

InternetNZ and ICANN exchange letters

InternetNZ has formalised its relationship with ICANN through the signing of an exchange of letters. The signing ceremony took place at a meeting of the ICANN board in Los Angeles, California in late October.

The exchange of letters means that InternetNZ 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.

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



Left to right: ICANN immediate past Chair - Vint Cerf, InternetNZ President - Peter Macaulay, InternetNZ Executive Director - Keith Davidson, Domain Name Commissioner - Debbie Monahan, NZOC Chair - Richard Currey and ICANN CEO - Paul Twomey

Dengate Thrush elected chair of ICANN



Longstanding InternetNZ member Peter Dengate Thrush has been elected Chair of the board of ICANN, the US-based organisation that globally coordinates the Internet's unique identifiers.

Dengate Thrush is a Wellington-based Internet barrister who has been involved with ICANN since its inception in 1998. He participated in the international working groups that lead to its formation, and has served on numerous ICANN committees.

A member of InternetNZ's Public Policy Committee, Dengate Thrush has been involved with InternetNZ since it was formed in 1995, chairing the Society from 1999 to 2001.

Dengate Thrush is thrilled with his appointment as ICANN Chair and acknowledges the contribution that many members of InternetNZ have made to the development of global Internet structures.

"InternetNZ recognised very early on the importance of participating in the first steps towards global Internet governance structures. They have always supported an ICANN based on White Paper principles," he says.

Making contact

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NetSafe Cybersafety Conference

NetSafe held its Cybersafety Conference on Waiheke Island at the end of October with Richard Wood attending from InternetNZ as one of 50 from across business, government, education and community groups.

The first day featured a raft of presentations kicking off with NetSafe's John Fenaughty updating the axioms that organisation works to, now that more statistics are available. He noted that ICT use is fast becoming universal for young people, peer and self action is very important for cybersafety, mobiles and games consoles are now on the Internet, and cybersafety requires not just education, but a safe technical, social and financial environment.

It's hard to pick the best from the rest of the day, with excellent presentations from a range of educators, experts and enforcement agencies, but Australian teenager Tom Wood was a highlight, on a Skype video call. The reformed computer addict outlined the sad reality for young people today when they get caught up in the imaginary fantasy-like world of the Internet, or what he calls "Cyberia".

Tom was in the media earlier this year for showing that the expensive Australian Government internet safety filter could be bypassed in 30 minutes and still appear to parents to be filtering.

The second day involved workshops looking at communications amongst members, external communications, laws and regulations, and cybersafety services.



events

ICANN Asia Pacific

October 29 - November 2, Los Angeles
www.losangeles2007.icann.org

IGF Brazil 2007

November 12-15, Rio de Janeiro
www.igfbrazil2007.br

Convergence Oceania 2007

November 13, Auckland
www.wirelessforum.org.nz

Kiwicon 2007

November 17-18, Wellington
www.kiwicon.org.nz

Australian 2007 IPv6 Summit

November 19-21, Canberra
www.ipv6.org.au

Digital Future Summit 2.0

November 28-29, Auckland
www.digitalsummit.org.nz

National Digital Forum 2007 Conference

November 29-30, Wellington
www.ndf.natlib.govt.nz

NZNOG Conference 2008

January 23-25, Dunedin
www.nznog.org

Open Source Winners

Winners in the inaugural New Zealand Open Source Awards were announced in October in Wellington. Over 200 people from New Zealand's ICT industry gathered for the awards.



The winners were:

- Open Source Ambassador: Peter Harrison - for leadership of the New Zealand Open Source Society and tireless advocacy.
- Open Source Contributor: Chris Cormack - for contributions to the Koha project.
- Open Source Software Project: New Zealand Open GPS.
- Open Source Use in Government: State Services Commission (ICT Branch) - for equitable policy advice and use of open source to deliver e-government.
- Open Source Use in Business: Zoomin/ProjectX - for building success on open source.
- Open Source Use in Education: New Zealand Summer of Code - for introducing young talent to open source opportunities.
- Open Source Use for Community Organisations: Vet Learn - for delivering learning through open source.
- Open Source for Creativity: Select Parks - for Julian Oliver's contribution to the game art community.
- Special Award: NZOSVLE - Open Polytechnic - for demonstrating the collaborative benefits of open source.
- Special Award: Michael Koziarski - for contributions to the Ruby on Rails project.

Award sponsors included InternetNZ, Google, Red Hat, Catalyst IT and a number of other, local organisations.

InternetNZ TSO submission

In October, InternetNZ delivered a detailed submission in response to the Government discussion paper on the Telecommunications Service Obligations (TSO).

The submission covered off several areas relating to the TSO regulatory framework, but focuses mainly on issues relating to broadband. The submission notes that broadband is key to New Zealand's economic future and strongly suggests that rural broadband issues be carved out from the current TSO telephony and dial-up reconsiderations.

InternetNZ Executive Director Keith Davidson says the current TSO regime has been a disincentive for some new entrants and niche providers. "The complexity of the broadband market and the rate of technological change means it may not be appropriate or even practical to include broadband in the TSO," he says.

The appendix of the submission explores background issues in rural broadband and considers some approaches and international initiatives that would be worthy of further discussion.

You can view the full submission on the InternetNZ website: <http://www.internetnz.net.nz/issues/submissions/2007/>

APTLD meets in Bangkok

Representatives from 17 Asia Pacific ccTLDs (Country Code Top Level Domains) gathered in Bangkok, Thailand in October for a meeting of APTLD (the Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Association). InternetNZ was represented by Executive Director Keith Davidson, Domain Name Commissioner Debbie Monahan and staffer Susi Fookes.

One of the conference themes was the growing incidence of cyber threats to Domain Name Registration Systems. It was noted that localisation of Anycast is a good strategy for mitigating DDOS and other cyber threats. Keith Davidson also spoke on issues of concern around DNS security.

A range of regional ccTLD updates were presented, with Chris Disspain from .au speaking on the deployment of ccTLD IDNs (Internationalised Domain Names). Debbie Monahan spoke on research the DNC has been conducting on registry operations and .nz's desire to expand its respondent base.

This was the final APTLD members meeting for 2007. The next members' meeting is scheduled for February 2008 in Taipei, Taiwan.



briefs

MPs hear from the chair

The Parliamentary Internet Caucus met in early November to hear about Internet governance. Lawyer Peter Dengate Thrush and Cyberlaw fellow Philip Greene presented, and it was a fortunate coincidence that Peter had just been appointed Chair of ICANN. The audience was a small group of MPs but those who attended were very interested in the presentation, which covered the history of Internet governance from Jon Postel through to ICANN today.

TUANZ Digital Strategy

At the beginning of November TUANZ members met for two days to formulate recommendations in respect to the Digital Strategy refresh. InternetNZ's Richard Wood attended, amongst 30 from across business, Government, education and community groups. The event proved valuable, particularly in going back to first principles around what New Zealanders want and how technology can assist, leading to discussion on ubiquitous broadband, accessible services and much more.

Operational Separation submission

InternetNZ will file a submission in November on Telecom's operational separation undertakings, which were in response to the Government's determination. At this stage in the proceedings it is essential that the details are attended to, so as to ensure a competitive broadband market.

20th in OECD for broadband

Official OECD statistics for the half year to June 2007 show New Zealand now ranks 20th of 30 OECD countries for broadband uptake, with 683,500 broadband subscribers (16.5 broadband subscribers per 100 people).

Final local loop prices released

The Commerce Commission issued its final local loop unbundling determination early in November - the wholesale price for competing operators to access Telecom exchanges in urban areas has been set at \$19.84 - up 20 per cent from \$16.49 in a draft determination earlier this year. The price in non-urban areas is \$36.63, an increase of 14 per cent from the draft price of \$32.20.

Peering public consultation

InternetNZ has launched a public consultation on Internet peering. This follows the release of a report commissioned by the Society entitled "Issues regarding Internet peering and interconnection in New Zealand".

Some key issues identified in the report include conflicting interpretations of the term peering, cost of transit, lack of reliable internet traffic data and statistics and the challenges faced by content providers.

Submissions have been invited either by email in response to that document, or at the website <http://peering.internetnz.net.nz> where comments can be attached to the individual questions.

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from the DNC

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 â, ç, î, ô, and ú, 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.

Registrar Compliance

Following a detailed investigation, a registrar has been found to have breached the .nz policies and procedures. Over a short period last year, DiscountDomains took actions around the 'Release Domains' period that were contrary to how a .nz registrar should operate. In essence, DiscountDomains 'tested' their capture process by seeking to register domain names that were coming out of pending release that they had no intention of retaining. The names registered during the process under investigation were all cancelled within the five day registration grace period.

The registrations breached the .nz policies and procedures because they were not made at the request of an independent registrant or for DiscountDomains' own use, they interfered with domain name registration by competing registrants and undermined the "first come, first served" principle on which the registration of .nz domain names is based.

It was accepted by the DNC that DiscountDomains had not intentionally sought to breach the requirements, and in fact they held an honest belief that what they were doing was acceptable. That belief was incorrectly held however, and the DNC would like to reiterate that domain names registered by authorised .nz registrars should be for a registrar's own use only. That use should also be a legitimate, and ongoing, use.