of registrants who will be eligible for IDNs on the launch date. Registrars will be able to contact those registrants, if desired, prior to the actual registration of the new domain names. Initial registrations will be for a one-month term.

Registrars who automate their renewal systems should be aware of this initial one-month term. Registrars will need to correspond with their customers to ensure that the names are renewed appropriately. Billing for the new domain names is the responsibility of the registrar involved. At the wholesale level, the names attract the same fee as all other .nz domain names - at the launch date, this will be \$1.25 per name per month (+GST).

## **Review of three .nz policies**

As part of the ongoing review of .nz policies, three policies are now being reviewed.

The policies being reviewed are:

### Process on de-authorisation of a registrar - Consultation

This policy relates to the process which is to be followed whether the de-authorisation is voluntary, or results from a serious breach of .nz policies.

Registrars can choose to cancel their own authorisation status, or the DNC may cancel the status in some circumstances. These circumstances and all notice periods are defined in the policy.

### Transfer to another registrar - Consultation

This policy relates to the process which is to be followed when a .nz domain name is transferred from one registrar ('releasing registrar') to another ('gaining registrar').

The overarching principle behind this policy is that registrants are able to transfer .nz domain names from one registrar to another at any time, except during the registration grace period. The registrar must supply the UDAI on registration and at the request of the registrant to enable the transfer to take place.

### Roles and Responsibilities - Consultation

This policy sets out the roles, rights and obligations of all parties involved in the Shared Registry System. It establishes the standards of behaviour required to operate in the .nz domain name space, and sets out the consequences of breaching those standards, including the possible sanctions.

No operational issues have been identified with the current policies. They are being reviewed as part of the regular, ongoing review of .nz policies.

## **The review period for all three policies will end at midday on 21 June 2010.**

Submissions should be by email to [policies@dnc.org.nz](mailto: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 6142, New Zealand. All submissions will be published at <http://www.dnc.org.nz/march10-reviews> .

## **.nz Domain name wholesale fee reduction**

InternetNZ (Internet New Zealand Inc) is reducing the wholesale domain name fee for .nz domain names by 16%.

At its meeting last Friday the InternetNZ Council committed to a reduction in the wholesale fee for .nz domain name to \$1.25 per month, down from \$1.50 per month. This reduces the annual fee from \$18 to \$15 per domain.

The new wholesale fee as charged to authorised .nz registrars will apply from 1 July 2010. InternetNZ President Frank March says while there is no obligation on registrars to pass on the wholesale fee reduction to customers, he expects that many will and therefore maintain the competitiveness of the .nz registrar market.

"While InternetNZ funds its activities from the domain name fees we take very seriously our ongoing commitment to a stable and reducing fee and it is pleasing that we have been able to achieve a fee reduction in these uncertain economic times," he says.

The wholesale fee is reviewed annually by the independent regulator, Domain Name Commission Limited and .nz Registry Services, the independent registry operator, both wholly owned subsidiaries of InternetNZ. The fee was last reduced in July 2007 and before that in July 2004.

For more information contact:

Frank March  
 President  
 InternetNZ  
 021 494 165  
 president@internetcz.net.nz

## Statistics

In February, the number of active .nz domain names increased from 384,895 to 388,557, a net increase of 3,662.

Figures as at 28 February 2009:

	<i>Active names as at 1 February</i>	<i>Active names as at end 28 February</i>	<i>New registrations February</i>	<i>Renewals February</i>	<i>Net Growth</i>
.ac	1,721	1,739	32	325	18
.co	332,459	335,799	7021	59440	3340
.cri	15	15	0	4	-
.geek	945	942	17	191	-3
.gen	1,241	1,249	17	301	8
.govt	1,024	1,033	9	945	9
.health	97	100	3	0	3
.iwi	70	68	0	13	-2
.maori	562	581	16	96	19
.mil	21	21	0	3	-
.net	21,639	21,724	385	4076	85
.org	22,128	22,309	389	4061	181
.parliament	7	7	0	7	-
.school	2,966	2,970	18	1195	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>384,895</b>	<b>388,557</b>	<b>7,907</b>	<b>70,657</b>	<b>3662</b>

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

Availability %	SLA	December	January	February
<b>SRS</b>	99.90	100	100	100
<b>Whois</b>	99.90	100	100	100
<b>DNS</b>	100	100	100	100

### SRS Response times

Performance figures on the production environment for the previous three months:

Avg Response time (in seconds)	SLA Target	December	January	February
Domain Details Query	≤0.5	0.03	0.03	0.03
Domain Update	≤0.8	0.22	0.26	0.24
Domain Create	≤0.8	0.26	0.30	0.25
Get Message	≤0.5	0.03	0.05	0.04
Whois	≤0.5	0.10	0.11	0.10
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)	N/A	2,461	2,420	2,875
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	N/A	622	613	631
UDAI Valid Query	≤0.5	0.12	0.12	0.11

### Server DNS % Availability

	December	January	February
<b>NS1</b>	100	100	100
<b>NS2</b>	100	100	100
<b>NS3</b>	100	100	100
<b>NS4</b>	100	100	100
<b>NS5</b>	100	100	100
<b>NS6</b>	100	100	100
<b>NS7</b>	100	100	100

### Unscheduled Outages during February 2010

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Unscheduled	0
WHOIS Unscheduled	0

Outage Type	Total Duration
DNS	0

### Scheduled Outages during February 2010

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Scheduled	2 hours and 10 minutes
Whois Scheduled	2 hours and 10 minutes

### Planned Scheduled Outages

18th April 2010 7:00 - 9:00 am

Details of SRS releases and planned scheduled outages can be found on the NZRS website.  
<http://www.nzrs.net.nz/notices/updates.shtml>

### SRS EPP Changes

Over the last 12 months we have been working on implementing an EPP interface to the SRS. There has been a change to the original plan to have an EPP proxy for registrars to use to talk to the SRS. After getting feedback from registrars and looking at the solution in detail, it was determined that whilst this was a good solution for NZRS, it would be harder on registrars.

So it has been decided to bring the EPP proxy into the SRS. In order to do this the SRS data model needs to be enhanced to provide EPP support and maintain backwards compatibility for those registrars that do not want to use EPP. Also EPP style contact object management and message polling will be available through SRS transactions in addition to being available via EPP transactions using the EPP proxy. The EPP proxy will be standards compliant, with no .nz-specific extensions.

The EPP interface and the new SRS transactions are optional and registrars can continue to use their normal set of SRS transactions if they wish to do so. Registrars that want to use EPP can move to a native EPP solution, or access EPP style functionality using the SRS XML interface.

It is planned that a beta EPP interface will be available on the test system by April 2010 with a subset of the EPP functionality and then regular incremental releases to the test system through to June with additional functionality. At this stage we are planning to have the interface implemented on the production system by July 2010. If registrars want to be involved earlier, then an Alpha release of the SRS protocol can be provided now. Please contact NZRS if you require any more information or would like to be involved in early testing of the EPP interface.

NZRS are fully committed to maintaining the existing SRS XML interface and there are no plans to replace it.

### Project Programme Update

As published last year NZRS have moved to an annual Project Programme for systems and infrastructure development. This is a brief update on the current status of that programme:

Task	Status	Comments
PGP Key Server	Completed	

Postgres/Apache/OS Upgrade	Completed	
Hardware Upgrade	Completed	
DNS Monitoring/Reporting	Completed	-
DNS Test Cluster	Completed	
Implementation of EPP	In Progress	See above
Implementation of IDN	In Progress	SRS code changes to be implemented in the February release and the "Go Live" date scheduled for July.
DDOS Mitigation	In Progress	Due to be completed Feb/Mar.
Intra-site Connection	In Progress	Due to be completed Feb/Mar. This link should result in increased stability for inter cluster communications and allow for various management functions to take place over this link without impacting on the registrar SRS connection.
DNSSEC Implementation	In progress	Over the last few months NZRS and DNCL have been working on the DNSSEC implementation. NZRS have been working in the test environment on the technical elements of signing the .nz zone. Internal testing has been carried out using Open DNSSEC, which enables easier management of cryptographic key material and operations relating to DNSSEC. NZRS are now reviewing all the changes to the SRS that will be needed to be made to the NZRS system and will be working with DNCL on the policy changes that will need to be made and implemented. The timeline for this project is still being planned, however it is envisaged to occur in 2010.
Code review of the SRS	In progress	The SRS is several years old now and this project will look at where the existing code base can be improved/refined.
NTP Server	In Progress	There are not many NTP servers in NZ. The DNS has had issues with existing NTP servers. NZRS view certain elements of NZ internet infrastructure as being critical and will support these such as NTP and PGP. The NTP roll out is planned for later this year, and potentially offering a public time service as well.
SRS Test Cluster	Not started	
Hidden Primary (3rd)	Not started	

If registrars require any further information please let us know.

### **Registrar Implementation Kit**

The SRSCClient and SRS User Interface (SRS UI) applications that we distribute as part of the Registrar Implementation Kit (RIK) have had very few changes made to them since the SRS

was launched. The SRSCient was originally developed as an example client interface for registrars to look at and use to assist in developing an interface to the SRS.

Our recent customer satisfaction survey showed that a large proportion of registrars are using the SRSCient and a number of registrars have said that they would like to see some improvements made to the SRSCient and SRS UI. The main theme of the comments were around improving the installation/upgrade process and improving the interfaces. We agree with these comments and have decided to start a project to address these issues.

We would like to hear registrar views, suggestions and comments about any updates and improvements they would like to see made to the SRSCient, SRS UI and anything else in the RIK.

Please send your comments and suggestions to Dave or Manuela at [support@nzrs.net.nz](mailto:support@nzrs.net.nz)

### **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 Dave Baker at [support@nzrs.net.nz](mailto:support@nzrs.net.nz) or on 04 931 6970. For all other matters, contact Debbie Monahan at [info@dnc.org.nz](mailto:info@dnc.org.nz).

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