

Broadband dominates election debate

The rollout of fibre-speed broadband dominated the election debate of ICT issues held on 23 September, but there was also plenty of hot discussion about Cybersafety, Convergence, Copyright and IPv6.



InternetNZ partnered with TVNZ for the event, which was produced at Avalon by Wellington's Top Shelf Productions, broadcast live on Freeview channel TVNZ 7 for the first 50 minutes, and streamed on the Internet for the full one hour 50 minutes.

A key aspect of the debate was an online chat using IRC. A web-based client was made available to simplify connection and 99 people joined the chat, generating around 2600 lines of discussion.

Questions from the online chat were fed in real-time to the presenter and attending journalists. There were also questions from the 60-strong studio audience and pre-recorded Skype video questions organised by R2's Richard Naylor.

As well as access through TVNZ's website, InternetNZ set up a website especially for the occasion at www.debate.net.nz to bring together information on the topics, access to the video streams, chat window and polls.

Geekzone's Mauricio Freitas helped out as a web partner ahead of time by introducing the topics to his forums and inviting question suggestions, and a number of bloggers posted about the event including Russell Brown and David Farrar, generating much online discussion.

A combined SMS and web poll was developed by TVNZ's text partner Lateral Profiles for the event. This asked which party's policies were preferred.

While the poll couldn't be considered scientific, the results were a win for ACT at 31 per cent, followed by Labour at 27 per cent, National at 23 per cent and the Green Party at 19 per cent.

InternetNZ ran a webcast debate three years ago ahead of the previous general election, and the 2008 debate took it to another level. The technology ground will continue to change, particularly in video capability.

Feedback from attendees and viewers has been excellent, boding well for future attempts to converge traditional broadcasting and the Internet.

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APNIC, Stallman & more...

August and September were busy months for InternetNZ sponsorship-wise, with the Society throwing its weight behind several events.

August saw InternetNZ host the APNIC 26 members meeting in Christchurch. Over 30 Asia Pacific economies were represented and a range of significant policy development and technical issues were discussed including IPv4 exhaustion and Autonomous System Numbers.

The Society also supported a visit to New Zealand by Richard Stallman, the US-based founder of the Free Software Foundation, and sponsored a webcast of The Big Sing - the National High Schools Choral Competitions.

September began with two IPv6 technical workshops and progressed with a sponsorship of Software Freedom Day on 20 September.

The Kiwicon hackers convention and an evening with international fibre evangelist James Hettrick followed, in late September.

Capping off a busy month, InternetNZ partnered in the TVNZ7 Internet Debate and brought together a range of Government and industry stakeholders at an NZCERT workshop.

Industry unites on copyright issues

Six of New Zealand's leading ICT industry organisations issued a joint media statement in September calling on the Government to rethink Section 92A of the recently-passed Copyright (New Technologies) Amendment Act.

The organisations (InternetNZ, TCF, ISPANZ, TUANZ, NZCS and Women in Technology) regard the Copyright Act as "deeply flawed" and "unworkable".

While the Act has introduced a number of positive measures, some hastily inserted last-minute changes have placed an unacceptable burden on ISPs and have the potential to significantly undermine the legal rights of users.

Section 92A would require ISPs to "reasonably implement" a policy to disconnect "in appropriate circumstances" the internet services of users who have repeatedly downloaded or uploaded infringing music, movies, games and other copyright material.

"The Act gives no guidance on what 'reasonably implement' or 'in appropriate circumstances' mean," TCF CEO Ralph Chivers says.

"This leaves the door wide open to those who seek disconnection of an alleged repeat infringer based on flimsy evidence, or worse, allegations alone.

"Identifying repeat offenders will not be easy. A complex data matching exercise will be required, and even then it will not always be clear who the real offender is, particularly when an internet account is used by a family, a business or a school.

"The potential for an alleged offender to be denied natural justice is significant. For these reasons, a court order backed up by solid evidence would normally be required before taking such invasive action."

InternetNZ Executive Director Keith Davidson says the Act could see Internet users having their service disconnected on very weak grounds, undermining the fundamental right of 'innocent until proven guilty'.

TUANZ CEO Ernie Newman says "It is unacceptable that Parliament has placed the burden of sorting out this mess on ISPs".

"ISPs in New Zealand are socially responsible; it's not their job to interpret and enforce vague laws, particularly when they interfere with their customers' rights.

Recognising the difficulties created by s92A, the TCF is developing a Code of Practice aimed at providing a consistent and workable approach to meeting the requirements of the Act.

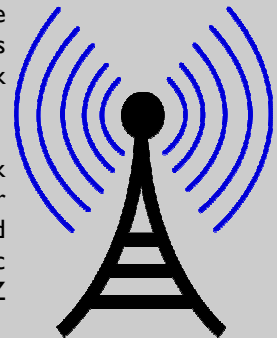
The TCF will consult widely as it develops the Code, including with copyright holder groups. And, it makes sense to delay the introduction of section 92A to give time for the Code to be developed.

"In our discussions with copyright holders and government we have stressed the need to find a better way of managing this problem – section 92A as it stands simply won't cut it.

Regardless, it will be the responsibility of the next Parliament to repair the problems caused by this deeply flawed legislation," says Chivers.

Plans for spectrum park welcomed

InternetNZ welcomes the Government's finalising of plans for a Managed Spectrum Park (MSP) in the 2.5GHz band.



The concept of an MSP - a block of radio spectrum set aside for shared use - was recommended to the Ministry of Economic Development in an InternetNZ submission dated 2006.

Public consultation on the Government's subsequent plan for an MSP closed in July 2008 and interested parties are now expected to be able to apply for a slice by the end of this year.

Executive Director Keith Davidson says the allocation of managed spectrum park will encourage the efficient use of radio spectrum and promote provision of wireless broadband services by local and regional operators.

"Much of rural New Zealand remains poorly serviced by wired infrastructure and the opening up of this managed spectrum should help to improve the availability of wireless broadband services in regional New Zealand.

"Wireless networking solutions provide useful last-mile connectivity. These can enable very high speed connections in areas previously seen as uneconomic and, in some cases, will seed markets for more permanent phases of connectivity using wired/cabled techniques."

The MSP will be technology agnostic. This is important, given the rate of technological change, and will allow a more fertile environment for investment and innovation by local operators.

Broadband report received

InternetNZ has received Stage 1 of its Broadband Strategy Options for New Zealand, prepared by Auckland-based Network Strategies. The Stage 1 report is the scoping and literature review and sets the parameters for the Stage 2 report.

InternetNZ Executive Director Keith Davidson says it is clear from Stage 1 that a step up in thinking about infrastructure is needed to enable New Zealand to compete with market leaders in the OECD.

“Suitable targets of 100Mbit/s for residential users and 1Gbit/s for commercial users cannot be achieved without significantly more investment than is being envisaged.”

Stage 1 looked at local proposals and international examples. The Stage 2 report will explore potential business and intervention models applicable to New Zealand.

The report says: “Market leaders in the OECD have seen huge growth, stimulated by the availability of high bandwidth services at a relatively low price – as an example, residents of the Swedish city Vasteras can currently obtain symmetric 100Mbit/s services from NZD49 per month, which compared with the DSL services Telecom New Zealand plans to deliver in four years’ time still represents an enormous gap.”

A number of lessons have been identified from overseas broadband developments including the need for Open Access where there is an absence of infrastructure competition, removal of barriers to broadband expansion, and importance of local government involvement.

Two possible models are proposed and will be explored in Stage 2 - public private partnerships and utility business expansions.

Open Source celebrated

The 2008 New Zealand Open Source Awards, part-sponsored by InternetNZ, were held in September at a gala dinner in Wellington.

Robert O’Callahan picked up the Open Source Contributor award for his contributions to the Firefox project, and the Software Project award went to Silverstripe for innovation in web content management.

Radio NZ took out the Open Source Use in Government Award, and Egressive/Dave Lane won the Open Source Use in Business award for enabling open source use in Christchurch

New Zealand-led open source e-portfolio project Mahara won the Open Source Use in Education Award. CityLink won the Open Source Use for Infrastructure Award.

The Open Source for Community Organisations Award went to FLOSS manuals for providing plain English manuals for free and open source software.

Special awards went to the State Services Commission and Matthew Holloway.

events

Business Internet Awards

October 7, Wellington
tuanz.org.nz

INZ Council Meeting

October 17, Wellington
internetnz.net.nz

Impact 08 Seminar

October 20, Access Grid
2020.org.nz/impact

RIPE 57

October 26 - 30, Dubai
ripe.net

ICANN

November 2 - 7, Cairo
icann.org

Lawrence Lessig Lecture

November 3, Auckland
business.auckland.ac.nz

APTLD

December 1 - 2, Hyderabad
aptld.org

IGF

December 3 - 6, Hyderabad
intgovforum.org

INZ Council Meeting

December 12, Wellington
internetnz.net.nz

NZNOG

January 28 - 30, Auckland
nznog.org

APTLD

February, The Philippines
aptld.org

Apricot 2009

February 18 - 27, The Philippines
apricot.net

ComCom NGN Conference

February 26 - 27, Auckland
comcom.govt.nz

Second consultation on .health.nz

Previously, the DNC has sought comment on a proposal for a new moderated second level domain, .health.nz.

As a result of seeking comments on the application, ten submissions were received. These can be read at the following link:

<http://dnc.org.nz/health-application>

The submissions identified some issues with the Ministry of Health's initial moderation policy, which were discussed with them.

As a result the moderation policy has been revised and a further round of consultation is now taking place.

The revisions to the moderation policy include:

- clarification of the eligibility of organisations such as the Health and Disability Commissioner for .health.nz names
- a process for the initial allocation of names, and how to manage similar names or abbreviations
- a mechanism for dealing with objections relating to the allocation of .health.nz names; and
- criteria for how to remove names from the .health.nz domain.

Your views on the revised moderation policy are welcome. The policy is available for viewing at:

http://www.dnc.org.nz/content/moderation_policy_v2.pdf

Submissions close at midday on Monday 13 October, and should be emailed to 2LD@dnc.org.nz.

Submissions will be published at <http://dnc.org.nz/healthapplication-2ndconsult> as they are received.

RAG Meeting – Minutes

A meeting of the Registrars Advisory Group was held on 1 September 2008 at the InternetNZ offices.

Minutes of the meeting can be viewed on the DNC website at:

http://dnc.org.nz/content/RAG_minutes_010908.html

IPv6 workshops sell-out

Over 45 network engineers from local service providers, government agencies and universities assembled at technical workshops in Christchurch and Auckland in September for insights into IPv6 - the 'next-generation' Internet addressing protocol.

Over the course of five days, attendees were trained in a range of IPv6 topics by experienced IPv6ers - Gaurab Upadaya from Packet Clearing House, Philip Smith from Cisco Australia, and New Zealand's own Nathan Ward and Jonny Martin.

Topics covered included IPv6 design and addressing, IPv6 neighbour discovery, IPv6 stateless auto-configuration and mobile IPv6. Interest was keen, with tutorials on IPv6 tunneling techniques proving especially popular.

Cisco Systems generously provided 14 high-end routers and switches, which were used in the workshop for "hands-on" lab work.

The Christchurch and Auckland events were the second and third IPv6 technical workshops to be held in New Zealand and follow InternetNZ's successful hosting of the inaugural workshop in Wellington last year.

Community building - Impact 08

A case study of community broadband in the Te Pahu, Waikato was the first installment at the September UNESCO Impact '08 seminar.

The topic was the impact of ICT innovation on building communities, kicking off with Professor Kay Weaver and Dr Margaret Richardson of the Waikato Management School presenting their findings on this rural broadband development.

Te Pahu is 45 km from Hamilton. Of 411 people in the area, only 267 had access to the Internet, through dial-up, and Telecom had no plans to upgrade the infrastructure. A successful application was made for \$47,000 of Broadband Challenge funding to pay for half the equipment required for a wireless backbone, with the rest paid for by the users.

The second presentation, looking at Internet and Film, was from Hazel Ashton of the University of Canterbury. She talked about using video to show fictional local situations and generate conversations about community development.

The final presentation related to the value of ICT in community organisations and featured case studies of an online discussion for school boards and of the local branch of a large national organisation. It was presented by Suzanne Grant of Waikato Management School.

The final Impact 08 seminar for the year is on 20 October and will focus on the impact of ICTs on transport.