

.nz NEWSLETTER – November 2007

:: DNC OFFICE ::

In October, the number of active .nz domain names increased from 300,397 to 305,446, a net increase of 5,049.

InternetNZ and ICANN in Exchange of Letters

InternetNZ (the Internet Society of New Zealand Inc) is pleased to announce that it has formalised its relationship with ICANN (the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) through the signing of an exchange of letters on the 29th of October 2007.

ICANN is the US-based organisation responsible for managing the global assignment of domain names and IP addresses.

The exchange of letters means that InternetNZ now officially recognises ICANN's role in coordinating the root services of the Internet, and ICANN officially recognises InternetNZ's role as the ccTLD (Country Code Top Level Domain) manager for .nz.

The letters state the intentions of InternetNZ and ICANN to continue working together to maintain the Domain Name System (DNS) for the .nz address space for the benefit of the local and global Internet community. They also set out a range of administrative undertakings.

The signing ceremony took place yesterday at a meeting of the ICANN board in Los Angeles, California. It was attended by InternetNZ and ICANN representatives including ICANN Chair Vint Cerf, ICANN President Dr Paul Twomey, InternetNZ President Peter Macaulay, InternetNZ Executive Director Keith Davidson and Domain Name Commissioner Debbie Monahan.

InternetNZ Executive Director Keith Davidson says the exchange of letters formalises a longstanding and mutually beneficial relationship InternetNZ has enjoyed with ICANN since its inception in 1998.

Dr Frank March, who is representing the New Zealand Government on the Government Advisory Committee of ICANN in Los Angeles, has welcomed the move saying it provides a useful step forward in providing additional security and stability for the Internet in New Zealand.

Internationalised Domain Names (IDN) in .nz - Consultation

Currently, domain names in the .nz space only allow the 26 basic English (Latin) alphabet characters a-z, digits and the '-' hyphen. The Māori alphabet has an additional five characters, the macronised vowels ā, ē, ī, ō, and ū, which are currently not allowed in .nz domain names.

Some countries are beginning to implement Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs). IDNs allow the use of virtually any internationally recognised characters. This enables the registration of domain names in languages that use non-English characters, such as Te Reo Māori.

A working group (WG) has been established by the InternetNZ committee responsible for the .nz domain space, the .nz Oversight Committee, to consider the implementation of IDNs into the .nz domain name space.

The initial focus of the IDN implementation will be on the 5 macronised vowels required to correctly spell Māori words in domain names. It does not affect web content, which may already use any script.

For more information on IDNs a list of resources can be viewed www.dnc.org.nz/idn-links

For this initial consultation the WG is seeking comments on the following

- 1) What issues do you think are associated with implementing IDNs? What is their impact, and how do you think they should be prioritised?
- 2) What other matters do you think the WG should consider.

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-consult . Submissions should be received by Wednesday 19th December.

Statistics

Figures as at 31 October 2007:

	<i>Active names as at 1 October</i>	<i>Active names as at end 31 October</i>	<i>New registrations October</i>	<i>Renewals October</i>	<i>Net Growth</i>
.ac	1352	1371	37	291	19
.co	257488	261980	7225	53712	4492
.cri	16	16	0	3	0
.geek	773	773	20	194	0
.gen	1133	1143	24	288	10
.govt	913	923	10	754	10
.iwi	59	60	1	16	1
.maori	468	486	21	88	18
.mil	18	18	0	9	0
.net	17994	18243	470	3460	249
.org	17519	17767	414	3411	248
.parliament	5	5	0	5	0
.school	2659	2661	10	1152	2
TOTAL	300397	305446	8232	63383	5049

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	August	September	October
SRS Availability %	99.90	100	100	99.99
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	August	September	October
Domain Details Query	≤1.5	0.03	0.03	0.02
Domain Update	≤0.8	0.44	0.41	0.38
Domain Create	≤0.8	0.48	0.47	0.45
GetMessage performance	≤0.8	0.04	0.03	0.02
Whois	≤0.8	0.13	0.11	0.10
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume 000's)	N/A	2,719	2,934	3,300
Whois Server Queries (volume 000's)	N/A	255	248	270
UDAI Valid Query	≤0.8	0.15	0.15	0.14

DNS

Availability and Outages

Server

% Availability

	Apr 07	May 07	Jun 07	Jul 07	Aug 07	Sep 07	Oct 07
NS1	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
NS2	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
NS3	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
NS4	100	100	100	100	99.63	100	100
NS5	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
NS6	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
NS7	100	100	100	100	99.78	100	100

Unscheduled Outages

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Unscheduled	136 seconds
WHOIS Unscheduled	10 seconds

Scheduled Outages

Outage Type	Total Duration
SRS Scheduled	2 hours
Whois Scheduled	2 hours
DNS	0

Scheduled Outages and Updates

Outage Type	Total Duration
Sunday 25th November 07:00 - 09:00	

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. 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'.