

## **.NZ NEWSLETTER - March 2003**

At the end of February 2003, a total of 26 organisations had been authorised as .nz registrars. Sixteen of those organisations had connected to the SRS. The full list of authorised registrars can be found at <http://www.dnc.org.nz/story/30056-28-1.html>. A JavaScript function is present on that page to randomise the list every time the page is viewed.

Registrars should remember to check that registrants are still customers with them prior to sending out any renewal notices. This means registrars need to monitor messages from the SRS informing them of registrants who have transferred to another registrar. Only the registrar-of-record is permitted to send renewal notices, or anything that can be construed as a renewal notice, out to registrants.

The first email out to registrants, asking them to select a registrar, is being sent out the afternoon of Monday 24 March 2003. Registrars are reminded that to be on the list of registrars to select from, they must be connected to the production SRS at the end of Thursday 20 March. They must also, by the end of 20 March, have confirmed to the DNC office that they want to be on the list and provided a URL link and an email address to be used during the process. If registrars have questions on this, they should email [registrars@dnc.org.nz](mailto:registrars@dnc.org.nz).

### **NZOC Meeting**

The .nz Oversight Committee held a meeting on Friday 14 March.

Topics at the meeting included:

- A final draft of the Terms of Reference of the Registrar Advisory Group (RAG) will be circulated to NZOC with final agreement on those due by 28 March. It is expected that registrars will be informed of the process around the selection of the RAG on 31 March, with nominations being called early April.
- A detailed process is being developed in the DNC office for checking registrars' performance against requirements. For example, checking that the version of the Terms and Conditions is as per that approved by the DNC, that there is a link to the DNC site for registrants to review the policies and procedures etc. These checks will be conducted regularly.
- NZOC is working through the process that will be followed upon deauthorisation of a registrar, where the registrar has not taken any steps to transfer their domain names to another registrar. The concept of a 'caretaker registrar' is currently being worked on. This will be a subject discussed with the Registrar Advisory Group, as well as wider consultation also taking place when the process is defined further.
- The Service Level Agreement with NZRS has yet to be signed and NZOC agreed that it should be completed as soon as possible. Some editing is now required given the timeframe since it was first drafted. It is hoped this can be completed this month.

- NZOC agreed the rules for operation of the DNC Registrar, and the list of names that will be held under that registrar ID on the SRS. Permissions of the DNC Registrar are restricted so that prior approval must be sought from NZOC before the DNC Registrar can register new domains, cancel existing domains, transfer other domains to its registrar ID, lock domains or amend the registrant name of the domains. Details of the operation of the DNC Registrar will be published on the DNC website.
- The first meeting of the 2LD Review Working Group was held on 6 March. The Terms of Reference are being finalised with the group and will be publicised. A public discussion list is also being set up to enable wide consultation and input.
- A questionnaire has been devised on Domain Name Disputes to get feedback on the extent of any problem regarding domain name disputes. This has been sent out to legal groups and will also be placed on the DNC website.
- The straw poll for .geek.nz showed overwhelming support for its creation. The application fee of \$1,000 has been paid and so the next step is the formal submission stage. NZOC agreed that submissions would be sought from 26 March 2003 to 29 April 2003.
- NZOC noted the number of .nz authorised registrars, and the number currently connected to the SRS. NZOC deems the Registrar Market competitive.
- Frank March was confirmed as Chair of NZOC.

### **Lame Delegations**

Registrars are asked to monitor lame delegations in the DNS, and work with registrants to minimise this problem. The SRS allows for domain names to be registered without any name servers specified. Two properly configured name servers are required for delegation to the DNS. It is acknowledged that there may be times where, for technical reasons, there is a period of time between registration and the name server/s being operational. However, these situations are expected to be in the minority, and only for short periods of time.

### **Transferred domain names**

Registrars using an automated process to produce renewal notices, and notices of cancellation, should make sure they look at the 'billeduntil' date of a domain name that has been transferred to them. In one situation, a domain name was transferred to a registrar a day before it was due for renewal.

The registrar the name was transferred to uses a series of renewal reminders at various stages before renewal date, culminating in a reminder notice that warns of cancellation if the bill is not paid in 14 days. This is timed to fit in with the 'billeduntil' date. In one case, the newly transferred domain name ended up being cancelled as the registrar's system did not recognise that it was a 'new' domain and hadn't been through the process involving the three previous renewal notices.

## Document on the Management of the .nz ccTLD

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) recently held a meeting in Geneva on *Workshop on Member States' experiences with ccTLD*.

A paper on the .nz ccTLD was presented to that meeting and provided an overview of how .nz is now managed. A copy of the document can be seen at [http://www.dnc.org.nz/content//management\\_nz\\_ccTLD.pdf](http://www.dnc.org.nz/content//management_nz_ccTLD.pdf).

## Statistics

Figures as at 28 February 2003:

Note: these figures do not include names in the 'pendingrelease' status. They incorporate all active domain names in the .nz register.

	<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>Change over month</i>
.ac	666	683	23	180	17
.co	102859	103847	2458	22978	988
.cri	29	29	0	0	0
.gen	758	763	16	220	5
.govt	639	639	2	156	0
.iwi	34	34	2	8	0
.maori	368	372	13	3	4
.mil	16	16	0	2	0
.net	7552	7618	207	1325	66
.org	6859	6979	188	1539	120
.school	1888	1905	29	542	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>121668</b>	<b>122885</b>	<b>2938</b>	<b>26953</b>	<b>1217</b>

NZRS have reported that figures for November 2002 - January 2003 included some historical domains that migrated from the DRS in a manner that meant they were counted within the 'active' figures. This has been corrected in the February 2003 figures above.

## NZ REGISTRY SERVICES

Six registrars went on line during February giving a total of 18 registrars online in production. This includes Domainz and the DNC Registrar. There are 25 registrars with access to the test system.

## Scheduled Outages and Updates

There was a scheduled outage that was not utilised and will be rescheduled to align with the next production update release of the RIK. Prior to the upgrade a new RIK will

be published and all registrars advised. The advice will include a summary of the changes and highlights included in the RIK.

### SRS Availability

SRS production system availability:

	October	November	December	January	February
%	100	100	99.92	99.96	99.97

January period response time performance figures on the production environment were:

Avg Response time (in seconds)	January 2003	February 2003
Domain Details Query	0.397	0.488
Domain Update	0.218	0.388
Domain Create	0.238	0.227
GetMessage performance	0.630	1.313
GetMessage (volume)	26389	26363
Whois	0.172	0.162
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume)	629940	646059
Whois Server Queries (volume)	353755	220455

### Unscheduled Outages

There were two unscheduled outage to the production environment during February.

#### Production SRS Outage Report

2 February at 03:06 - 03:17; connectivity to Auckland was interrupted; the replication module reacted after 30 minutes and stopped the SRS. When restarted the replication operated as designed.

*Impact* - high

*Cause* - Network outage and replication problem

*Action required* - Alternative duplicate network link into Albany is being investigated. Replication is being reviewed to see how it handles outages of a similar nature.

#### Production SRS Outage Report

19 February at 04:12 - 04:22 Whois server unavailable

*Impact* - medium

*Cause* - Abuse attack

*Action required* - The abuse has been reported to the ISP.

Note this outage is not included in the unscheduled outage statistics.

There were no unscheduled outages to the Test System.

### Other News

### *Zone Pushes*

The zone push review was undertaken during February and announced on 7 March. After consultation with Registrars, NZOG and others was sought and their comments were input to the revised schedule that will be implemented on 31 March 2003. The zone push timetable will be a the following NZ local times 05:00, 09:00, 12:00, 15:00, 18:00 22:00.

### **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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