

InternetNZ welcomes rural broadband targets

InternetNZ is encouraged by the announcement of Government targets for rural broadband, seeing them as an essential complement to the urban plans anticipated under the \$1.5 billion broadband investment initiative.



The Government has announced that within six years 93 percent of rural schools will receive fibre broadband with speeds of over 100Mbit/s. More than 80 percent of rural households will have access to broadband delivering at least 5Mbit/s.

InternetNZ spokesperson Jordan Carter says this announcement fills a worrying gap in government policies that would have seen the emergence of an even wider digital divide between urban and rural.

The extension of fibre backhaul in rural areas will be a significant benefit to the communities served. New Zealander's heavy reliance on dial-up has been an embarrassing component in international comparisons of Internet access, and has limited the economic and social development options available to Kiwis outside urban areas.

Carter says the tighter roll-out timetable for rural areas is reasonable given the importance of the rural community to the New Zealand economy and the approach of establishing a fibre connection to the majority of rural schools has obvious additional benefits for children's education.

"Speeds of 100Mbit/s will provide for opportunities such as virtual education, greater sharing of educational resources and enhanced multimedia usage. Given that it is fibre, it is upgradable to faster speeds and we can imagine significant change in how education may be delivered."

InternetNZ would like to see more thought go into how to get the ultra-fast broadband to other rural facilities, businesses, farms and rural dwellers, rather than be limited to speeds of 5Mbit/s, which would appear to be some sort of copper-based solution.

"InternetNZ hopes that rural communities in conjunction with Government can consider innovative ways of getting fibre all the way to their homes and businesses, noting that wireless will also play a role for the more inaccessible areas."

The Ministry of Economic Development has issued two proposals (Rural Broadband Initiative and TSO Reform & Funding) which outline in detail how the Government will follow through on its Rural Broadband Initiative. They can be viewed at www.med.govt.nz.

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TSO to be reformed

As part of its rural broadband initiative the Government is planning to reform the Local Service TSO, which ensures the availability of basic telecommunications services in New Zealand.

A new TSO charge methodology is proposed and a dedicated 'Telecommunications Development Levy' will be introduced to help fund rural telecommunications infrastructure.

InternetNZ spokesperson Jordan Carter says considerations concerning the future of the TSO will have a direct impact on the provision of rural broadband, and InternetNZ is pleased it is to be reformed.

"The Government's two-pronged approach of regulatory reform and significant direct funding of infrastructure should help to address the current lack of broadband investment in rural areas."

InternetNZ will thoroughly analyse the Rural Broadband and TSO proposals and file a submission.

.health.nz created

A new moderated second level domain (2LD) for New Zealand (.health.nz) has been created.



.health is the fifteenth second level domain to be established in New Zealand and joins .bank as the most recent approved for creation.

The creation of .health.nz will enable easy identification of New Zealand health sector organisations on the Internet and give people confidence that they are dealing with bona fide health providers.

Only organisations with registered health practitioners, ambulances, selected Government agencies, and approved health sector support organisations will be able to use the domain.

The Domain Name Commission Ltd received an application from the Ministry of Health for the creation of .health in March 2008. Two separate periods of public consultation followed, with thirteen submissions received.

The .health.nz namespace was approved by InternetNZ's Council last December. The application process is managed by the Health Domain Moderator's Office, sitting within the Ministry of Health.

Information on how to apply for a health domain and further details about eligibility criteria are available at www.moh.govt.nz/healthdomain.

PICISOC meets in Port Moresby

The eighth annual conference of PICISOC (the Pacific Islands Chapter of the Internet Society) took place in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea in early September.

Over 50 people attended the PacINET 2009 conference, with InternetNZ representative Keith Davidson there on InternetNZ's behalf.



The Pacific Internet Partnership (PIP) - a consortium of independent organisations including InternetNZ - funded four Fellows to attend. *PIP Fellows: John Jack from Vanuatu & Sakaio Manoa from Fiji.*

PICISOC's focus is on ICT and Internet issues in the Pacific Islands region. More information is available at: www.picisoc.org.

ICANN signs affirmation of commitments with US Government

ICANN (the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) has signed an Affirmation of Commitments with the United States Government.

Originally, ICANN was established in 1998 by the US Government's Department of Commerce, under a Memorandum of Understanding, which after several reviews, was converted to a 'Joint Project Agreement'.

This JPA was also renewed several times, and scheduled to expire on 30 September 2009. Instead of renewing the JPA, the Department of Commerce has enabled ICANN to be self governing, but overarching administration will be covered by an Affirmation of Commitments between the two parties.

The Affirmation of Commitments was signed on 30 September and establishes ICANN's independence from the US Government in terms of its ability to develop policy and principles for its management of the Internet's unique identifiers.

The unilateral control by the US Department of Commerce is replaced primarily through the use of ongoing reviews conducted by an international group of stakeholders including ICANN representatives and various experts from outside of ICANN.

ICANN's Governmental Advisory Committee (GAC) will become a more critical stakeholder through its accorded decision-making in appointees to the review panel, and will likely lead to a greater interest and participation in the GAC by many Governments.

ICANN CEO Rod Beckstrom says the Affirmation of Commitments completes a transition that started eleven years ago. "It commits ICANN to remaining a private not-for-profit organization and declares that ICANN is independent and is not controlled by any one entity.

"What is really means is we're going global. All the reviews and [all ICANN's work] will be submitted for public comment to the world.

"Under the JPA, reporting was just to the US Government, and some of it was handled publicly... the Affirmation is our commitment to be global and to report to the global community."

Generally, the changes support the position asserted by InternetNZ in its submissions to the US Government on this subject earlier this year.

The text of the Affirmation of Commitments can be viewed online at: www.icann.org.

NetSafe hosts copyright discussion

Internet safety group NetSafe hosted a copyright discussion in September, with District Court Judge David Harvey speaking on file-sharing and Section 92a.

Over 30 people assembled in Auckland and in Wellington (via video-conference) to hear Judge Harvey give an historical précis of copyright law, and explain how the digital paradigm is challenging traditional print-based assumptions.

Judge Harvey gave a useful background to Section 92a of the Copyright (New Technologies Amendment) Act, covering off its initial passage, the subsequent uproar over its implications for consumers and ISPs, and the current MED review.

Judge Harvey spoke of the conflicting interests between rights-holders, who want to deal with copyright infringers in a swift and economic fashion, and ISPs and their customers.

A host of issues arose with the original Section 92a, he said; not least of which was identifying who was infringing, and whether or not people's property/contract rights should be interfered with without proper process.

He described disconnection of Internet accounts as a "valid remedy" that fits within the new digital paradigm.

"Rights-holders should have an enforcement regime that meets the new technology. Disconnection has got to be available, but to make it discretionary is absolutely critical."

InternetNZ is strongly opposed to disconnection as a response to illicit file-sharing, proposing instead a notice-and-notice system. Our latest submission to the MED on Section 92a can be read at: www.internetnz.net.nz/issues/submissions.

APTLD gathers in Beijing

Representatives from 11 Asia Pacific ccTLDs gathered in Beijing recently for a meeting of APTLD (the Asia Pacific Top Level Domain Association).

InternetNZ was represented by the DNC's Debbie Monahan who presented on the HoneyPot Project - a Victoria University scan of the .nz space to detect malicious web content.

One of the conference themes was IDNs (Internationalised Domain Names). Presentations were focused on implementation of IDNs from policy and technical points of view. Security issues were also covered off, with a panel discussion on how different ccTLDs managed the recent Conficker alert.

The meeting also featured an IPv6 workshop, held in conjunction with APNIC. The workshop focused on IPv4 exhaustion and why IPv6 is necessary for the Internet's sustainability and development.

Papers and presentations from the meeting are available at: www.aptdld.org/beijing2009.

events

InternetNZ Council Meeting

16 October, Wellington
internetnz.net.nz

ICANN

25 - 30 October, Seoul
icann.org

NetSafe Member's Meeting

28 October, Auckland
netsafe.org.nz

KANZ Broadband Summit

4 - 5 November, Auckland
kanz2009.co.nz

Rural Broadband Symposium

12 - 13 November, Rotorua
tuanz.org.nz

IGF 2009

15 - 18 November, Egypt
intgovforum.org

PacNOG

15 - 21 November, Nadi
pacnog.org

NetSafe Members Meeting

25 November, Auckland
netsafe.org.nz

State of the Industry Roundtable

30 November, Auckland
1 December, Wellington
tuanz.org.nz

Australian IPv6 Summit

7 - 9 December, Melbourne
ipv6.org.au

ECTA Regulatory Conference

7 - 9 December, Brussels
ectaportal.com

LCA2010 (Linux.conf.au)

18 - 23 January, Wellington
lca2010.org.nz

APTLD

February 2010, Kuala Lumpur
aptdld.org

.nz Search Functionality

The DNC is seeking comments on a proposal to expand the .nz search functionality to include a search by Registrant and also a wildcard-type search of a domain name.

Submissions can be sent by email to policies@dnc.org.nz, by fax to (04) 495 2115, or by mail to P O Box 11881, Wellington and should be received by midday on Tuesday 27 October.

Currently it is only possible to search .nz domain names by a specific domain name using WHOIS and it is proposed to limit the nature and eligibility of the searches as outlined below:

Search by Registrant

Nature of Search

This search would be restricted to a search by Registrant name.

A search would be for the name specified only but it would be possible for reasonable variants to be requested such as Robert and Bob or McLean and MacLean.

Eligibility

Individuals would be able to search for a list of their own domain names with proof of identity.

Organisations would be able to search for a list of their own domain names with requests accepted from Directors, Chief Executives or other persons that can demonstrate an authority to act.

Agencies such as law firms, intellectual property advisors, accountants etc can search for a list on behalf of a client if they can show evidence of an authority to act on behalf of that person or organisation.

Any person can search for a Registrant where they intend to use the information as part of a Dispute Resolution Service (DRS) complaint, as per clause 5.1.3 of the DRS policy that allows the complainant to demonstrate that the respondent is engaged in a pattern of registrations.

Cost

Free for people or organisations seeking a search for their own names, or where done by an agency on their behalf.

A fee should be payable where the search is for use in a DRS complaint. This fee to be refunded if a corresponding, valid complaint is laid.

Staff changes

Sebastian Castro has joined the NZRS team. He is involved in the support and management of NZRS's DNS infrastructure and the research, planning and implementing of upgrades/additions to the DNS.



Sebastian Castro
NZRS

Sebastian has previously worked for the .cl (Chile) registry and CAIDA (the Co-operative Association for Internet Data Analysis) based in University of California at San Diego.

The DNC has recruited Paul McKittrick to the new position of Manager Compliance and Security. Paul was previously with the Centre for Critical Infrastructure Protection.

Stuart Anderson's last day with the DNC as Compliance Officer was on 31 August. Stuart has been working with the DNC for several years. He continues working for InternetNZ in a part-time desktop support role.

The fee should be high enough to deter misuse of the process but low enough to not be an unfair barrier.

Wildcard-type Search of Domain Name

Nature of Search

Variants of existing domain names for possible cyber or typo squatting; for example, wwwtrademe.co.nz or trdeme.co.nz.

Eligibility

Registrants of an existing .nz domain name, or their authorised representative.

Search must relate to their domain name. Different requests required for different domain names but multiple variants of one name possible.

Cost

Cost could be based on tiers – up to 20 variants searched for \$A, up to 40 for \$B and so on.

Eligibility is limited to only allow requests for variants of existing domain names. Therefore, fees should be based on cost recovery rather than any deterrent aspect. Fees would be evaluated once requirements, and therefore process and times, are confirmed.

Based on submissions received, decisions will be made as to what, if any, additional search functions are added to .nz.

If it is agreed that additional searches should be allowed, it will require a change to the current WHOIS Policy. Changes will be drafted to that and will be the subject of a separate consultation.