

Section 92A bill is a step forward

InternetNZ has welcomed the Copyright (Infringing File Sharing) Amendment Bill, introduced to Parliament in February by Hon Simon Power.

The Bill will repeal Section 92A of the Copyright Act 1994, which the Government deferred after public protests last year.

“The draft legislation is broadly in line with the Cabinet paper released last December, and incorporates some improvements that InternetNZ suggested before Christmas,” says InternetNZ Policy Director Jordan Carter.

“I commend Simon Power and the Government for following through the direction they set out in December, and taking on board the constructive suggestions many have made for how to respond fairly to copyright infringement on the Internet.

“As drafted, this Bill sets out a regime that is focused on educating the public about their responsibilities to not infringe copyright, and provides an independent process that tests allegations of infringement before anything happens to ISP subscribers.

“The only major flaw remaining in the legislation is that its provision for the suspension of people’s Internet accounts. Internet users would simply start a new account at another ISP.

“While suspension would require an order of the District Court, it is still unworkable and unnecessary. InternetNZ will argue strongly that suspension be deleted by the Select Committee.

“InternetNZ will carefully analyse the detail in the Bill. It is important that definitions are clear and workable. We have initial concerns about the definition of ISP, what ‘suspension’ means, and that the matters left to regulation are considerable. Getting the detail right is vital.

“Given the breadth of the matters left to regulation, the Government should guarantee public consultation and involvement during the regulation-drafting process.

“Overall, the draft Bill puts the mistakes of the original Section 92A behind us, and allows for a workable regime that will reduce copyright infringement in New Zealand,” says Carter.

InternetNZ will convene public forums in Auckland and in Wellington in March, inviting the public to find out more about the draft Bill and how to make submissions on it.

Details about these events will be made available on the InternetNZ website.

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Launch of WIP findings

Findings from the second World Internet Project New Zealand survey are being released on Monday 15 March in Wellington and Tuesday 16th March in Auckland.

The bi-annual survey examines New Zealanders’ attitudes to the Internet and how Internet use affects peoples lives.

The survey is conducted by Auckland University of Technology’s Institute of Culture, Discourse & Communication and is strongly supported by InternetNZ, a contributor to its funding.

The presentations will include the reporting of the primary 2009 findings, as well as some indicative comparisons between the 2007 and 2009 data.

For further information, and for RSVP details, go to the WIPNZ website:

wipnz.aut.ac.nz

InternetNZ to take public message to ACTA negotiators

InternetNZ will assist the public in voicing its concerns about the controversial international Anti Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) through an open conference to be held in April in Wellington.

"We're going to give the public the chance to have their say - in contrast to the secrecy of the negotiation process," says InternetNZ Policy Director Jordan Carter.

PublicACTA will be held on Saturday, 10 April 2010, two days ahead of Round 8 of the ACTA negotiations on 12-16 April in Wellington. The outputs of PublicACTA will be provided to the New Zealand government negotiators.

PublicACTA will be an open and public opportunity for people to critique the known and likely content of the ACTA proposals, providing a counterpoint to the secrecy of the negotiations.

"These plurilateral negotiations appear to extend well beyond the area of trade and physical counterfeiting to potentially cover non-commercial infringement of copyright material by ordinary citizens and digital rights management," says Carter.

Despite the high level of secrecy surrounding the process, some of the proposals have leaked and demonstrate cause for concern.

"ACTA could affect everyone's rights on the Internet. Proposals from some countries seek to go beyond New Zealand's current public position. It is therefore very important that there is a forum for public discussion," says Carter.

"The aim of PublicACTA is to raise the public's concerns, seek improvements to the Agreement, and provide an opportunity for people to connect and discuss the issues. The output will be an agreed statement that the public and interested organisations can sign up to, to be delivered to New Zealand Government negotiators and politicians."

The New Zealand Government today called for submissions on ACTA identifying the dates of the negotiations and outlining some specific areas they would like feedback on. InternetNZ will also submit on that document, which has a deadline of 31 March 2010.

Details of the programme of and high profile international guests at PublicACTA will shortly be made available.

IPv6 Taskforce Trust formed

The New Zealand IPv6 Taskforce, for which InternetNZ provides Secretariat services, has been registered as a Trust and charitable entity.

The purpose of the Trust is to promote and support forums in New Zealand for education and sharing of knowledge about IPv6 and its adoption.

In other IPv6 news, APNIC recently announced there are less than 10 percent of IPv4 addresses left available, and the activity of IPv6 taskforces globally is ramping up in response.

In New Zealand, the IPv6 Taskforce is focusing on helping different industry sectors, including health, education and government, to develop roadmaps for IPv6 adoption.

Planning is also underway for another New Zealand IPv6 event, to be held this year, and the taskforce is examining a range of possible new technical and general purpose IPv6 training options.

For more information, and for a copy of the New Zealand IPv6 Taskforce's Action Plan please visit:

www.ipv6.org.nz

InternetNZ files submissions

InternetNZ filed a number of submissions in February, responding to various government and telco industry proposals:

The Telecommunications Carriers' Forum sought feedback on its proposal for reform of New Zealand's NAD (Number Administration Deed). InternetNZ responded with a submission recognising the increasing convergence of the Internet and telephony and suggesting substantive changes to the regime proposed by the TCF.

The National Library sought feedback on a planned .nz web harvest in April 2010. InternetNZ welcomed the National Library's efforts to preserve New Zealand's online heritage and suggested a number of ways in which the harvest could be effectively managed.

The Commerce Commission released a paper setting out its draft guidance on Telecom's non-discrimination obligations under the Telecom Operational Separation Undertakings. InternetNZ made a submission noting that the issue of non-discrimination is core to the effectiveness of the operational separation regime, and appended a brief legal review commissioned by Wigley & Company.

Copies of InternetNZ's submissions are available online at: www.internetnz.net.nz/issues/submissions/2010

Telecom reveals inner broadband workings

In late February, Telecom Wholesale and Chorus hosted a tour of its Courteney Place exchange building and roadside cabinet sites North of Wellington. Staffers Richard Wood and Campbell Gardiner attended to see how the facilities work.

The tour took in the underground cable pit in the Courteney Place exchange (where outside fibre and copper enter the exchange), through the MDF (main distribution frame) room, to the PSTN splitters, the NEAX switches, broadband DSLAMS, aggregation and Co-Lo.



Exchange copper lines

The tour travelled to Wellington's Northern Suburbs where multiple generations of cabinets in the field were shown. First stop was a new subdivision in Grenada Village where fibre-to-the-home is being deployed via passive 'cross-connect' cabinets.

Several hundred metres down the road, in the older part of Grenada, sat a legacy copper-only cabinet. Thousands of these nationwide are gradually being replaced by newer fibre-enabled models as part of Telecom's cabinetisation programme.

The last stop was at a new double-bay Whisper cabinet in Khandallah. These are manufactured by Christchurch-based Eaton Power and are designed for DSL and fibre delivery. Whisper cabinets also have space for other telco providers to install their equipment.



FTTH cabinet

The photo at left is of the new not-yet-deployed FTTH cabinets, which are connectorised and can handle both multiple service providers and a blown copper solution (where copper can be blown in to be replaced with fibre later).

There is the ability to easily change from PON to P2P in this scenario, although this is subject to there being sufficient backhaul at the time. The small layered boxes on the bottom are the PON boxes.



Whisper cabinet



Passive fibre cabinet

More photos at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/internetnz>

events

ICANN

7 - 12 March, Nairobi
nbo.icann.org

WIP launch

15 - 16 March, Wellington & Auckland
wipnz.aut.ac.nz

InternetNZ Council Meeting

19 March, Wellington
internetnz.net.nz

IETF 77

21 - 26 March, Los Angeles
ietf.org

NetSafe Members Meeting

31 March, Auckland
netsafe.org.nz

PublicACTA

10 April, Wellington
internetnz.net.nz

TUANZ Telco Day

20 April, Wellington
tuanz.org.nz

NetSafe Members Meeting

28 April, Auckland
netsafe.org.nz

CeBit Australia

24 - 26 May, Sydney
cebit.com.au

CENTR General Assembly

2 - 4 June, Dublin
centr.org

InternetNZ Council Meeting

11 June, Wellington
internetnz.net.nz

ICANN

20 - 25 June, Brussels
icann.org

IETF 78

25 - 30 July, Maastricht
ietf.org

IDNs in .nz – Countdown to launch

Sunrise Registration Period

The sunrise registration period for Internationalised Domain Names will launch on 6 April, and run until 6 July 2010. This has been implemented so people who have currently registered .nz domain names can secure the macronised vowel variant (i.e. māori.co.nz) of their current names.

Registration Process

- * Current registrants can apply for variants during the sunrise period;
- * At the end of this phase, DNCL will review the applications and all those that fit with the requirements of the policy will be registered;
- * The names will be made live on the IDN launch date, which is Monday 26 July. This will be the date of registration for all names requested during the sunrise period, so please be aware that if you wish to cancel these names during the 5-day grace period, you must contact your registrar before 30 July 2010.

We would like to take this opportunity to point out a few key things to remember if you wish to take advantage of this pre-registration period:

- * Please note that only the current registrant of the .nz domain name in question will be allowed to register the macronised vowel variant of this name;
- * The registration details for the current name will be used as the registration details for the variant you are requesting;
- * If a name that was registered to you when you applied for the variant, subsequently changes hands, then you will not be allowed to register the variant as part of the sunrise period. Details for the two versions of the name must match at the registration date of 26 July 2010;
- * Also note that if you change any of the contact details of your current name, such as the registrant contact email, you may miss out on receiving important communications regarding your application;
- * It is possible to apply for up to 8 variants of a currently registered name, per application;
- * Your registrar will notify you and confirm billing arrangements if your application is successful and the variants you requested are to be registered.

Membership working group update

InternetNZ's membership working group has been considering issues raised at last year's AGM about the membership system.

The work has focused on three areas: improving the administration of the membership system, changing the officers of Council, and improving the information available to members during the Council election process.

The Working Group plans to publish a report seeking input from members and discussion of its proposals in mid-March.

The feedback from the debate will guide the Working Group's next steps - if there is broad agreement to what is proposed, formal change documents will be prepared and submitted to a general meeting for decision. If further debate or refinement is needed, time will be taken to do so.

Members can expect the report on the members list soon.

InternetNZ business plan consultation

InternetNZ's overall strategic direction, five priority focus areas, proposed budget, and policy work programme were discussed with members at meetings in Auckland on 22 February and in Wellington on 24 February.

Comments and feedback from these meetings have been incorporated into a draft business plan.

We are now seeking further feedback from members so as to be able to finalise a draft for consideration by Council at its meeting on 19 March 2010.

You can send your comments to the members' discussion list or directly to the CE at vikram@internetnz.net.nz.

Feedback received by 17 March 2010 will be reflected in the discussions and decisions at the Council meeting.

The final version of the business plan will be formally proposed to members for their adoption at the AGM.

PDF and HTML copies of the draft plan are available on the InternetNZ website at:

www.internetnz.net.nz/reports/plans/2010-2011/draft-business-plan-2010-2011