NZNOG meets in Dunedin

Over 100 network operators from across New Zealand descended on Otago Museum in late January for the 2008 New Zealand Network Operators Group Conference.   InternetNZ is a strong supporter and sponsor of the NZNOG conference. IT network experts from public and private sector organisations attended, providing a valuable forum for exchange of technical information and industry networking.

A recurring theme this year was the transition to IPv6. A panel comprising Geoff Huston and Elly Tawhai from APNIC, Philip Smith from Cisco, Dean Pemberton from Prophecy Networks and Brian Carpenter from Auckland University drew lively discussion, and Nathan Ward from IT infrastructure firm Braintrust held an excellent IPv6 tutorial. Overall, conference-goers were well-versed on the impending exhaustion of IPv4 and the increasing importance of early IPv6 deployment.

Tutorials were also held on Border Gateway Protocol (BGP) techniques and network security; and the conference featured a 'mini-conference' for systems administrators, focused on Layer 7 issues to do with network and ISP operations.

InternetNZ Executive Director Keith Davidson and Public Policy Chair David Farrar updated conference-goers on a range of current InternetNZ issues including peering, copyright and operational separation.

Another session of note saw Dean Pemberton speak on 'lawful intercept' issues under the Telecommunications Intercept Capability Act 2004. His message that ISPs face big fines if they cannot comply with intercept warrants issued by law enforcement agencies raised a few eyebrows, with many service providers unaware of their obligations under the Act.

Presentation slides from the conference are available on the NZNOG website at www.nznog.org

Making contact

Keith Davidson
Executive Director
keith@internetnz.net.nz

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

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

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

Susi Fookes
Project Administrator
susi@internetnz.net.nz

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

InternetNZ

NZNOG attendees outside the Otago Museum

2006 cyberlaw research published

The working paper from 2006 Cyberlaw Fellow Dr Judit Bayer has been published by Victoria University's Faculty of Law, and distributed to InternetNZ members.

The paper – titled "Liability of Internet Service Providers for Third Party Content" – considers ISP liability within a variety of different fields of New Zealand law.

The following is an extract from the paper's Foreward, written by Victoria University Law Professor Susy Frankel.

"[Dr Bayer] draws on overseas experience of ISP liability schemes and evaluates the pros and cons of those schemes. The research concludes with a practical proposal for New Zealand.

"Her conclusions reflect a balance of competing interests and the best fit for the policy that underlies the areas of law where ISPs may find themselves liable.

"Dr Bayer not only discusses the balance of interests, but shows in diagrammatic form the relationship between the interests at stake."

Additional copies of the paper are available by emailing the InternetNZ office – office@internetnz.net.nz.

Cabinetisation report

InternetNZ has released a report commissioned from consultancy firm Amos Aked Swift (AAS), which investigates and makes recommendations related to cabinetisation and local loop unbundling.

InternetNZ is still considering its policy position in respect of these issues. In the meantime we recommend industry and public discussion of the recommendations in the report.

The key proposals in the report are:

- Regulation must be more proactive especially with regard to changing technologies.

- The Long Term Benefit of End-users (LTBE) must be defined and used to drive regulatory decisions.

- Copper loops that Telecom intends to remove should instead be offered to new entrants.

- Anti-competitive outcomes must be treated as anti-competitive intent.

- There must be equivalent access to Telecom facilities in the exchange, the cabinet and any other aggregation points that develop within the network.

- The implications of Government investment in infrastructure need to be quantified quickly in respect to penetration of fibre to the home (FTTH) and LTBE.

"Cabinetisation will drive fibre optic cable roll-out closer to the home, and this raises a number of issues for the Government in ensuring a level playing field for competitors regardless of whether services are delivered on old copper technologies or new fibre," says InternetNZ Executive Director Keith Davidson.

"The proposals in this report would appear to provide a good starting point as to how these issues might be handled."

A copy of the report is available on the InternetNZ website at: www.internetnz.net.nz/issues/current-issues/bband

Staff appointments

InternetNZ welcomed two new staff members late last year – accounting technician Sandra Glasgow, and receptionist Laura Turnbull.

Glasgow previously worked at property management firm Gillies Group. She holds a Bachelor of Business Studies, New Zealand Diploma of Business and an Open Polytechnic Diploma in Accounting.

Turnbull is a recent school leaver. She has held part time retail positions and most recently worked at Wellington-based publishing house Huia.

Laura Turnbull

InternetNZ recommends Minister not accept draft undertakings

In January, InternetNZ responded to Telecom's amended operational separation plan, advising the Government that significant amendments are needed to meet the requirements of the Telecommunications Act and ensure long term benefits to end users.

InternetNZ also seeks remedial action in respect to the Amended Determination that allowed group incentives for the Telecom Wholesale Manager, which has put operational separation at significant risk.

"There is plenty of groundwork laid, but the Amended Determination needs to be rethought and Telecom's separation plan should not at this stage be accepted. The Minister should then proceed to the step of amending the Undertakings so that they meet the requirements and intent of the Act," says InternetNZ Executive Director Keith Davidson.

"Some areas have been addressed, but it may have been too much to ask Telecom to finalise these undertakings. The Minister, having reserved the ability to correct this, now needs to exercise that discretion," says Davidson.

"Also the Amendment to the Determination to allow significant group incentives in the remuneration of the Telecom Wholesale Manager, if not retracted or significantly tempered, creates a need for further measures to be included in the plan to counterbalance the obvious impact on the Wholesale division's independence.

"Further, to support the spirit of Operational Separation, Telecom business units should implement staff incentives that improve performance in those areas where historic behavior would not lead to the intended outcomes. For example, reward staff of Telecom Wholesale for growing the share of the business coming from non-Telecom NZ customers."

InternetNZ's submission revisits some of the major issues of its previous submission, and focuses in on key issues including the unmet requirement for disclosure of Telecom's fibre plans, inadequate chinese walls around planning of new services and policy making, and insufficient checks on the involvement of the CEO in the day to day business of the independent divisions.

InternetNZ's submission can be found at: www.internetnz.net.nz/issues/submissions/2008/

LGNZ broadband forum

Local Government New Zealand is hosting a two-day forum in late February, which aims to clarify local government's role in broadband deployment and the Digital Strategy agenda within local communities.

A range of New Zealand ICT heavyweights including Minister of Communications David Cunliffe and Telecom CEO Paul Reynolds will be presenting.

Day One will cover broadband policy and political issues. Day Two will feature discussion on operational broadband issues, facilitated by telecommunications consultant Dr Murray Milner.

More information and registration details are available at the following link: http://www.lgnz.co.nz/admin/Broadband.pdf

Member profile

Brian Carpenter

Having spent over 20 years in a variety of offshore-based technical roles InternetNZ member Brian Carpenter returned to New Zealand in 2007 to take up a research position at Auckland University.

Carpenter, an Englishman with New Zealand family connections, has had a varied IT and computer science career, mostly focused on protocol and design aspects of the Internet. From 1985 to 1996, he led the networking group at CERN – the Geneva-based particle physics institute. Prior to this he developed software for process control systems.

Ten years were spent with IBM working on Internet standards and technology, including a stint at the company's Hursley Park software development lab; and from 1999 to 2001 he worked at iCAIR (the International Centre for Advanced Internet Research), at Northwestern University, Illinois.

Carpenter has also played a key role in technical standards-setting over the years, having served on the Internet Architecture Board and chairing the IETF (Internet Engineering Taskforce) from March 2005 to March 2007.

In the past he has been active in the Global Grid Forum – an organisation dedicated to accelerating adoption of grid computing – and was a trustee of the Internet Society.

Carpenter's main technical interest is IPv6 deployment, a subject he has been keenly engaged with professionally at Auckland University.

Views sought on Digital Broadcasting

As part of a review of broadcasting regulation the Government has called for public submissions on the future of digital broadcasting.

Two discussion papers, titled "Digital Broadcasting: Review of Regulation," and "Broadcasting and New Digital Media: Future of Content Regulation," have been released for public comment.

InternetNZ intends making a submission and is developing a position on a range of Internet-related issues identified in the papers.

More information and electronic copies of the discussion papers are available on the Ministry of Culture and Heritage website at the following link: www.mch.govt.nz/publications/digital-tv/index.html#views

Submissions are due 4 April 2008.

NZRS gets diesel generator

.nz Registry Services (NZRS) has taken delivery of a diesel generator to bolster its infrastructure and improve service capability.

The generator was helicoptered onto the roof of InternetNZ's Exchange Place office early on the morning of 26 January. It will be commissioned in the next few weeks.

Generator being flown into position

from the DNC

.nz Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) – Policy Review

On 1 June 2006, the .nz Dispute Resolution Service (DRS – www.dnc.org.nz/drs) came into effect. Its implementation followed a public consultation on the options for resolving disputes over who should be the registrant of a .nz domain name (refer www.dnc.org.nz/ldrp-consultation).

The intention in establishing the DRS was to provide parties with a low cost alternative to the Courts to resolve .nz domain name disputes.

The DRS is based on the NominetUK dispute resolution process and incorporates a mediation step, at no cost to the parties, in the process before any payment is required to refer the dispute for an Expert determination.

With 89 valid complaints received in the first 18 months, and with around 40% of those resolved at mediation, it would appear that the DRS is meeting a need.

Generally the policy appears to be operating well. The Domain Name Commission intends to add an additional clause enabling a term of settlement, that is within the power of the DNC, to be enforced by the DNC if the parties fail to do so. For example, when the parties agree to transfer a domain name to a different registrant but one party doesn't sign the forms required by the registrar, the DNC will be able to direct the registrar to make the required change.

One issue raised by the Experts relates to the quality of the complaints received, in that the information required to prove the two elements (rights in the name, and that the registration in the hands of the respondent is unfair) is often lacking in sufficient detail to make the case. This issue is one of education, though any ideas that people may have on how the quality might be improved would be welcomed.

At the time the DRS was implemented, it was agreed that there would be a review sometime after its first year of operation.

This is now the opportunity to comment on the policy and its operational implementation.

Comments should be sent by:

email - policies@dnc.org.nz
fax - (04) 495 2115
post - P O Box 11881, Wellington.

As submissions are received they will be published on the DNC website at www.dnc.org.nz/drs-consult.

Comments should be received by midday on Wednesday 13 February 2008.