

Broadband on political agenda

Broadband is firmly on the political agenda this year, with the major parties supporting fibre-to-the-home and National announcing it would invest \$1.5 billion of public funds in fibre-to-the-home network, if elected.



Important in the National Party plan are principles including open access, and avoiding crowding out existing investment plans. The Labour Party however claims National's policy will entrench Telecom's dominant market position. Labour is expected to announce its broadband policy in May.

InternetNZ welcomes the political exchange of views, which has shifted the debate from whether to have fibre-to-the-home, to how and how quickly to deploy it. "Fibre to every home, business, school and health care centre would have appreciable economic, cultural and social benefits," says InternetNZ Executive Director Keith Davidson.

InternetNZ is also encouraged by the National Party's commitment to accelerating broadband roll-out to rural and remote areas. The Society has maintained for some time that uptake of broadband network and service offerings in New Zealand's rural sector needs to be urgently accelerated, says Davidson.

"National's plan to double the Broadband Challenge Fund to \$48 million and refocus it on rural areas would go some way in addressing the current lack of broadband investment in rural New Zealand."

InternetNZ now looks forward to the policy response from Labour and the other parties in respect of their plans for fibre-to-the-home.

FibreCo debate

InternetNZ calls for thorough debate on a report from the New Zealand Institute proposing a public/private monopoly fibre entity.

The New Zealand Institute report, released in early April, suggests the establishment of a "price-regulated investment vehicle" referred to as FibreCo.

Under the New Zealand Institute proposal, FibreCo would retain a monopoly over New Zealand's national fibre access network and give all providers equal access to the network. It would be required to deploy fibre connections to 75 percent of New Zealand premises within 10 years.

InternetNZ agrees with the New Zealand Institute that a fast and efficient national path to the rollout of fibre is required.

"The proposal provides a useful strawman model for debate, given the growing focus on options for open access to dark-fibre infrastructure. Planning for rapid roll-out of high speed broadband including fibre infrastructure and FTTH does need to be fast tracked," says InternetNZ Executive Director Keith Davidson.

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Experience advanced networking at the cutting edge

The APAN26 Sustainable Networking conference in Queenstown from 4 – 8 August will showcase research and collaboration accelerated by ICT and advanced networks like KAREN.

The conference presents developments and demonstrations of research in network technology, application technology and sustainable networking. International and local presenters will be showcasing applications for a range of areas, including eCulture, medicine, earth monitoring and eScience.

NZ tertiary students interested in experimenting in the use of KAREN can enter the InternetNZ-sponsored APAN26 KAREN Student Innovation Competition.

More information is available at:
www.karen.net.nz/apan26-innovation-comp/

events

APTLD

May 22 - 23, Kuala Lumpur
aptld.org

International Conference on Computer Mediated Social Networking

June 11 - 13, Dunedin

InternetNZ Council Meeting

June 13, Wellington
internetnz.net.nz

ICANN

June 22 - 27, Paris
icann.org

TUANZ Rural Broadband

July 3 - 4, Rotorua
tuanz.org.nz

NetSafe Cybercitizenship Conference

July 28 - 30, Queenstown
netsafe.org.nz

InternetNZ AGM

July 31, Wellington
internetnz.net.nz

APAN 26 Sustainable Networking

August 4 - 8, Queenstown
karen.net.nz

APNIC 26

August 25 - 29, Christchurch
apnic.net

PacINET

September 1 - 5, Rarotonga
piciasoc.org

RIPE 57

October 26 - 30, Dubai
ripe.net

ICANN

November 2 - 7, Africa

APTLD

December 6 - 7, Hyderabad

IGF

December 8 - 12, New Delhi

Impact '08 seminar informs

The first of seven Impact '08 ICT seminar series was held on April 21. The series explores the social, cultural and ethical impact of ICT and InternetNZ is a co-sponsor. The topic for this session was the impact on entertainment.

Adding to the interest factor, the seminar was presented interactively on a national basis using the Access Grid network nodes at Auckland, Waikato, Victoria, Lincoln and Canterbury universities. These are connected through the high speed KAREN network.

With everyone visible to everyone else on the large screens, it was clear to all who was talking and participating. Technical difficulties at the Auckland node led to a rearrangement of the programme but the expert presentations generated solid discussion on the entertainment sub-topics of interactive media and digital cinema.

Speakers were given free reign and Emily Loughnan from new-media firm ClickSuite outlined her long held vision of interactive media contributing to the social fabric, relating previous projects she has been involved with, for example one that used interactive storytelling to generate in-depth discussion at a movie theatre.

Thierry Jutel from New Technologies and Contemporary Cinema is writing a book on cinema and insists the industry is not dead or dying - just changing. He analysed different aspects of digital cinema from production to distribution. "It has reinvented itself," he says.

Some changes have been dramatic and given a boost to the industry - such as introduction of digital sound. Other changes have been progressive and slow to arrive at a standard - such as colour. Digital tools have changed but largely resemble their earlier counterparts. Digital presentation has not happened en-masse due to the cost of changing and a belief in celluloid as a better long term storage medium.

Jutel sees the future for movie studios as the home market, addressed through DVDs, satellite TV and the Internet. He's confident in the future of cinema and points to its status in the United States as part of their cultural heritage.

Full registration details for this and the other seminars are available on the 20/20 Communications Trust website at www.2020.org.nz/impact.

No change in .nz wholesale fee

InternetNZ is leaving unchanged the wholesale domain name fee charged to authorised .nz registrars by nz Registry Services (NZRS).

The wholesale fee will remain stable at \$1.50 per domain name per month.

The decision to leave the fee unchanged is the outcome of a recommendation from the NZRS and the .nz Oversight Committee (NZOC) to the InternetNZ Council.

InternetNZ President Peter Macaulay says the wholesale fee is reviewed annually by the NZRS and NZOC. "The recommendation from their joint review was that the fee should remain at the same level set last year. InternetNZ Council adopted that recommendation at its March Council meeting."

InternetNZ welcomes 3rd Cyberlaw Fellow

The recently-appointed Senior Research Fellow in Cyberlaw at Victoria University's Law Faculty - Cynthia Laberge - is to work in the area of privacy law, focusing on gaps in the law regarding government access to private data and the degree to which threats to national security override New Zealanders' right to privacy.



Laberge is the third Cyberlaw Fellow and succeeds Philip Greene. The inaugural Fellow, Dr Judit Bayer, has published her paper "Liability of Internet Service Providers for Third Party Content," which is available from the Victoria Law School office for \$25 plus GST.

The Fellowship is a joint project funded by InternetNZ and Victoria's Law Faculty. It is administered through the Victoria University of Wellington Foundation.

Laberge has a law degree from the Columbus School of Law in Washington DC and considerable experience working in US law firms, primarily in California.

Her career with San Francisco's Hanson, Bridgett, Marcus, Vlahos & Rudy's intellectual property and litigation departments from 1999 to 2005 coincided with the evolution of cyberlaw. "Being an IP lawyer in the Northern District of California, the home of Silicon Valley and the tech boom (bust, and new boom!) was a stimulating environment in which to practice and learn," she says. "Many high-profile IP cases are filed there."

The Cyberlaw Fellowship at Victoria's Law Faculty is one of the first of its kind in the world.

"The Internet is an area of life which is developing at breakneck speed," says Dean of Victoria's Law Faculty, Professor Tony Smith. "Issues of privacy, contempt, name suppression, free press and fair trial pose recurring problems for common law. The Internet has had the effect of an explosive device and it is vital the law around it develops."

"This Fellowship and the research it produces is an important part of that process and is internationally significant."

InternetNZ Executive Director Keith Davidson says the Cyberlaw Fellowship is making a significant contribution to Internet-related legal research. "Cynthia Laberge will continue the momentum already built up, and her focus on privacy law is very timely for New Zealand and the Internet at large."

"I am looking forward to the prospect of a year's in-depth analysis," says Laberge. "It is an honour to be able to contribute to the evolution of our understanding of this area of the law."

Impact '08 Water Management seminar

The topic for the seminar is Water Management and how Google Maps, wikis and other open source solutions are changing the way water is managed, used and studied.

The second of seven Impact '08 ICT seminar series, of which InternetNZ is a co-sponsor, is being held on 19 May from 12 noon to 2.00pm.

Speakers include NIWA Manager of Operational Forecasting Bernard Miville, Environment Canterbury Chief Executive Bryan Jenkins and Dave Loubser from the Ministry for the Environment.

You can register by emailing impact@2020.org.nz or by visiting the 20/20 Communications Trust website at www.2020.org.nz/impact.

Internal Affairs produces anti-spam video



The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) anti-spam unit has produced an online video that explains the recently-passed Unsolicited Electronic Messages Act – also known as the Anti-Spam Act.

The video is aimed at educating New Zealand businesses, detailing the requirements they need to follow to comply with the Act.

Members of the DIA's Anti-Spam Compliance Unit are featured, as is InternetNZ Public Policy Committee Chair David Farrar.

The link to this video can be found at www.stopspam.org/nzlegislation.htm

Copyright Act a missed opportunity

InternetNZ believes changes passed in early April to the Copyright Act have both benefits and detriments for Internet users and providers, and is disappointed Parliament has missed an opportunity to bring its Copyright law fully into the modern age.

Executive Director Keith Davidson says the Copyright (New Technologies) Amendment Act is a flawed law that fails to fully grasp the nature of those “New Technologies”, such as the Internet and digital media.

“In particular the adoption of the discredited US-style notice and takedown regime for ISPs dealing with alleged customer copyright infringement is hugely disappointing. Also noted is the failure to enshrine a right for consumers to format-shift all their digital media so they can listen or view it on the device of their choice.”

There are some improvements to the law, made by this Act. We welcome the exemption from liability for ISPs in relation to their technical functions such as making copies in transit, and also welcome the protection from liability for material they host but are unaware of.

The legalising of format shifting of audio files (such as from a purchased CD to an iPod) is a very modest step in the right direction. It is a great pity though they have allowed producers to opt out of format shifting, and have not extended format shifting to other media such as video. We believe that if a consumer has legally purchased a licence to the rights to a copyrighted work, they should be able to store it in any format they like, so long as it remains for their personal use.

InternetNZ proposed a notice and notice regime for dealing with copyright infringement for websites. This is a sensible approach adopted by countries such as Japan and Canada. Instead the Government has adopted a notice and takedown system akin to the United States system, which has been widely criticised as open to abuse.

from the DNC

Domain Name Commission Limited – operating as of 1 April 2008

Domain Name Commission Limited (DNCL) began operating as of 1 April 2008. DNCL is carrying on the work previously handled at the operational level by the Domain Name Commission and the .nz Oversight Committee (NZOC). The operating agreement between DNCL and InternetNZ reflects these responsibilities and obligations. All .nz policies remain operational. DNCL board membership consists of Richard Currey (Chair), Michael Foley, Joy Liddicoat, Andy Linton and David Russell.

There have been minor changes to the .nz policies to reflect the correct entity; otherwise, the substance of the policies remains the same. The amended policies became effective from 1 April 2008 and have been published on the DNC website. Version numbers have been updated.

IDNs – second consultation

Previously, comment has been sought on potential issues associated with the implementation of IDNs in .nz, along with any other issues that the IDN working group (WG) should consider. (Submissions received can be viewed here www.dnc.org.nz/idn-consult). A meeting of the IDN WG was held on the 18th of February to discuss the submissions we received.

To avoid potential disputes during the initial phases of IDN registrations in .nz a policy of a sunrise period for registrations has been suggested. Due to the nature of the Maori language it is impossible to automatically assign IDN variants to current .nz ASCII domain names.

We are seeking comment on the proposed course of action outlined below.

1. The policies for IDN registrations are in line with the rest of the .nz policies and procedures (which can be viewed at www.dnc.org.nz/policies). They will express the same values as the core principles of the current system and particularly the “first come, first served” principle (excluding the sunrise period).
2. The cost to register an IDN will be the same as an ASCII .nz domain name.
3. There will be no automatic assignment of IDN variants to current registrants of .nz ASCII names.
4. If current .nz registrants wish to register an IDN variant of their current ASCII names, they must do so during the proposed sunrise period or risk losing the variant to another applicant on a first come first serve basis.
5. Apart from the requirement of current .nz registrants to apply for IDN variants of their ASCII names, there will be no other provisions regarding initial registration principles for IDNs in .nz.

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-2ndconsult. Submissions should be received by 5pm on Thursday 17th July.