SPAM Act passed at last

The Unsolicited Electronic Messages Act 2007 was passed into law at the end of February. The Act is expected to come into effect on 5 September 2007.

The law will give the enforcement agency, within the Department of Internal Affairs, the power to tackle spammers located in New Zealand and to work with other agencies globally. Note that this country is one of the last OECD countries to have an anti-spam law.

The six month period before the Act becomes active will give businesses time to understand precisely what spam is and ensure their electronic marketing abides by the new rules. InternetNZ will be working with the Government, business groups and ISPs to facilitate understanding of the law.

InternetNZ has refreshed the anti-spam website stopspam.org.nz, which provides a central resource for consumers about spam and how to deal with it.

In conjunction with the Telecommunications Carriers' Forum, the Marketing Association and the ISP Association (ISPANZ), InternetNZ is also finalising the ISP Spam Code of Practice, which will outline ISP obligations and spam complaint handling procedures. This Code is about to be released for public consultation, timed to come into play at the same time as the Act.

Highlights:

- Unsolicited commercial messages will be banned, including messages that use a web link to hide the content. There are exceptions such as the sending of warranty and recall information.
- The Act creates an opt-in permissions environment and commercial messages must include zero-cost unsubscribe facilities that must be acted upon within five days.
- There are significant penalties and the Department of Internal Affairs will have strong powers for combating spam, including search and seizure provisions.
- The industry code will cover ISP obligations and how ISPs will work with the DIA.
- The DIA will provide an email address for reporting of spam.

Timeline for 2007 AGM:

1 June	Nominations for Councilors & Officers opens
17 June	Proposals for Constitutional Amendments open
6 July	Nominations for Councilors & Officers close
13 July	Constitutional Amendments close
13 July	Online Voting on Constitutional Amendments opens
13 July	Online Election of Officers and Councilors opens
27 July	AGM

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Cyberlaw Fellow arrives

Philip Greene, a leading US internet law practitioner, has been appointed as the second Victoria University Cyberlaw Fellow. InternetNZ jointly funds the fellowship with Victoria University.

Greene is former Senior Counsel for Internet Technology at the United States Department of Commerce and has advised the White House's Executive Office of the President on domain name dispute and cybersquatting issues. While at Victoria, he will teach a course entitled 'The Law and Regulation of Cyberspace' in trimester 2, and undertake a major research project.

Operational Separation

InternetNZ held an operational separation workshop in conjunction with the NZNOG Conference, in January.

The purpose was to get industry to start thinking about what will need to happen on operational separation. A key issue is which parts of the network, and which services, go in which divisions of the separated Telecom – retail, wholesale and network.

The meeting was a success, with Telecom, industry and government in the room talking and thinking through the issues. More work will be ongoing in this area.

Overall InternetNZ continues to devote significant resources to this area of work. Our focus in future is on ensuring operational separation works, and where possible ensuring that the industry is taking sensible steps forward.

Members consultations

Member consultations were held in Christchurch, Auckland and Wellington in February, with a good turnout.

The strategic plan received full endorsement from members. The business plan and budget were modified to add $25,000 in expenditure for further work on peering, which arose as an outcome from this year's New Zealand FOO Camp.

Members indicated a level of satisfaction with the "strawman" put forward by Westlake consulting on the structural review. Work will continue and a finished plan should be ready for members' approval at the AGM.

InternetNZ Council Meeting
March 16, Wellington

ICANN
March 26 - 30, Lisbon, Portugal

Convergence Oceania
May 8, Wellington

Building KAREN Communities for Collaboration
2 - 5 July, Wellington

InternetNZ AGM
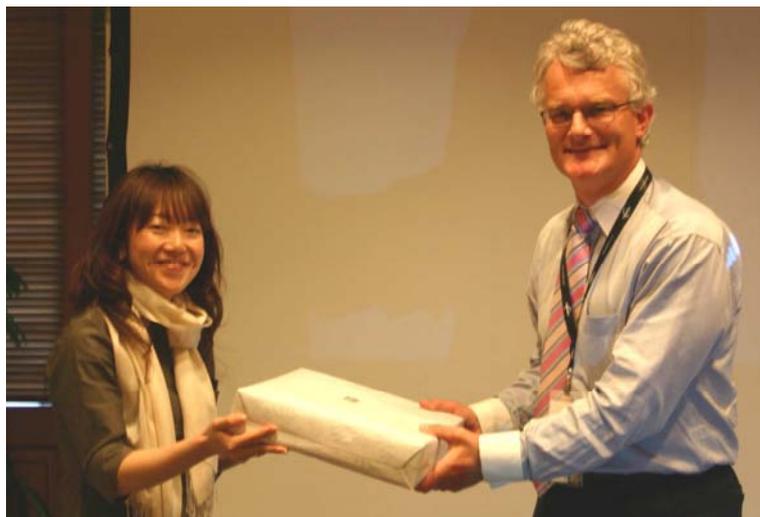27 July, Wellington

APTLD meeting marks changes

The latest meeting of APTLD (the Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Association) was held in Bali, Indonesia in conjunction with the APRICOT Conference, 25-27 February.

APTLD is the association of ccTLD managers in the Asia Pacific region. The meeting involved two days of non-technical training for ccTLD managers (covering issues such as ccTLD operations, registry/registrar split, relationships with ICANN, IDN deployment and marketing), followed by the Annual General Meeting.

Presenters at the APTLD workshop: Tina Dam - ICANN, Atsushi Endo - JPRS, Adrian Kinderis - AusRegistry, Chris Disspain - auDA, Debbie Monahan - .nz

Peter Dengate Thrush, longserving .nz board member and Chair of APTLD, stood down from the Board at this meeting. His service has seen considerable development of APTLD, including the establishment of a General Manager's position, held by Don Hollander. Keith Davidson has replaced Peter as a Board member representing .nz.

Yumi Ohashi presents Peter Dengate Thrush with a gift on behalf of APTLD.

Other issues covered in the AGM include the status of IDN rollout, an introduction to ICT in Indonesia, At-Large Organisations within ICANN, security concerns for ccTLD managers, and panel discussions on relationships with government, policy enforcement on registrants and what role ccTLDs might have in dealing with phishing and spam.

At-Large Structures meet

On 28 February representatives from 12 of the 13 ICANN "At-Large Structures" in the Asia Pacific area finalised and initialed a proposed memorandum of understanding between themselves and ICANN to form the Asia-Pacific Regional At-Large Organisation (AP RALO).

InternetNZ is one of those At-Large Structures, whose role is to give individual Internet users a say on ICANN policies and procedures.

The meeting also agreed on a set of operating principles for the RALO. These include the requirement for all meetings to be open and public.

It is expected that the MOU will be published by ICANN for public consultation and then accepted by the ICANN Board at its Lisbon meeting at the end of March. This will see the RALO come into force, and two representatives from the AP RALO will take their place on the overall At Large Advisory Committee which is meant to advocate globally on behalf of individual users.

What this will mean for InternetNZ is that members' opinions and views will be sought on a regular basis on issues such as the criteria for new gTLDs, gTLD whois policies etc.

Eleven Kiwis fly to APRICOT

APRICOT (The Asia Pacific Regional Conference on Operational Technologies) was held in Bali in conjunction with the APTLD meeting. APRICOT is an annual technical meeting that provides a forum for internet builders in the region.

There were over 800 people registered, five days of workshops, two days of tutorial and two days of conference. APRICOT was followed by the APNIC (Asia Pacific Network Information Centre) annual members meeting.

Eleven New Zealanders attended including InternetNZ councillor Jonny Martin who was involved in organising and tutored one of the hands-on workshops for two and a half days on the subject of VoIP. Other workshops included IPv6, DNS and routing.

Martin says it was the most successful APRICOT event so far with over 30 people in each workshop class and six simultaneous workshops. Tutorials are less hands-on but in-depth in a half or full day format, and there were typically 50-60 attendees in each.

The conference sessions covered subjects such as access networks, wireless, routing, security, interprovider, and services such as DNS and VoIP.

APNIC had a number of special interest group meetings run as another track of the main conference. Thsese covered subjects such as DNS operations, routing operations and policy.

A big issue was IPv6. There was a proposal for an end date for IPv4, which is contentious.

InternetNZ partially funded the travel of Nathan Ward to APRICOT. He was involved in a workshop entitled the Future of Routing.

Addressing copyright

InternetNZ held two workshops on Copyright in mid-February prior to the initial deadline for submissions on the Copyright (New Technologies and Performers' Rights) Amendment Bill.

The workshops in Auckland and Wellington attracted about 50 attendees in each city. The aim was to generate discussion and inform the submissions of all attendees. InternetNZ supports the Bill, particularly where it removes mis-directed liability from ISPs, but is looking for certain changes in the details.

The topics covered included ISP liability, takedown systems, digital rights management and format shifting, with the later two generating a lot of debate and interest in the wider community.

The Ministry of Economic Development fronted up to outline the policy drivers. IP lawyers, technologists, industry specialists, and commentators made presentations and led discussions.

InternetNZ is now finalising its submission, which includes a proposal for a notice and notice takedown system based on the Canadian model. Fortunately, the deadline has been extended to March 9 as the initial timeframe was disrupted by Christmas/New Year.

InternetNZ gained about 30 members from the workshops and feedback has been excellent.

Speakers line up at the Wellington copyright workshop

.bank.nz

An application has been received to create a new, moderated second level domain (2LD) – .bank.nz. A copy of the application, and the proposed moderation policy, can be seen at dnc.org.nz/content//bank_application.pdf.
A text version is also available at dnc.org.nz/content//bank_application.txt.
Comments are sought on this application, and on the moderation policy that will be used to accept registrations. In particular, comment is sought on how the application meets the criteria for a new 2LD, namely that the 2LD:

- Represents an identifiable, significant community of interest; where: 'significant' can mean either quantitatively or qualitatively; and the community of interest can be defined in a clear written statement

- Represents an on-going and long-lived community of interest

- Does not conflict with, duplicate or cause confusion about, any existing 2LD, and is a useful addition to the current DNS hierarchy

- Uses a name to represent the domain that is a obvious derivative of a word that properly describes the community of interest or a complete word

- Does not bring the .nz domain name space into disrepute

Submissions should be made by email to 2ld@dnc.org.nz. They may also be made by fax to +64 4 495 2115 or by post to Domain Name Commission, InternetNZ, PO Box 11881, Wellington, New Zealand. All submissions will be published at dnc.org.nz/bank-application.

All submissions should be received by noon on Thursday 29 March.

Registrar Advisory Group

Elections were held recently for the Registrar Advisory Group (RAG) with the successful candidates being:

Lucretia Gilkison – 2day.com, Brett Wright – Freeparking, Glen Eustace – GodZone Internet Services, Tim John – Domainz, Steven Gore – Orcon and Lee Miller – RegisterDirect / 1st Domains

Over one hundred attend NZNOG event

The New Zealand Network Operators Group met in Palmerston North at the end of January, beginning of February. About 110 attended from New Zealand and overseas. Feedback has been positive and there is interest from others in the international community in attending future events.

InternetNZ operated a stand at NZNOG, signing up new members and providing information about the organisation. Executive Director Keith Davidson and Vice President David Farrar gave presentations on copyright, telco reform and spam, which were well received.

APNIC attended, which was much appreciated, providing their internet resource management training.

Highlights included international speaker Gaurab Upadhaya from Packet Clearing House who talked on AS path analysis and testing claims of Tier One status. This was relevant from a technical perspective in NZ where Telecom and Telstra might be considered as claiming that position.

Tom Vest, CAIDA associate, ICANN research consultant, and consulting member of the new RIPE NCC Science Group discussed graph theory, telecom policy and internet evolution.

An IPv6 panel went well, considering the contentious nature of subject. The positive outcome is that a lot of people are going to play with it in the NZNOG community.

There was subsequent discussion on the NZNOG list about IPv6 and it appears there is at least some warming to the idea that IPv6 could be deployed in New Zealand. InternetNZ will consider organising an event this year associated with promoting IPv6.

NZNOG also saw what is thought to be largest ever 'curry night' with the majority attending.

Group photo of the attendees of the 2007 NZNOG event