# InternetNZ welcomes 'Separation Day'

InternetNZ welcomes the recent decision by Minister of Communications David Cunliffe approving the three-way operational separation of Telecom.

The amended separation plan appears to contain strengthened requirements on Telecom compared with the version released in February, and InternetNZ is pleased that the Minister and Telecom have been able to resolve a range of outstanding issues that prevented the earlier adoption of operational separation.

Executive Director Keith Davidson says if Telecom follows the spirit of the approved separation plan it should provide a robust framework for the future of broadband telecommunications in New Zealand.

"The separation plan is legally enforceable and we hope that there will be little need for the Commerce Commission to intervene to enforce the requirements of the separation."

The plan requires the establishment of a separately-branded access services unit, which Telecom has called Chorus, and Davidson calls on all active participants in the telecommunications market to invest to take advantage of having direct access to this unit.

## 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

## ICT Seminar Series

InternetNZ is a sponser of the 20/20 Communications Trust series of seminars this year that focus on the social, cultural and ethical impacts of ICT innovation.

The seminar series – called Impact '08 – will feature seven ICT-related seminars run from April to October using Access Grid networks at Auckland, Waikato, Victoria and Canterbury universities.

The first seminar is being held on 21 April. It will examine ICT innovation in the entertainment sphere, and cover issues including format and time shifting, and digital copyright.

Expert speakers include Thierry Jutel from New Technologies and Contemporary Cinema, Emily Loughnan from new media firm ClickSuite and Chris Hocquard from Auckland legal company Dominion Law.

The session will be chaired by 20/20 Communications Trust Chairman Don Hollander who says innovations in ICT have real implications in the entertainment sector. "Format shifting has been common for quite some time, but the physical nature of that had resulted in some natural constraints. Today, the format shifting and straight out copying allows global transfers in the blink of an eye," he says.
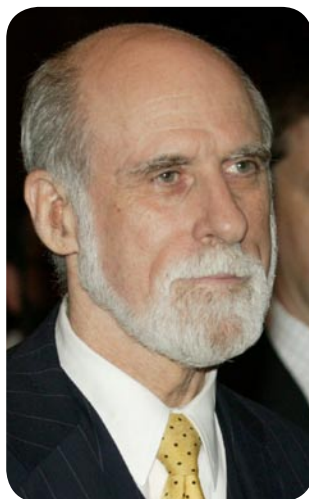
# Government proposes Digital Sector Forum

In late March the Government announced that it intends funding the establishment of the Digital Sector Forum.

The proposed forum is intended to create partnerships between New Zealand's ICT industry and community, voluntary groups and users. It will also provide a co-ordinated voice to Government on digital issues.

Executive Director Keith Davidson says any initiative that encourages better collaboration between industry groups and greater engagement from stakeholders on strategic ICT issues is welcome.

"InternetNZ supports the aims and objectives of a closer ICT community and we will watch with interest to see what real benefits to the industry can accrue through this initiative," he says.

# InternetNZ supports Vint Cerf's rejection of OOXML



In March, InternetNZ publicly supported calls from Internet pioneer Vint Cerf opposing Microsoft's OOXML (Office Open XML) document standard.

OOXML is an electronic document standard for word-processing documents, presentations and spreadsheets.
Despite New Zealand voting against the adoption of OOXML as an additional document standard, the International Standards Organization approved OOXML in late March.

Vint Cerf, widely regarded as the "father of the Internet", was recently quoted, "If OOXML is adopted, it leads to a problem of duplicate formats for document exchange. That duplication is bad for interoperability. In the Internet world standards-makers work hard on agreeing one way to do things, and then evolving it - we don't reinvent the wheel".

InternetNZ fully supports Cerf's assertion, and is also concerned about the technical quality of Microsoft's OOXML standard.

The OOXML proposed standard, which was over 6000 pages long, received over 3500 comments from national standards bodies on its technical quality. At a recent meeting in Geneva convened to address OOXML technical issues only a small fraction of the outstanding problems with the proposed standard were discussed.

InternetNZ Executive Director Keith Davidson says, "ODF (Open Document Format) appears to be the suitable generic international standard. Endorsing another standard such as OOXML could threaten the open and interoperable tenets on which the Internet is built."

# NetSafe Conference Queenstown-bound

NetSafe (the Internet Safety Group of New Zealand) is holdings its annual cybersafety conference in Queenstown from 28 – 30 July 2008.

The conference, titled "Cybercitizens: Risks, Rights, and Responsibilities of Participation in the Information Age" will examine a variety of digital risk and cybersafety issues.

A range of local and international keynote speakers are confirmed. These include ICANN Chairman Peter Dengate Thrush, World Internet Project Director Jeff Cole, and Frank Rittman from the Motion Picture Association.

Running conjointly is the International Project on Cyberbullying Conference; an international research project that measures the profile, prevalence and extent of cyber bullying in eight countries, including New Zealand.

Registration details and full programme information is available on NetSafe's conference website: www.cybersafety.org.nz/conference08

# Sponsoring APAN meeting

InternetNZ has lent its support to the upcoming APAN (Asia Pacific Advanced Network Consortium) meeting in August by becoming an event sponsor.

The meeting, being held in Queenstown, is focused around the theme of "Sustainable Networking" and will explore how ICT developments and advanced networks are changing research and collaboration in the Asia-Pacific region.

The event also features a student innovation competition, which will see tertiary students submit e-posters / multimedia presentations showcasing a project or activity that uses the KAREN advanced network.

The deadline for entries is 30 May 2008.

More information on the student innovation competition and APAN meeting is available on the KAREN website at: www.karen.net.nz/home

# DNC Incorporated

As part of the structural review being undertaken by InternetNZ, the Domain Name Commission has ceased being an operational office of InternetNZ and has been incorporated as a company fully owned by InternetNZ.

Domain Name Commission Limited began operations on 1 April 2008. There is no change to the DNC's contact details, with address and telephone numbers remaining the same.

All .nz policies will remain operational. There will be minor changes to the .nz policies to reflect the correct entity going forward. Otherwise, the substance of the policies will remain the same. The amended policies are effective from 1 April 2008 and will be published on the DNC website. There will also be updated version numbers. In addition, a new version of the Registrar Implementation Kit (RIK), containing the new policies will be available.

The existing registrar authorisation agreements with InternetNZ will be replaced with new agreements with Domain Name Commission Limited. However, the new agreements will be on the same terms as the existing agreements with InternetNZ. All .nz registrars have been issued with the new agreements, which need to be signed and returned as soon as possible.

# NetSafe launches online security campaign

Internet safety group NetSafe has launched an animated, rich-media campaign designed to educate New Zealanders about computer and online security.

Titled NetBasics (www.netbasics.org.nz), the campaign was launched in early April and advises home computer owners on how to protect their PCs and the data they hold.

"With the ever increasing volume and complexity of attacks on home PCs, the need for home computer owners to understand and implement security measures is greater than ever," says Martin Cocker, Executive Director of NetSafe.

"The arrest of Owen Walker (aka Akill) is a timely reminder that the criminal fraternity has really switched on to the 'opportunity' of the internet."

"On its own, computer security is a pretty dry subject. We needed a delivery vehicle that effectively explained the concepts and was also entertaining enough to keep the audience engaged," says Cocker.

"Animation allowed us to get creative and bring new life to this subject matter. I'm sure people will enjoy the animated episodes that introduce each security concept."

Many members of New Zealand's cybersafety and security community gathered at Auckland's Transmission Room for the NetBasics launch. Video teasers can be downloaded from YouTube (www.youtube.com -keyword search – NetBasics). or on the Netbasic website

The NetBasics campaign was partially funded by the Digital Opportunities Community Partnership Fund.

Other major contributors included InternetNZ, Westpac, the Ministry of Education, and TradeMe.

# R.I.P. dial-up - Internet users expect more

InternetNZ welcomes the ISP Survey released in March by Statistics New Zealand as a turning point in New Zealand's Internet history.

The results, for the six month period ending September 2007, show that the number of broadband subscribers has overtaken the number of dial-up subscribers to make broadband the dominant access technology for the Internet.

Executive Director Keith Davidson says it is obvious that people want faster Internet and that dial-up no longer cuts it. "Dial-up is no longer adequate for accessing some of the most useful content and services on the Internet - it just isn't fast enough."

Davidson says broadband offerings themselves are deficient, although regulatory changes to the Telecommunications Act should see increasing diversity of consumer options in a more robust and competitive market.

"Many of the broadband offerings we have today are still not up to scratch and New Zealand has a long way to go to claim real broadband."

"Existing and potential broadband subscribers expect greater certainty in terms of actual speeds, reliability, and costs. This certainty has been somewhat absent with many current broadband options and the resolution to these problems is likely to lead to faster uptake."

## ComCom to study Next Generation Networks

In late March, InternetNZ filed a submission relating to a proposed Commerce Commission study into Next Generation Networks (NGN).

The Commission's study aims to identify commercial, technical and competition issues associated with migration to next generation networks, and is due to start this month.

InternetNZ supports the Commission's decision to proactively consider the implications of NGNs and has given its feedback as to how the study could be made more comprehensive, inclusive and timely.

You can view a copy of our submission at the following link: www.internetnz.net.nz/issues/submissions/2008/