Minutes of the .nz Oversight Committee Meeting

Monday 10 October 2005, 4.30pm

Attendance

Present: Colin Jackson, Roger Hicks, David Russell, Richard Currey, Andy Linton, Frank March, Chris Streatfield, Debbie Monahan, Adam Griffiths.
Alick Wilson – InternetNZ member as an observer (all except item 6)

Colin Jackson began the meeting by advising NZOC that a new Chair needed to be appointed. Frank March was duly elected Chair.

The meeting started with the Chair asking the Observer if there was any particular item on the agenda that they were interested in. There was, the .parliament.nz application, so the Chair said that this would be moved up the agenda and that item 6, the Policy Compliance, would be moved to last as it needed to be discussed In Committee.

1.   Minutes

Minutes were passed as true and accurate.

In response to a question, it was confirmed that no comment had been received in regard to the .iwi.nz situation.

2.   DNC Reports

The DNC spoke to the July and August reports. Items discussed relating to the reports included:

- Whether cases involving investigations into situations of an agent registering domain names in their own name rather than that of the client, would be handled by the DRS rather than through policy breach investigations as is currently done. The DNC confirmed that this was how Nominet UK handled it and it would be expected that we would do the same though it would come up formally for discussion.

- NZOC members asked if WHOIS volumes could be graphed which may help show any trends. This has actually been done and will be provided to NZOC. Exceptions and any issues identified with the WHOIS are generally noted in the reports also.

3.   .parliament.nz Application

A brief background to the application was given. The DNC also advised NZOC that she had spoken to Laurence Millar, Deputy Commissioner Information and Communication Technologies, from the State Services Commission. SSC wanted to clarify their position in relation to the .parliament.nz application – that is, that they considered that John Preval has a well-made case and they support it. SSC do see some benefits with .parliament.nz providing some clarity.

As a result of a request following NZOC's previous concerns about the application, the Parliamentary Service had provided additional information in order to address the criterion that the new 2LD "does not conflict with, duplicate or cause confusion about, any existing 2LD, and is a useful addition to the current DNS hierarchy". This material included:
-   A revised application
-   A revised moderation policy setting out more clearly what organisations would be eligible for a .parliament.nz domain name
-   Four documents that are able to be linked to online, entitled:
    o   What is Parliament?
    o   Government Accountability to the House
    o   The Legislative Process
    o   On the Constitution of New Zealand: An Introduction to the Foundations of the Current Form of Government

Discussion on this topic covered both the actual application and whether it met the criteria for a new 2LD, and also whether NZOC should put the revised application and moderation agreement back out for another public consultation.

In respect of consultation, NZOC agreed that little would be gained from a further consultation round. The opinions expressed in the submissions received had been considered and were a key reason why further information was sought from the application. It was decided that NZOC would make a decision based on the information to hand.

General comments from NZOC were supportive of the application. In conjunction with the supporting documentation explaining the difference between 'parliament' and 'government' it was felt that the distinction could be promoted through the use of a .parliament.nz 2LD.

Alick Wilson was given an opportunity to speak. Alick had been provided at the meeting with the new documents and felt that the revised versions were an improvement. Alick acknowledged that the concept had merit but was concerned with the overall issue of 'government identity' and how a .parliament.nz 2LD may confuse this. As an example, Alick quoted how Parliament and Government were linked in publications such as the phone book and was concerned that separating them in the Internet would make it inconsistent with other publications. Alick asked if it would be possible to seek changes in how they were portrayed in other publications.

It was noted that the decision on whether to create a new 2LD had to be based on the policy. It was also noted that the revised application had noted that .parliament.govt.nz would be retired to be replaced solely with .parliament.nz and also that a new website is being developed that will help make the distinction clearer.

Following a detailed discussion NZOC agreed that the .parliament.nz application had met the criteria as specified in the 2LD policy for the creation of a new 2LD. A recommendation from NZOC that .parliament.nz be created will go before the InternetNZ Council's next meeting on 28 October 2005.

4.   Service Level Agreement review

NZOC were presented with a paper from NZRS addressing questions raised by NZOC following the last meeting's review of a revised SLA.

In their paper, NZRS responded to a number of questions that had been raised by NZOC regarding the options for reporting on availability and performance of the seven name servers.

It is acknowledged that NZRS own and operate three of the seven servers, with other providers managing the four other servers. NZOC confirmed that they wanted reporting across all seven servers. If that wasn't possible right now then they wanted NZRS to define a date at which full reporting against all servers was feasible.

Work will continue in conjunction with NZRS on defining details for the SLA regarding the reporting of DNS services.

5.   Transfer to another Registrar Policy Review

The DNC outlined changes to the policy as a result of comments received from the Registrar Advisory Group. Changes are to clause 3 of the policy which relates to the transfer principles and include specific reference to when the UDAI must be provided to the registrant, what the UDAI is for and allows registrars to include a statement with the UDAI explaining what the purpose of the UDAI is.

NZOC approved the revised version of the policy and agreed that it would be presented to the 28 October meeting of the InternetNZ Council for final approval.

6.   Policy Compliance

A policy compliance issue was discussed in committee.

7.   Dispute Resolution Service update (oral item)

The DNC advised that the Working Group was meeting in Auckland on Friday 14 October to go through a draft policy and also work through other issues, such as size of the expert panel, that they would make recommendations to NZOC on.

A general update on the project planning to date was provided. Current planning indicates that the policy could be in effect around May 2006.

8.   Any Other Business

-   Reseller Brochure

Changes have been made to the draft brochure following comments from NZOC. It was acknowledged that it is difficult to write such a document with input from a large number of parties as not all views can be accommodated. NZOC agreed that the draft brochure could go out to the Registrar Advisory Group for their comments. Following comments from registrars a revised version will be resubmitted to NZOC for their consideration.

- *Budget planning*

NZOC will be asked to review and agree to the 2006/07 budget at its meeting in December. One aspect of this will be the End of Year forecast which is generally not produced until after the September figures are in so it can be based on 6 months operation. To assist the new members of NZOC a preliminary EOY forecast was produced based on August figures. It is forecast that the budget will essentially be spent with only about $3k between the forecast and the budget. There are areas that will be over budget, such as professional services, with savings in other areas to balance the overall budget.

Various aspects of the current year's budget were discussed.

- *Deputy Chair*

An agenda item for the next meeting will be the formal election of a Deputy Chair for NZOC.

- *Bank Direct*

The DNC was asked about the situation with the bankdlrect.co.nz phishing scam. The DNC outlined the events that took place and that the policy principle that InternetNZ does not get involved in what a domain name is used for was applied.   It was suggested that this area should be raised with the Registrar Advisory Group for their views on whether a review of the policy in this area was required.

Next Meeting

Provisionally set for 4.30pm on Monday 12 December.