

Domain Name Registration Systems

Build vs Buy – how about a 3rd option?

In 2000 / 2001 InternetNZ resolved to roll out a Shared Registry System. A full review of “off the shelf” solutions was examined, and little existed in the market at that time. The only useful options at that time were very expensive, and the vendors had a preference to run the registry outside of New Zealand, something we were reluctant to allow.

Our only real option was to develop our own solution. Consistent with our own overarching principles relating to openness and transparency, we tendered the development of the registry software on the basis that it must use open source software, and must be sufficiently robust to withstand public release of the source code.

The cost of development of the software was in excess of US\$500,000, the project was completed within the required time frame and below budget. The SRS was implemented for .nz in October 2002, at a time we had around 100,000 names. The software has been very successful for our registry operation. .nz is now approaching 300,000 names and the software has been most stable and scaleable.

The software includes a complete Registry / Registrar interface kit and is well documented. The software is capable of being easily modified and could be re-worked for other registry non-TLD functions.

EPP is not incorporated in the registry software, as EPP protocols were still being decided at the time the software was developed. Provision was made to add EPP at some point in the future.

As part of an overall review being conducted currently by our registry company, an option is being tested which would allow EPP enabled Registrars interfaces to be tailored into the SRS.

The source code was released by 2004, and is available free for download and use under GNU General Public License, on the SourceForge website.

www.sourceforge.net/projects/dnrs

The software updates are made available as they come into production.

If a developing ccTLD wanted to utilize the SRS software I am sure we could assist in implementation both from a technical and policy perspective.