



## InternetNZ plays critical part in regulatory change

The big story on the local internet scene this year has been the Telecommunications Amendment Bill, which followed the post-election stocktake of the industry, and will lead next year to huge improvements in New Zealand's regulatory framework.



Early in the year InternetNZ fired its first shot, with a submission to the Government's stocktake. Many of the proposals were taken up including a review of spectrum allocation to improve community wireless access, and the need for operational separation of Telecom. A suggestion to develop a fibre-to-the-home roadmap remains on the table.

Following the stocktake, the draft Bill provided only for a modest accounting separation regime for Telecom. InternetNZ made operational separation the focus of its submissions, aligned with the statutory framework in Australia. InternetNZ made written and oral submissions to the Select Committee and worked with TUANZ to rebut a submission from academic Bronwyn Howell.

Operational separation has been picked up by the select committee and is in the final draft of the Telecommunications Amendment Act, which ultimately saw support in Parliament from all but the ACT party.

The success of the process for InternetNZ was based around a well-researched set of proposals for change, focused on the public good for the internet, its users and the economy. There was excellent interaction with politicians, officials and other interested groups, which lead to our submissions being taken seriously, and not seen as academic or self-serving.

Given the detailed and forceful nature of our submissions on this issue, it is likely InternetNZ can take some credit for the outcome.

The real challenge will be implementation of operational separation in 2007. The Government will need to get the separation plan right and the Commerce Commission needs to be given the money and people to make sure the plan can be enforced.

## All for Digital Communities

InternetNZ is involved in a multi-organisation three year national ICT economic transformation initiative for regional economic and community development.

The Digital Communities Initiative involves NGI-NZ, Local Government New Zealand, Economic Development Association of New Zealand, InternetNZ, MED/Digital Strategy Secretariat, and NZ Trade and Enterprise.

There was a workshop in November in Christchurch in conjunction with the Canterbury Development Corporation and a joint venture is being planned with BusinessLab Scotland and Local Councils in New Zealand for an E Cities pilot project.



Digital Communities panel of successful applicants to the Digital Strategy Fund: Rochelle Edwards, David Haynes, John O'Donoghue, Bill Luff, Chris O'Connell and Jackie Gurden

## First Up

Welcome to the first issue of The Browser, the monthly newsletter of InternetNZ (The Internet Society of New Zealand). As it's nearing the end of 2006 we've taken this opportunity to update you on the huge variety of projects undertaken by the organisation over the course of the year.

*Best wishes for the holiday season from the team at InternetNZ.*

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## Copyright Amendment Bill

The Government has introduced the Copyright (New Technologies and Performers' Rights) Amendment Bill seeking to tidy up a number of areas around protection of copyright in the digital age including technological protection measures, format shifting and ISP liability. At this point there appear to be a number of issues with the Bill that InternetNZ will be submitting on as the Bill progresses. This could be a major policy issue early in 2007.

## Website redevelopment

A fairly major redevelopment and launch of the InternetNZ website at [www.internetnz.net.nz](http://www.internetnz.net.nz) took place in early April. This involved a change from totally static content to a sophisticated content management system.

## Certification Authority

We've examined a number of offerings for delivery of web-based X.509 certificates. Given our current role operating the .nz registry we were hoping to find some way of providing a cost effective certification authority specifically for NZ based e-commerce.

## Membership changes

InternetNZ made a basic change to membership categories in July, lowering barriers to participation by the Internet community. One of the changes was in voting, with organisation and individual members having equal voting powers.

## Bring a mate!

InternetNZ is seeking to grow its membership and if every member could introduce one new member, who shares the goals of the society, it would double our membership.

## Parties back Internet caucus

This year finally saw the establishment of the Parliamentary Internet Caucus, first mooted a couple of years ago. The PIC provides a multiparty forum for legislators to learn more about ICT issues and is co-chaired by Hon David Cunliffe and Hon Maurice Williamson.

The caucus has come about as an initiative of InternetNZ and the organisation will continue to contribute where it can be helpful. In 2007 the caucus is expected to meet three or four times.

## ENUM on hold

During the earlier part of the year a working group from the Telecommunication Carriers' Forum and InternetNZ was created to look at policy development for ENUM for User ENUM in New Zealand. The work of this committee was suspended later in the year due to the heavy workload on TCF members and InternetNZ in the telco regulatory space, but will resume in April.

# Industry gears up for LLU

Once the direction was set by the Government in May, Telecom and the Telecommunications Carriers' Forum initiated a working group with the ISP industry to look at methods of achieving unbundled local loop and naked DSL ahead of legislation. InternetNZ was involved with and supportive of this process.

These groups have been working out the technical and operational standards for LLU that will be useful as a basis for either regulated or commercial agreements. A finalised initial report is now out and in 2007 the details will be worked out. The working groups have been characterised by a relatively open and positive engagement between Telecom and ISPs.



## Keith Newman to write New Zealand Internet history

Journalist Keith Newman has been selected to write a book on the history of the Internet in New Zealand. This will explore the impact of the Internet economically, politically and socially.

Keith has 30 years experience as a journalist and has covered telecommunications, computing and the Internet in New Zealand for the past 18 years. He has this year published a substantial book on the Ratana religious movement.

Keith begins his research early next year and will attend NZNOG to contact useful sources.

## World meets over Internet governance

After the four year process of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) wound up a process was undertaken by United Nations and International Telecommunication Union (ITU), that culminated in their final meeting in Tunis in November last year. That meeting resolved to establish an Internet Governance Forum that would meet annually and discuss non-ICANN related issues such as spam, cybercrime, phishing, digital divide, and identity theft.

The first meeting of the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) was held in Athens in October/November. It was opened by the prime minister of Greece and attended by more than 1500 representatives of government, civil society, business and the global internet community.

This meeting represented a new methodology for the UN and the ITU with panel discussions, collecting divergent viewpoints to help inform participants of the issues.

The IGF is not a decision making body and was run more along the lines of ICANN discussions allowing full multi-stakeholder participation, which may have been perceived by some governments to be an inappropriate way for the UN or the ITU to conduct their business.

This annual meeting will continue next year hosted by the Government of Brazil who may attempt to bring some of the ICANN-related issues back onto the IGF agenda.

Executive Director Keith Davidson attended some of the WSIS sessions in Geneva in 2004, and the IGF in Athens in 2006.

# Canny move on global internet stage



Colin Jackson, Paul Twomey, Hon David Cunliffe, Vint Cerf, Hon Winnie Laban and Keith Davidson after the official ICANN Wellington opening.

In March the global internet community descended on Wellington for the ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) meeting.

The event was highly successful in raising the profile of InternetNZ and .nz internationally in the Internet governance arena. There was also greater exposure to the local internet community of the work that ICANN does.

The conference provided an opportunity for internet pioneer Vint Cerf to meet with New Zealand Ministers and staff of the Commerce Commission and MED, and discuss some major issues such as broadband, the telco regulatory environment, and network neutrality.

## Knocking out the spammers

With the Government working on the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Bill, an InternetNZ team visited the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA) in February to learn more about how they have tackled local spammers.

This resulted in a submission on the Bill and the Government picked up InternetNZ's key recommendation that complaints should be able to be made to the enforcement agency and not funneled through ISPs. As reported back from Select Committee in August the Bill reflects that and it should go through Parliament in 2007.

The ISP Spam Code of Practice is also being readied for public consultation. It is being worked on in conjunction with Telecommunications Carriers' Forum, The Marketing Association and the ISP Association of New Zealand.

David Harris was a key driver behind InternetNZ's thinking and submission on the bill, with a deep understanding of the issues and an acknowledged status as an expert. He lent his considerable credibility to what InternetNZ was saying, and was the key author of the submission.

## Helping the Pacific community

Formed about three years ago, the Pacific Internet Partnership is a partnership between New Zealand National Commission for the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO NZ), the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP), Apia Country Office and the Internet Society of New Zealand (Internet NZ), aiming to help facilitate improvements in technical understanding of the Internet in the Pacific Islands.

This year the prime goal has been to help sponsor Pacific island technical people to attend the Pacinet/Picisoc conference in Samoa in August. Technical speakers from New Zealand and Pacific Island technical people were sponsored to attend.

InternetNZ had done the same during the ICANN week in Wellington to assist Pacific people to attend the NZNOG conference immediately preceding ICANN, ICANN itself and the e-Pacifika day.

We also assisted people to attend the IETF conference in the US last month.

## briefs

### .nz Statistics

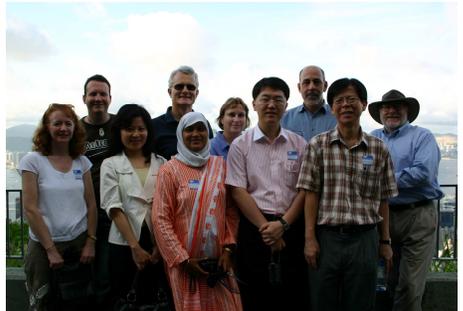
In November the number of active .nz domain names increased from 252,928 to 257,872, a net increase of 4,944. This net growth followed another strong month of new registrations with 7,519 new .nz domain names being registered over November.

### Voting software

InternetNZ's voting software was redeveloped to facilitate elections based on our particular requirements for preferential voting. The project was brought in-house, significant savings were made, and the resultant software code will be released into the open source community.

### APTLD Secretariat

2006 was our second year hosting the APTLD (Asia Pacific Top Level Domain) Secretariat. APTLD has been through organisational change and with the appointment of Don Hollander as the inaugural General Manager starting in July 2006, the secretariat role will change. APTLD looks likely to go from strength to strength.



APTLD members sightseeing while in Hong Kong during the June 2006 meeting.

## events

### NZNOG

January 31 - Feb 2, Palmerston North

### Members' Consultations

February 20 - 22, Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch

### APTLD, APRICOT

February 21 - March 2, Bali, Indonesia

### ICANN

March 26 - 30, Lisbon, Portugal

### InternetNZ AGM

July, Wellington

*Let us know of other upcoming events for the next newsletter.*

## RMC Policy Review Consultation Extended

A consultation paper regarding the review of the Registering, Managing and Cancelling (RMC) Domain Names Policy has been published and public comments are being sought. The paper can be seen at:

<http://dnc.org.nz/rmc-2ndconsult>

This consultation has a particular focus on obtaining views of whether there should be any change to the current registration requirements, as proposed in two of the submissions received after the first round of consultation:

<http://dnc.org.nz/rmc-review>

Currently the .nz space operates on a 'first come first served' basis with no restrictions on who can register in the open second level domains. If some of the proposals suggested in the submissions are accepted, there will be changes to this principle and the involvement of both registrars and the DNC in the actual registration of domain names and their use. Given this, it is considered important that a wide range of views are obtained.

The consultation period has now been extended until midday on Wednesday 14 February 2007.

Submissions can be sent by email to [policies@dnc.org.nz](mailto: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:

<http://dnc.org.nz/rmc-2ndconsult>

## Registrars Advisory Group (RAG) Elections

We are now inviting nominations for six registrar representatives on the Registrar Advisory Group (RAG). All six representatives are being replaced this year; this is due to the fact that some of the current members are no longer associated with authorised registrars.

Nominations need to meet the following criteria:

- One nomination per registrar.
- Nominees need to have a clear relationship with an authorised registrar.
- Nominees must be a named person; you cannot put forward a general representative that will be filled by an unspecified person.
- Include a short biography of the nominee (around 100 words)

Nominations, with biographies, should be sent to [registrar@dnc.org.nz](mailto:registrar@dnc.org.nz) and need to be received by January 15 2007.

For more information on the RAG group a background article has been posted at <http://dnc.org.nz/content/ragbackground.html>.

## KAREN is born, looks advanced

It's fantastic to see the commencement of a real research and educational network in New Zealand after InternetNZ initiated the concept some five years ago, and InternetNZ's ongoing support for NGI-NZ.

The Kiwi Advanced Research and Education Network is finally in operation and InternetNZ executive director Keith Davidson was lucky enough to see the earthquake laboratory testing being undertaken by the University of Auckland in conjunction with the National Science Foundation and the major test lab in Iowa.

InternetNZ will continue to support and promote the use of very high speed next generation internetworking to advance scientific and educational research.



Martin Cocker, NetSafe Executive Director speaking at the 2006 NetSafe Symposium

## Supporting Netsafe

We continue to support NetSafe and its strategy to improve safety for individuals when using the Internet. This year, along with our ongoing sponsorship, we assisted NetSafe with the trialing of a child abuse web blocking tool in conjunction with DIA.

InternetNZ is proposing to become one of the major sponsors of Netsafe in its budget business plan for the next three years. This year we assisted with their symposium in Wellington and other smaller projects.

Liz Butterfield resigned as the executive director of NetSafe to continue to develop the Hector's World concept as an online safety tool for children. She was replaced by Martin Cocker.

## Helping AUT with World Internet Project

InternetNZ has been assisting researchers from Auckland University of Technology to scope and identify funding sources for a research project that would see New Zealand and a number of other countries conduct standardised interview research to identify social trends in internet uptake and use.

The aim of the project is to avoid the lack of research that surrounded the introduction of television by doing the research of the impact of the Internet while it is still happening. The project will include looking at people's use of discretionary time, interaction with other people, and sense of social community. It will provide New Zealand with statistics around use and uptake through time, giving us value in looking at our own statistics from one year to next and compared internationally.

## Cyberlaw research expected soon

The first year of the three-year Cyberlaw fellow project has ended and we look forward to the publication of a monograph presenting the results of Judit Bayer's research project into ISP liability in New Zealand.

The research publication will be available in 2007. The 2007 Cyberlaw fellow has been appointed and will take up the role at the end of January.