

## **.nz NEWSLETTER – September 2003**

### **:: DNC Office ::**

#### **Summary of the .nz market**

Since the last newsletter, 2 registrars have been authorised and 4 have connected. This means there are now 43 parties authorised as registrars, with 35 of those connected to production and offering .nz registration and management services.

The number of active .nz domain names increased from 132,056 to 135,069, a net increase of 3,013. This is the largest monthly net increase of .nz domain names since the SRS was implemented. The level of new domain names created was also high at 4,677 with the contribution by .geek.nz of 492 names towards that.

#### **.geek.nz registrations**

Registrations in the .geek.nz second level domain opened at 11am on Tuesday 26 August, and proceeded without any problems. At the end of the first hour, 272 .geek.nz names had been registered, with 444 after 24 hours. By 31 August 492 domain names had been registered, and at 24 September the total had risen to 576.

#### **Domain Names NZ**

The DNC is still working with the Commerce Commission on the Domain Names NZ issue, though it appears that the lack of any presence in New Zealand limits what can be done.

It looks like a sophisticated 'attack' on the .nz data took place in July involving over 300 different servers, at levels that allowed the requests to remain below the rate limits previously set. NZRS are following up on that. New, lower rate-limiting and monitoring processes have been implemented for the .nz WHOIS server.

#### **Transferring domain names between registrars.**

Last month's newsletter noted that Domainz was to be sold on 5 September. The sale proceeded according to plan, and Domainz is now owned by Melbourne IT. The Domain Name Allocation (DNA) policy ended with the sale. InternetNZ cannot reasonably ask Domainz to follow procedures different to those imposed on every other registrar for the transfer of domain names.

The Transfer to Another Registrar (TAR) policy ([http://dnc.org.nz/content/transfer\\_registrar.pdf](http://dnc.org.nz/content/transfer_registrar.pdf)) now applies for bulk transfers between registrars. The following points should be kept in mind:

- Bulk transfers can only take place where there is a direct, domain name billing arrangement between the party seeking the transfer and the registrants.
- Registrants need to be advised of the proposed transfer, the terms and conditions which will apply with the new registrar, and be given the opportunity to transfer to another registrar if they do not like the new conditions or want to transfer.
- The existing registrar needs to provide a list of the domain names to be transferred, in conjunction with the party seeking the transfer.

Anyone intending to use the bulk transfer facility of the TAR policy should approach the Office ([info@dnc.org.nz](mailto:info@dnc.org.nz)) to discuss the process and ensure that the process operates smoothly.

## Policy Consultation Documents Released

InternetNZ through the Office of the DNC is currently consulting on the following issues:

*Zone Transfer Policy Review* – a review of the policy regarding the release of the .nz zone file to organisations outside the registry company. Submissions close on **Thursday 16 October** and more information is at <http://dnc.org.nz/story/30134-35-1.html>

*Draft Policy: Process on Deauthorisation of a Registrar* – a draft policy dealing with the steps taken when a registrar is deauthorised is available for public comment. Submissions close on **Thursday 23 October** and more information is available at <http://dnc.org.nz/story/30133-35-1.html>

## RAG election

Registrars have been advised of the forthcoming Registrar Advisory Group election. When the RAG was established in April there was provision for a Domainz representative as long as Domainz remained the Stabilising Registrar. With the sale of Domainz the position lapsed, and nominations were called earlier in September for a replacement candidate.

Five nominations have been received, and an election will be held using the InternetNZ voting site on 3-10 October. The successful candidate will join the RAG immediately, and the name will be published in the next newsletter.

## Email out to registrants

The registrar reselection process finished on 3 September 2003, which was the last day registrants were able to make a selection through the DNC website. The overall response rate across all the emails sent was 16.9%, with 56.1% of registrants selecting Domainz.

The prize of the trip to Fiji was drawn under Police supervision, and the winner has been contacted by the Office. The winner's details will be published when the prize winner contacts the DNC office and completes the requirements.

## Statistics

Figures as at 31 August 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 August</i>	<i>Active names as at end 31 August</i>	<i>New registrations August</i>	<i>Renewals August</i>	<i>Change over month</i>
.ac	769	784	17	139	15
.co	112372	114429	3489	21739	2057
.cri	27	27	0	1	0
.geek	0	492	492	4	492
.gen	814	828	30	174	14
.govt	675	679	6	165	4
.iwi	43	45	2	7	2
.maori	410	428	19	46	18
.mil	15	15	0	5	0
.net	7336	7549	352	1154	213
.org	7580	7762	244	1350	182
.school	2015	2031	26	555	16
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>132056</i>	<i>135069</i>	<i>4677</i>	<i>25339</i>	<i>3013</i>

## :: .nz REGISTRY SERVICES ::

### Connections

There are now 36 registrars connected to the production environment, including the DNC.

### .geek.nz Launch

Thank you to all the Registrars who participated in the geekoftheweek.geek.nz testing. This testing regime assisted in making the launch of .geek a success. The SRS responded well to its first experience of a landgrab.

Congratulations to all those that registered .geek names on the first day.

### Scheduled Outages and Updates

There was a scheduled outage on 26 August 10:45 – 11:00 as part of the .geek implementation.

SRS Availability	June	July	August
%	99.46	99.93	99.84

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

Avg Response time (in seconds)	June 2003	July 2003	August 2003
Domain Details Query	0.488	0.289	0.268
Domain Update	0.644	0.405	0.340
Domain Create	0.809	0.495	0.578
GetMessage performance	13.362	3.788	0.433
GetMessage (volume)	33012	35254	38793
Whois	0.227	0.204	0.200
Whois queries at back end including Registrar (volume)	704559	1358205	1070777
Whois Server Queries (volume)	335222	967517	645403
UDAI Valid Query	0.228	0.182	0.172

This month all the transaction times are within the SLA standard. This follows a change to the table index that was undertaken on 7 July and performance of the functions above improved as a result. With these figures being the first full month figures following that change, it appears as though the standards defined in the SLA are reasonable and achievable.

Though the overall number of whois queries decreased following the high last month, the levels are still above those prior to July. A lot of this is down to registrars and registrants checking details after the scam by Domain Names NZ.

### WHOIS

The WHOIS server has had the monitoring and rate limiting process reviewed and updated. Registrars are reminded that they are responsible for traffic that comes via their servers.

### Unscheduled Outages

There were seven unscheduled outages in August and the combined outage time resulted in the SRS availability dropping below the SLA standard of 99.9%. The outages experienced during August were:

	Outage 1	Outage 2	Outage 3	Outage 4	Outage 5	Outage 6	Outage 7
<b>Date</b>	7 Aug	8 Aug	8 Aug	19 Aug	23 Aug	23 Aug	28 Aug
<b>Time</b>	7:13	01:13	12.23	10:45	01:26	11:36	20:10
<b>Duration</b>	15 mins	8 mins	4 mins	7 mins	20 mins	12	5
<b>Impact</b>	High	High	High	High	High	High	High
<b>Cause</b>	Major Telstra outage affected most of Wellington and lower North Island, Citylink customers able to connect.	Whois Auto restart failed.	Whois Daemon required restarting	Testing of .geek process caused all registrars to be blocked.	FE Replication exceeded memory limit, killed off by OS. Outage tied to Telstra network Outage to Akl.	F/E Replication exceeded memory limit. Also tied to another extended TelstraClear outage (11:15-12:15) like earlier 23/8 01:26 outage.	This problem was identical to the two over the weekend (extended outage to Auckland network connection). The SRS was unavailable for around 5 minutes.
<b>Action required</b>		Process restarted Auto restart process has been updated	Process restarted	Removed blocking file.	Restarted and reset status of Albany Server.	Manually set status of Auckland server.	Manually set status of Auckland server.  A workaround has been put in place that, marking servers as untrusted in a proactive manner when the other end of the connection is not available.

### Maintenance Windows October 2003 – January 2004

The following dates and times are scheduled to be maintenance windows for the SRS from October 2003 – January 2004.

1 October 2003	01:00 - 02:00 NZST
19 October 2003	07:00 - 08:00 NZDT
23 November 2003	07:00 - 08:00 NZDT
28 December 2003	07:00 - 09:00 NZDT
25 January 2004	07:00 - 08:00 NZDT

NZST = NZ Standard Time  
NZDT = NZ Day Light Saving Time

Notification will be given at least one week prior to scheduled outages confirming the use or non use of the maintenance window. A reminder at least 24 hours prior to any outage.

### 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).

### Please note

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