

InternetNZ files rural broadband submission

In late October InternetNZ filed its response to Government's proposals for rural broadband and TSO reform.

Taken together, the proposals lead to the retention of a Universal Service Obligation on Telecom to provide voice landline and emergency calling access in rural areas; the end of cost-sharing for the expense of Telecom providing services required by the TSO; a diversion of the former TSO levy to fund investments in rural broadband, and the rollout of new broadband to rural areas.

InternetNZ has consistently advocated for the roll out of high-speed broadband services to rural communities. The provision of high-speed backhaul infrastructure in rural areas is a step towards our long term goal of fibre to the premises everywhere that people want it.

There is a simple issue of relativity in the sense that urban consumers will gain the benefit from \$1.35bn of public investment. The remaining 16% of consumers in rural areas only receive \$48m of public funds. This is a substantially lower per-capita investment than urban consumers, and the logic for this difference is not clear.

InternetNZ supports the contestable nature of the Rural Investment Initiative, as this should lead to the best bang for buck in obtaining the maximum possible infrastructure for the least possible cost.

The Government's proposal to introduce a replacement Telecommunications Development Levy (TDL), to spend a significant portion of it on the Rural Broadband Initiative, and to lower the levy over time, is a benefit to TSO liable persons (in the sense that compared with the status quo, they will be levied less – at first marginally less, and later substantially less).

InternetNZ's submission notes however that it does not follow that the TDL is an appropriate way to fund investment in infrastructure.

The Government has not set out the case as to why it believes that the customers of liable persons are the appropriate financing base for rural broadband investment.

While InternetNZ would prefer direct Government funding, and regards the TDL mechanism as a second-best alternative, the imperative is to proceed with the Rural Broadband Initiative, which we strongly support.

The full submission can be viewed at:
www.internetnz.net.nz/issues/submissions/submissions-2009

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InternetNZ moves premises

After almost six years tenating Exchange Place on Willeston Street, InternetNZ is moving to new premises on Willis Street, Wellington.

The fit out of the new office provides a more efficient use of space, and staff from the three units (InternetNZ, the DNCL and NZRS) will work together on one level.

InternetNZ's new physical address is:

Level 9
Grand Arcade Tower
16 Willis Street
Wellington 6011

Staff telephone numbers and postal address remain unchanged.

We look forward to meeting you at the new premises.

Walled gardens copyright solution - NZISCR

The New Zealand Institute for the Study of Competition and Regulation (NZISCR) has proposed a 'walled garden' solution to the vexed issue of digital copyright infringement.

A research paper authored by NZISCR's Bronwyn Howell, Susan Corbett and Mina Moayyed says walled gardens are ideal because they capture all agreements between users and distributors/rights-holders, and because ISPs exist outside the walled garden.

Walled gardens incentivise both rights-holders and users, as rights-holders can track their content via distributors and users can maintain an audit trail and prove their right to use.

While rights-holders and copyright owners argue that ISPs are in the best position to locate and stop infringers, NZISCR principal researcher Bronwyn Howell notes that the role of ISPs as intermediaries in the distribution of infringed works is problematic because ISPs are not party to copyright agreements.

"ISPs are unlikely to possess specialist knowledge of copyright law to determine if works are original and subject to copyright. They can't ascertain the identity of individual users and rights-holders, and can't evaluate the legitimacy of claims of infringement or agreed use."

Howell says the current S92a proposal from Government will see ISPs caught in the middle of an impossibly complex review and enforcement process where ISPs will still be required to act on unverified allegations of infringement. In addition, she says the proposed copyright tribunal process will be costly and address only the very worst cases of infringement.

The NZISCR research paper is titled *S92a of the Copyright Act & the Institutional Role of Internet Service Providers and the Copyright Tribunal*.

InternetNZ joins the Twittersphere

InternetNZ has registered an account with micro-blogging service Twitter, to keep people up-to-date with InternetNZ news and views.



Staffers recently tweeted from the KANZ Broadband Summit, and have used Twitter to link to recent submissions and noteworthy Internet-related articles.

Follow InternetNZ on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/internetnz> .

R v the Internet Seminar

InternetNZ, the Law Commission and the Ministry of Justice are hosting a seminar in early December for legal, media and Internet professionals to discuss the issues around suppression orders, contempt of court and the Internet.

The Internet has transformed communications in New Zealand as the number of information sources easily available to the public has exploded from barely a dozen media outlets to thousands of websites, blogs, Facebook pages and tweets on Twitter.

Some of the issues that will be discussed are undermining of suppression orders, lack of jurisdiction over material hosted outside NZ, online discussion of crimes and trials potentially being a contempt of court, and jurors who "Google".

Speakers include Hon Christopher Finlayson, Attorney-General David Collins, Warren Young from the Law Commission, Judge David Harvey and Kiwiblog Editor David Farrar.

The seminar is being held on Thursday 3 December at Te Papa and costs \$100 + GST; free for InternetNZ members.

For more information: www.internetnz.net.nz .

INZ submits on electoral finance/wholesale loyalty

InternetNZ filed two additional submissions in October; to the Ministry of Justice on the Government's Electoral Finance Reform Proposal and to the Commerce Commission on the Telecom Wholesale Loyalty Offer Consultation.

The electoral finance submission deals with election advertising and parallel campaigning. Under the Government's proposal, websites maintained by party/candidate/parallel campaigners, and personal opinions published on blogs, personal and social networking websites will not be considered 'election advertisements'.

InternetNZ is pleased with these exceptions and supports the development of a narrower definition that excludes general advocacy.

The wholesale loyalty submission covers off the non-discrimination and EOI obligations under Telecom's separation undertakings requirements with respect to complaints concerning the Telecom wholesale loyalty offers.

www.internetnz.net.nz/issues/submissions

Filtering working group update

New Zealand's Department of Internal Affairs is planning to deploy a filtering system that allows ISPs to block access to a blacklist of child abuse material.

InternetNZ's vision is of an open and uncapturable Internet, but few would argue with the view that child abuse is abhorrent and all avenues must be considered to stamp it out.

In this case there is concern amongst the Society's membership that ISP-level filtering especially if widely adopted might have other consequences or become the thin end of the wedge leading ultimately to mandatory filtering of a range of content.

The question of filtering is therefore an acutely contentious one for InternetNZ, and needs to be considered very carefully and thoroughly. At stake is InternetNZ's position on the specific case of the DIA's filter, but in making a decision on this, the Society's wider position inevitably comes into focus.

InternetNZ has a working group looking at the system and preparing a draft position on filtering generally. The draft position document will be discussed by InternetNZ's Policy Advisory Group in November.

IPv6 technical workshop - register now

The New Zealand IPv6 Steering Group, in conjunction with InternetNZ, Cisco, Braintrust and Victoria University, is hosting an IPv6 technical workshop in Auckland from Monday 7 December to Friday 11 December.



The instructor team includes Nathan Ward (Braintrust), Faraz Shamim (Cisco) and Andy Linton (Victoria University).

This hands-on workshop has been delivered at several APRICOT / APNIC / SANOG meetings in recent years, and around New Zealand. The lab equipment consists of 14 Cisco routers and switches.

The workshop is being run on a cost recovery basis at a fee of \$295 ex GST. Attendance is limited to 28, and registration is on a first come, first served basis.

The workshop is targeted at engineers and operational staff at ISPs and other network operators who are planning to use IPv6 either as research or on production networks.

It will cover the history of IPv6, IPv6 design and addressing, IPv6 mechanisms including neighbour discovery and auto-configuration, IPv6 routing, access and services and transition from IPv4 to IPv6.

For more information please email campbell@internetnz.net.nz.

events

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

R v the Internet Seminar

3 December, Wellington
internetnz.net.nz

Australian IPv6 Summit

7 - 9 December, Melbourne
ipv6.org.au

ECTA Regulatory Conference

7 - 9 December, Brussels
ectaportal.com

InternetNZ Council Meeting

11 December
internetnz.net.nz

LCA2010 (Linux.conf.au)

18 - 23 January, Wellington
lca2010.org.nz

NZNOG Conference

27 - 29 January, Hamilton
nznog.org

APTLD / APRICOT

February 2010, Kuala Lumpur
aptld.org

APNIC29

1 - 5 March, Kuala Lumpur
apnic.net

from the DNC

Consultation on 2LD Policy Review

InternetNZ, through Domain Name Commission Limited, is reviewing the Second Level Domains (2LD) policy.

The policy can be read at:

http://dnc.org.nz/content/second_level_domains.pdf

The policy was last reviewed over 2003-2004 when a Working Group put out papers for public consultation.

These papers sought comment on a number of issues including introducing registrations in .nz at the second level and the process for creating a new second level domain. The review resulted in changes to the process of creating a new second level domain but did not introduce .nz registrations at the second level.

Since that review, three new second level domains have been added to the .nz space - .bank.nz, .parliament.nz and .health.nz. All three new second level domains are moderated ones. There have been no new open 2LDs since .geek.nz back in 2003, under the previous policy.

The 2LD Policy sets out the general rules regarding the structure of the .nz domain name space. Appendices to the policy provide the application forms for new 2LDs and a schedule of fees.

Currently the policy includes:

- The list of open and moderated second level domains, defining the communities of interest reflected in the .nz 2LD structure
- The criteria for new 2LDs and the process undertaken upon application for a new open or moderated second level domain
- The procedure for closing an existing 2LD

Submission are now open, and comment is sought on any aspect of the policy.

Submissions can be sent by email (policies@dnc.org.nz), by fax to (04) 495 2115, or by mail to PO Box 11881, Wellington 6142.

Submissions should be received by midday Wednesday, 27 January 2010.

As submissions are received they will be published on the DNC website at:

<http://www.dnc.org.nz/2LD-review09> .

ICANN clears the way for IDNs

The 36th meeting of ICANN (the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) was held recently in Seoul, with the ICANN Board resolving to proceed with the deployment of Internationalised Domain Names (IDNs) for Country Code Top Level domains (ccTLDs).



This meant that nations and territories will now be able to apply for Internet extensions made up of characters from their national scripts.

A fast track process is being launched on 16 November that will enable countries to submit their non-Latin character scripts to ICANN for inclusion as resolvable addresses at the Internet's root servers.

ICANN Chair and long-time InternetNZ member Peter Dengate Thrush says the coming introduction of non-Latin characters represents the biggest technical change to the Internet since it was created four decades ago.

"The fast track process is the first step in bringing the 100,000 characters of the languages of the world online for domain names," he says.

IDNs have been a topic of discussion since before ICANN's inception, and it has taken years of intense technical testing, policy development, and global co-operation to prepare the fast track process for its coming launch.

Also on the Seoul agenda was the third version of the gTLD (Generic Top Level Domain) Applicant Guidebook, which is out for public comment until 22 November.

ICANN has revised the deadline to the opening application date for new gTLDs and, instead of giving a date, or quarter, the launch date will be dependent on community efforts to find solutions to the overarching gTLD issues.

ICANN is also looking into how to introduce a system for allowing expressions of interest to be shown in new gTLDs.

Another important discussion at the meeting was the Affirmation of Commitments, which provides ICANN greater independence from the US Government, and instead is required to have an international review committee.

A strawman of the new oversight group will be examined at the next ICANN meeting in Nairobi, March 2010.

A full summary of the ICANN Seoul meeting, including session transcripts, can be found at <http://sel.icann.org> .