An overview of .nz

APTLD Singapore
February 2013
Outline of presentation

1. Who is responsible for .nz
2. How .nz is structured
3. .nz’s relationship with Government
4. Domain name fee setting and strategy
5. Promoting .nz
Who is responsible for .nz

- InternetNZ – delegated responsibility for .nz
- Domain Name Commission Ltd (DNCL) – subsidiary company of InternetNZ responsible for policy and managing the .nz space
- .nz Registry Services (NZRS) – Subsidiary company of InternetNZ responsible for operating the .nz register
How they fit together...

Domain Name Commissioner \(\rightarrow\) DNCL Board \(\rightarrow\) InternetNZ

- InternetNZ: Two subsidiary companies report to InternetNZ as shareholder. DNCL Board also reports as .nz manager.

\(\rightarrow\) NZRS Board \(\rightarrow\) Chief Executive

- NZRS Board

Respond as required to queries

Report against SLA
InternetNZ

- *InternetNZ Incorporated* is the not for profit charitable membership based society that aims to keep the Internet open and uncapturable and to protect and promote the Internet for New Zealand. Objectives include:
  - To promote easily available access to the Internet for New Zealanders.
  - To develop, maintain and disseminate standards for the Internet and its associated technologies and applications.
  - To develop effective administrative processes for the operation of the Internet in New Zealand.
  - To promote education and conduct research related to the Internet.
  - To represent the common interests of the wider NZ Internet community.
  - To support continued competitive provision of access to the Internet.
Role of the Domain Name Commission

- Responsible for the day-to-day oversight of the .nz domain name registration and management system, including:
  - Effectively managing the .nz domain name space
  - Developing policies and procedures for .nz
  - Governing operational elements of the management of the .nz country code top level domain (ccTLD).
DNCL carries out this oversight role by:

- Authorising registrars
- Developing policies under the direction of the DNCL Board, whose members are appointed by the InternetNZ Council
- Monitoring registrar activities and their compliance with the .nz policies
- Handling complaints that arise in the operation of the .nz market
- Protecting the rights and relationships of all parties in the .nz market (registrars, registrants and registry).
Role of NZRS

- NZRS is responsible for the register of domain names and the operation of the Domain Name System (DNS) in the .nz domain name space, including:
  - Managing the .nz register
  - Ensuring the system is available to registrars to effect domain name registrations and management of those names
  - Managing the .nz DNS, by ensuring the .nz zone file is populated to various name servers, and that they operate to enable .nz domain names to be resolved at all times
  - Monitoring performance and reporting to the DNC against standards specified in the Service Level Agreement
  - Supporting DNCL by providing such information as is required to enable investigations or other actions to be completed, and to update details on the register if directed by the DNC.
Funding for DNCL

- Funding for DNCL, including the costs of the Board, is by way of a management fee charged to NZRS. Therefore, the governance of .nz is effectively funded by the registrants, whose interests it is designed to promote and protect.
.nz Domain Name Space

- No legislation covering the .nz domain name space
- .nz domain name space operates as a Shared Registry System (SRS)
- Authorised registrars have access to the register and full responsibility over their domain names
- The SRS is governed by a series of .nz policies and procedures and formal agreements
- The registry does not operate as a registrar. Registrants deal with registrars, not the registry
- Operates in an open and transparent manner, including public consultations for setting policies
All registrars are charged the same monthly fee by the registry - $1.25 per domain name per month (GST excl).

Expectations and performance are managed through agreements:

- Authorisation Agreement
- Service Level Agreement
- Registrant Agreement
- Connection Agreement

DNCL

Authorised Registrars

Registrants

NZRS
Relationship with government

- Nothing formal
- Government acknowledges role of InternetNZ in .nz but no active control
- No Government appointed people on DNCL or NZRS boards
- DNCL consults with Government as part of consultation process in developing policy
- Strong relationships in areas where matters of mutual interest including Internet security
Domain Name Pricing Strategy

○ .nz Fee funds all aspects of .nz plus the public good work of InternetNZ
○ “Stable but reducing” wholesale fee
  • Fee has dropped three times in last 10 years
○ All registrars charged the same wholesale fee
○ No control on retail pricing
Promoting .nz

- DNCL has the “public profile” and has a series of videos on the value of a .nz name [http://dnc.org.nz/content/campaign/index.html](http://dnc.org.nz/content/campaign/index.html)

- DNCL and NZRS starting to work together on how .nz can be promoted given the changing environment with new gTLDs

- Any plans will need to reflect the roles and responsibilities of each organisation
Debbie Monahan
Domain Name Commissioner
dnc@dnc.org.nz