InternetNZ election - cast your vote!

Voting has opened in this year's contested election for InternetNZ Council, President and Vice President positions. This year, the election is being hotly contested, with 21 contenders competing for six spaces.

Every member has an equal vote regardless of whether they are individuals or representing organisations. Members can familiarise themselves with the nominees through the election statements on the InternetNZ website.

It is easy to vote using InternetNZ's online voting system. Members will receive an email with a link. And because it is a preferential voting system, there is confidence your vote will count.

The President and Vice President, and the two highest polling candidates for Council, will be elected for a three-year term (until the 2012 AGM). The next two highest polling candidates for Council will be elected for a one-year term (until the 2010 AGM).

The size of the Council therefore will be twelve Councillors, the new permanent size. For further information please see Schedule 2 of the InternetNZ constitution.

The Councillors whose terms are expiring are Liz Butterfield, Stewart Fleming, Michael Foley, Hamish MacEwan and Judy Speight. President Peter Macaulay and Vice President Frank March's terms are also expiring.

Voting closes on Thursday 30 July. Successful nominees will be announced at the InternetNZ AGM, also on 30 July.

The nominees are:

President	**Vice President**
Hamish MacEwan	Jamie Baddeley
Frank March	Pete Macaulay
Michael Wallmannsberger	Laurence Millar

Council	
Liz Butterfield	Hamish MacEwan
Gerard Creamer	Andrew McMillan
Glen Eustace	Pat O'Connell
Stewart Fleming	Antony Royal
Michael Foley	Judy Speight
Lenz Gschwendtner	Nathan Torkington
Dudley Harris	Mike Usmar
Steven Heath	Alick Wilson
Pete Macaulay	

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.nz awareness campaign launched

InternetNZ has launched an online awareness campaign highlighting New Zealand's domain name space.

The campaign, titled '.nz is our home,' emphasises the value that .nz domain names can deliver for New Zealanders, and raises awareness of the systems the InternetNZ Group has in place to protect the rights of domain name holders.

An online video series has been created, featuring people associated with a range of second level domains including .co.nz, .ac.nz, .org.nz, .school.nz, .net.nz, geek.nz, .maori.nz, .mil.nz and .govt.nz.

The videos are being advertised on key websites over the next three months.

You can also view the videos on the campaign website at: www.dnc.org.nz/content/campaign .

InternetNZ thanks Keith Davidson

InternetNZ advises that Executive Director Keith Davidson will be changing roles soon and thanks him for his sterling work to-date.

Keith's contract as Executive Director will expire at the 2009 AGM. He has agreed to continue working for InternetNZ in a part time contractor's role with a focus on technical and international representation.

Keith has been Executive Director of InternetNZ for four years and was President for the preceding four years. His first involvement in the organisation in an official capacity was when he stood for the organisation's Council in 1998, becoming Treasurer.

InternetNZ President Peter Macaulay says Keith's contribution has been immense. "He has brought to the organisation a wide knowledge and understanding of technical, public policy and Internet governance issues applicable both nationally and internationally."

During the time that Keith has been Executive Director, InternetNZ successfully advocated for the operational separation of Telecom, anti-spam legislation and high speed Internet access, while being a driving force internationally for the openness and independence of the Internet.

IPv6 Hui on the way

Preparations are well underway for the IPv6 Hui being held in August in Christchurch, Auckland and Wellington.

The event will focus on IPv4 address space exhaustion and corporate implementation of IPv6 (Internet Protocol Version 6). It will tackle head-on the need to develop IPv6 roadmaps for industry and corporate networks.

'Father of the Internet' Dr Vint Cerf has been confirmed as keynote speaker for the Auckland and Wellington legs. Minister of ICT Steven Joyce will address the Wellington audience and international IPv6 expert Professor Hiroshi Esaki is delivering the Christchurch keynote.

A range of other presentations and case studies are also being finalised, including New Zealand survey data on IPv6 Readiness and international comparisons.

The event is being overseen by the New Zealand IPv6 Steering Group. InternetNZ is one of three Gold Sponsors and is providing organisational assistance.

Programme and registration details are available at: www.ipv6.org.nz/hui.html .

S92a: termination should be off the table

In June, InternetNZ called on the Government to ensure that its review of Section 92a of the Copyright (New Technologies) Amendment Act does not repeat the mistakes the previous law made.

The Government recently released its proposal, which Executive Director Keith Davidson describes as a mixed bag that tries to combine the benefits of a notice-and-notice approach with the remains of a termination regime.

"Termination should be off the table," says Davidson. "Nobody condones copyright abuse, but the termination of a household or business Internet account is totally out of proportion to the alleged offence."

"92A was thrown out by the Government after heated community reaction to it. Any attempt to re-introduce this penalty will likely lead to the same public response.

InternetNZ has lobbied instead for a different solution based on notices; only this approach fairly balances copyright rights holder concerns with the public interest in the ongoing development of an accessible and open Internet.

Adding fuel to the copyright fire internationally was a ruling from France's highest constitutional authority in June that terminating Internet accounts of copyright infringers is unconstitutional.

A French law, adopted in May, would have seen a 'three-strikes' system implemented, with people's Internet connections able to be cut-off based on mere allegations of infringement.

However, the Constitutional Council of France ruled that the law contravenes Articles 9 and 11 of the 1789 Declaration, which enshrine presumption of innocence and the freedom of speech.

"It follows," wrote the Court, "that in principle the legislature does not establish a presumption of guilt in criminal matters". The Court also wrote that exercising freedom of expression and communication, including that performed over the Internet, is a prerequisite for democracy.

Keith Davidson says the French decision was a victory for democracy and further highlights the absurdity of such legislative cures.

Davidson and InternetNZ Deputy Executive Director Jordan Carter have joined an ISOC working group which is looking to promote international opposition to three-strikes copyright termination laws.

ICANN meets in Sydney

The 35th meeting of ICANN (the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) was held in Sydney in late June, with a contingent of InternetNZ Councillors and staff attending.

Rod Beckstrom

The main discussions in Sydney were new gTLDs and Internationalized Domain Names (IDNs). Other issues in the policy development phase include ccTLD delegation/re-delegation and retirement, transference of domain names between registrars, and an ongoing series of reviews of the ICANN Board, and ICANN's supporting organisations.

ICANN has prepared a draft IDN implementation plan and has called for public comments. Certain linguistic and string technical requirements are yet to be finalised but ICANN expects to have these readied in time for its next meeting in Seoul.

Strong support was expressed in Sydney for linguistic and cultural TLDs. At present there is only one delegated cultural TLD, .cat (Catalan), implemented in February 2006. There are 36,000 registered .cat domains but the TLD remains an orphan despite the keenness of other regional language groups to also implement cultural TLDs, including Basque, Breton and Galician communities.

Security, stability and resiliency were another big focus of discussion, with ICANN planning a number of security initiatives including implementation of DNS security extensions (DNSSEC) and improving its root zone management processes.

A security session of note saw ICANN Board member Ram Mohan from registry provider Afilias speak on DNS Redirection and Synthesized Responses; a recommendation was put to the ICANN board to prohibit wildcarding of DNS records, which provides what looks like a valid address in routing when a domain name doesn't exist. This breaks core DNS systems and legacy applications and is a worse problem when done at the TLD level.

The meeting concluded with former US National Cyber Security Center director Rod Beckstrom appointed ICANN's new CEO and President, replacing Dr Paul Twomey.

A full summary of the ICANN Sydney meeting, including session transcripts, can be found at http://syd.icann.org .

events

APAN
20 - 23 July, Kuala Lumpur
apan.net

InternetNZ AGM
30 July, Wellington
internetnz.net.nz

APTLD
19 - 21 August, Beijing
aptld.org

InternetNZ Council Meeting
21 August, Wellington
internetnz.net.nz

IPv6 Hui
19 August Christchurch
20 August, Auckland
21 August, Wellington
ipv6.org.nz

APNIC28
24 - 28 August, Beijing
apnic.net

Pacinet/Picisoc
7 - 10 September, Papua New Guinea
picisoc.org

InternetNZ Council Meeting
14 October, Wellington
internetnz.net.nz

ICANN
25 - 30 October, Seoul
icann.org

ECTA
November, Brussels
ectaportal.com

IGF 2009
15 - 18 November, Egypt
intgovforum.org

Australian IPv6 Summit
7 - 9 December, Melbourne
ipv6.org.au

LCA2010 (Linux.conf.au)
18 - 23 January, Wellington
lca2010.org.nz

NZ tops in Internet use

New Zealand ranks among the leading group of nations in respect of general Internet use but still has a high rate of dial-up, according to international data from the World Internet Project (WIP).

The WIP is a longitudinal research project that tracks the global trends of the Internet. More highlights include:

New Zealand has the highest overall Internet penetration of the countries surveyed, with 77% of respondents using the Internet.

New Zealanders are also experienced Internet users with an average of 7.9 years spent online, the fifth-highest of the countries surveyed.

New Zealand has the second highest rate of dial-up of the countries surveyed, and one of the lowest rates of broadband.

New Zealand ranks second highest of the countries surveyed in accessing religious or spiritual websites, with 16% of users doing this at least weekly; Israel takes top spot at 21%.

New Zealand has the highest rate of online banking of the countries surveyed (56% of Internet users do this at least weekly), and 25% of New Zealand Internet users pay bills online at least weekly; the second highest figure internationally, eclipsed only by Australia at 30%.

Moderate numbers of Internet users in New Zealand go online at least weekly to download music (25%), download/watch video (19%) and play online games (17%). These figures are unremarkable by international standards.

Relatively low numbers of New Zealand Internet users go online at least weekly to view sexual content (5%), make travel reservations (2%) and bet online (1%).

Levels of concern about credit card security when buying online are pronounced in most countries; in New Zealand, 48% of users expressed a high level of concern.

New Zealanders are frequent email checkers, with 81% of Internet users checking email daily or several times a day. We rank second behind the United States on this metric.

One third of New Zealand users send email attachments daily or several times a day, ranking alongside countries including Australia, Canada, the Czech Republic, Israel and Singapore.

The New Zealand research is conducted by AUT. More information can be found at www.aut.ac.nz and www.worldinternetproject.net .

Australia & NZ Internet Best Practice Awards launched

In June, InternetNZ announced its support for the 2009 Australia and New Zealand Internet Best Practice Awards: www.bestpracticeawards.org.nz .

Organised by auDA in collaboration with InternetNZ the Awards recognise organisations, businesses, groups and individuals that have made significant contributions towards Internet security, openness, diversity and accessibility.

The categories are:

Security: initiatives that are at the forefront of developing solutions to security threats and building trust and confidence in the online environment.
Openness: initiatives that enable Internet users to benefit from increased access to online materials, knowledge or information.
Access: initiatives that aim to combat the digital divide, facilitating access for groups such as the elderly, disabled or socially disadvantaged.
Diversity: initiatives that encourage expressions of cultural diversity and identity, including the promotion of multilingualism and indigenous cultures online.

A fifth award will be presented recognising the achievements of young Australians or New Zealanders. Nominations close on 31 August. Winners will be announced in October.

InternetNZ is also supporting the NZ Internet Industry Awards in August, with 'Father of the Internet' Vint Cerf confirmed as keynote speaker. Tickets for this event are available at: www.ldtf.org.nz .

from the DNC

IDN Sunrise Registration Policy Consultation

A policy outlining the rationale, requirements and process for the initial registration period for IDNs (Internationalised Domain Names) in .nz has been drafted and comments are now being sought.

The policy can be viewed on the Domain Name Commission website. A Māori translation of the policy is also available.

A sunrise period will allow current .nz Registrants to have a chance to register the IDN variants of their ASCII names before open registration of IDNs in .nz are offered.

Submissions are due 24 August and can be emailed to policies@dnc.org.nz, faxed to 04 495 2115, or mailed to PO Box 11881, Wellington.