

InternetNZ submits on NGN

InternetNZ filed a detailed submission in October on the Commerce Commission's Next Generation Networks (NGN) study.

The Commission's study, which aims to identify commercial, technical and competition issues associated with migration to NGN networks, is strongly supported by InternetNZ.

InternetNZ considers the NGN review is the start of the most important activity yet undertaken by the Commission in the telecommunications sector.

The Society's submission addresses pivotal technical issues such as IP Interconnection but its focus is on Next Generation Access (NGA) including FTTx, LTE and WiMAX.

NGA is a 'now' problem not just a future problem, in relation to negative competition outcomes. The \$1.4Bn cabinetisation roll-out, with no viable business case for unbundling at the cabinet (except in isolated cases), means that the bottleneck, which was reduced by unbundling at the exchange, has come back again.

We submitted that the Commission should use six Ofcom principles to help determine the approach to NGA. Ofcom is the independent regulator and competition authority for the UK communications industries

The overriding principle of the six is: Competition at the deepest level that is effective and sustainable, supported by equivalence of access.

It is expected that industry will resolve some of the issues, particularly technical matters but others, such as price, cannot be resolved in that way.

"We consider that it is unlikely that NGN can flourish, with optimal competition and end-user outcomes, without some regulation. It is not realistic to conclude, for example, that industry will sort out all issues appropriately without intervention by the Commission or by Government," states the submission.

InternetNZ has encouraged the Commission to establish, or recommend the establishment of, a "think tank" similar to the UK Broadband Stakeholders Group (BSG). Something like this could be done as a one-off for the NGN review, possibly to trial the model.

Open access, equivalence, and operational or structural separation are other, related areas that InternetNZ proposes should be at the forefront of the NGN Study.



Making Contact

Keith Davidson
Executive Director
keith@internetcnz.net.nz

Jordan Carter
Deputy Executive Director
jordan@internetcnz.net.nz

Richard Wood
Senior Comms and Research Officer
richard@internetcnz.net.nz

Campbell Gardiner
Comms and Research Officer
campbell@internetcnz.net.nz

Susi Fookes
Shared Services Manager
susi@internetcnz.net.nz

Office / Membership Enquiries
L9, 5-7 Willeston St, Wellington
office@internetcnz.net.nz
(04) 472 1600
www.internetcnz.net.nz



Political parties respond to questionnaire

InternetNZ published a questionnaire in October that surveyed all political parties on a range of ICT issues ahead of the General Election.

The questionnaire covered off broadband, infrastructure, international connectivity, digital divide, copyright, cybersafety, privacy, emerging new technologies such as IPv6, and convergence.

Full responses were received from seven parties - the Democrats for Social Credit, Progressive Party, Workers Party, Aotearoa Legalise Cannabis Party, Labour, The Greens and Libertarianz.

Brief responses were also provided by the National Party and New Zealand First. To read the responses visit:

[www.internetcnz.net.nz/issues/newzealand/2008/General Election Questionnaire](http://www.internetcnz.net.nz/issues/newzealand/2008/General%20Election%20Questionnaire)

The Society has also published the full chat log and transcript of the TVNZ7 Internet debate that was held in late September.

www.debate.net.nz

Pub-Pol & Tech-Pol Committees meet

InternetNZ's Pub-Pol Committee and Tech-Pol Committees held meetings in October covering off a range of public and technical policy issues.

Significant items of business at the Public Policy meeting on October 2 included a discussion on the Commerce Commission's NGN consultation, and an update on copyright issues was given to the Committee in light of the four month extension to Section 92A of the Amended Copyright Act coming into force.

It was noted at the meeting that there was a large turnout from creative industries at the latest Digital Development Forum, with consensus on thinking around a new copyright framework.

InternetNZ is now thinking through whether to foster a wider coalition on copyright and hold a copyright conference early next year.

It was also noted that Stage One of InternetNZ's Broadband Strategy Options for New Zealand has been received. The report was prepared by Auckland-based Network Strategies and can be read here:

www.internetnz.net.nz/issues/newzealand/broadband-strategy-options-for-new-zealand

Full minutes of the Public Policy meeting are available here:

www.internetnz.net.nz/proceedings/ctte/pub-pol/2008

The Technical Policy Committee on October 15 featured updates on projects including the Industry Best Practice Programme, Certificate Authority, NZCERT, Broadband Measurement, ENUM, IPv6 and Honeypot.

In regards to IPv6, InternetNZ intends drafting a proposal for holding a stand-alone IPv6 Hui next year, and momentum is already beginning to build with several possible industry partners.

The Honeypot Project is a Victoria University initiative involving an environmental scan of the .nz domain name space to detect malicious web content using client honeypot technology. The study continues, with a range of interesting results to-date.

Regards electronic numbering, the Telecommunications Carriers Forum ENUM working group is emerging from hibernation in November to continue its work on developing coordinated high-level ENUM policies.

Full minutes of the Technical Policy meeting are available here:

www.internetnz.net.nz/proceedings/ctte/tech/2008

InternetNZ establishes Policy Advisory Group

InternetNZ is forming a Policy Advisory Group (PAG) to provide a platform for expanded membership involvement in policy issues.

The PAG will replace the long-standing Technical Policy and Public Policy committees. It will operate primarily through a dedicated mailing list and also meet twice a year to focus on discussion of specific policy issues.

The formation of the PAG will mean that issues that transcend Public Policy and Technical Policy will be able to be discussed more inclusively.

The need for the PAG was discussed in detail at this year's AGM and within Pub-Pol, Tech-Pol and Executive Board lists.

All InternetNZ members are encouraged to become part of the PAG by signing up to the mailing list. In keeping with the Anti Spam Act, subscription to the mailing list will be an opt-in only system.

PAG members will be invited to attend the twice-yearly meetings, which will feature guest speakers on specialist Internet-related policy topics.

When debates ensue on the PAG mailing list, staff will draw together the differing viewpoints in smaller groups and research these before reporting back through the PAG in order to derive consensus on topics.

More details will be posted soon on all mailing lists and the process for signing up will follow in the next week or so.

TCF works on Copyright

The ISP and telco industries are grappling with the implications of Section 92A of the Copyright Act. If it comes into force in February as announced, ISPs will be expected to terminate customer accounts if they repeatedly infringe.

The concept is fraught with problems and InternetNZ and others are pushing for 92A to be reconsidered by the new Government, but there is no guarantee of that.

The Telecommunications Carriers' Forum has formed a working party and is preparing a Code of Practice. The Code will aim to meet the Section 92A requirement for telcos and ISPs to have a policy for termination of accounts of repeat infringers.

The working party includes telcos, ISPs, ISPANZ, InternetNZ and MED observers. Organisations will be able to sign up to the Code without becoming TCF members.

More information on the working party is available on the TCF website under 'Topics' www.tcf.org.nz.

Transport caps Impact '08 series

The UNESCO Impact '08 series of monthly lunchtime seminars wrapped up in October with a discussion on the impact of innovative ICT on efficiency in the transport sector.

Two expert speakers presented - Brian Baxter, Manager Design and Development of the Wellington Regional Council's Public Transport Division and Jos Kunnen from Critchlow and Associates.

Baxter noted that Wellington buses have GPS navigation systems that can tell the driver where buses are, but in Christchurch and Hamilton, they have real time information for users. The aim is to tender for a state-of-the-art off-the-shelf system for Wellington that may cost the best part of \$10 million.

Actual features may vary depending on the successful tender but it is envisaged that estimated bus arrival information can be provided as signage at bus stops, on the Internet, and by SMS text messages. Ultimately this might include whether the bus is full.

Wellington currently has an SMS service that provides schedule information for 20 cents a message and it is envisaged this will switch to provide the estimated real time information.

Wellington has approximately 3000 bus stops, 500 buses and 60 trains and Baxter said it is a more complex proposition than Christchurch due to factors such as Wellington's geography, tunnels, and the "canyoning" effect of tall buildings. Ultimately the infrastructure created could be extended to operators beyond the Council's influence.

In the second part of the seminar, Kunnen presented another view of transport ICT. Kunnen pointed to the benefits of traffic cams and navigation aids, noting the latter's popularity in Auckland before discussing the organisation's experience in commercial fleet management, in particular in respect to a business customer who collects industrial waste.

First step with the business was to plot their existing routes on a map. They wanted to get some fuel efficiencies but found a significant benefit in customer service, improving their on-time ratings from 50 percent to over 80 percent.

When establishing the best path, waste trucks need different algorithms depending whether they are side or front loading.

Further complexity can be looked at, such as differential routing depending on the loads in their trucks, and also road gradients. Trucks can have sensors that weigh the load they're picking up, useful to prevent overloading and billing. The location and rate cards of refuse stations add another dimension.

"If we look around the world we are at a real cusp. It is interesting that Google has made Geographic Information Systems a household name and modern cellphones have built-in GPS and provide a complete navigation system in their own right," said Kunnen.

Ultimately, says Kunnen, mobile data prices have to come down and more sophisticated interfaces have to be developed. SMS is too basic for some applications.

events

WIP Project Findings

November 24 - 25

Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch
wipnz.aut.ac.nz

APTLD

December 1 - 2, Hyderabad
aptld.org

State of the Industry Roundtable

December 1, Auckland
tuanz.org.nz

State of the Industry Roundtable

December 2, Wellington
tuanz.org.nz

IGF

December 3 - 6, Hyderabad
intgovforum.org

ATNAC

December 8, Adelaide
plevin.com.au/atnac2008

INZ Council Meeting

December 12, Wellington
internetnz.net.nz

AusGRID 2009

January 20 - 23, Wellington
fit.qut.edu.au

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

ICANN

March 1 - 6, Mexico City
icann.org

DNC Policy Reviews

The Domain Name Commission is now reviewing the Disputes and Complaints Process (DCP) and the Investigations and Inquiries Process (IIP). These two policies interrelate and it is reasonable to review both at the same time.

The policies have been utilised on a number of occasions when investigating registrars and registrants. The investigations have resulted both from complaints being received, and also proactive work by the DNC Office.

The current policies allow sufficient flexibility in approach while still ensuring due process. There are no changes identified as required due to operational requirements.

Comments regarding any suggested changes to the above policies, as identified by interested parties are now sought.

Submissions should be by email to policies@dnc.org.nz. They may also be made by fax to +64 4 495 2115 or by post to Domain Name Commission, PO Box 11 881, Wellington, 6012, New Zealand.

Submissions should be received by midday on Tuesday 2 December.

All submissions will be published at <http://dnc.org.nz/dcp-iip-review>.

New Experts / Mediator Appointments

Following an appointment process, three Experts and three Mediators whose terms had concluded were reappointed.

Penny Mudford was appointed to the vacant tenth position on the Mediators panel.

A full list of the .nz Dispute Resolution Service Experts and more information regarding the Mediator panel is available on the DNC website.

.nz Statistics

In September, the number of active .nz domain names increased from 342,345 to 344,293, a net increase of 1,948, the lowest monthly increase since January 2004.

NZRS replaces name server

New Zealand Registry Services (NZRS) has replaced the authoritative name server for the .nz Domain Name System (DNS).

The replacement is part of a wider project aimed at improving the .nz DNS infrastructure. There is no impact on the .nz DNS as a result of the change and the new IP address for NS4.DNS.NET.NZ is 202.46.189.130.

During October the NZRS, a subsidiary company of Internet New Zealand, has worked on the changes. The authoritative .nz name server was previously operated by TelstraClear.

Bringing the server under NZRS' control will lead to greater reporting and monitoring of the .nz name servers. It will also enable the smoother addition of servers to other parts of the network, if required.

NZRS General Manager Nick Griffin thanks TelstraClear for its solid management of the .nz name server to-date.

"The new server uses a technology called anycast, where multiple servers respond to the same IP address, resulting in faster query times. It adds additional robustness and offers better resistance to large-scale denial of service attacks," he says.

The NZRS operates and manages the registry of .nz domain names and the operation of the Domain Name System (DNS) in the .nz domain name space.

NZ static on OECD table

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development released its biannual broadband figures in October, with New Zealand's position on the international table remaining unchanged at 19th out of 30 OECD countries in terms of uptake.

The figures, to June 2008, show New Zealand has 20.4 broadband subscribers per 100 inhabitants, giving a total of 853,020 subscribers, and New Zealand was the sixth fastest growing country in broadband penetration with a net increase of 4.05 subscribers per 100 inhabitants over the previous year.

Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway, Switzerland, Iceland, Sweden, Korea and Finland lead the OECD in broadband penetration. The upgrade to fibre-based connections continues in the OECD. Fibre subscriptions comprise 9 percent of all broadband connections in the OECD (up from 8 percent in December 2007).

Fibre overtakes DSL/Cable in Korea and Japan and now accounts for 45 percent of all Japanese broadband subscriptions and 39 percent in Korea. Korea's fibre penetration alone (12.2 per 100 inhabitants) is higher than total broadband penetration in five OECD countries.