

The Development of the Internet in New Zealand and the Role of InternetNZ

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Abstract

InternetNZ is a non-profit incorporated society charged with administering the New Zealand portion of the international Internet domain name system and one of our core objectives is to maintain and extend the availability of the Internet and its associated technologies and applications in New Zealand. As a body we have no commercial interest in the Internet - our interest is to safeguard its fabric and promote the competitive provision of Internet access, services and facilities in an open and uncapturable environment. Some commercial Internet Providers are members of InternetNZ but we also have many individual members, universities, crown research institutes and companies involved in e-commerce as members.

The development of the Internet in New Zealand continues to be an exciting field, with huge changes taking place almost weekly. These changes provide huge opportunities, but they also come with some risk. The risks center upon the fact that we have few, if any role models for these new ways of communicating, doing business, and creating community. This paper will background the development of the Internet in New Zealand and outline the landmarks of change. It will also note the risk and opportunity areas, and discuss InternetNZ's ongoing role in the development of what has become critical infrastructure for New Zealand.

1. Introduction

- Who the Internet Society of New Zealand Inc is and why we exist
- Issues covered in this paper.

2. Brief History of the Development of the Internet Infrastructure in New Zealand

1986

- Victoria University introduces dial-up access to international USENET

1989

- Waikato University establishes first permanent connection to global Internet
- New Zealand Universities form loose alliance to establish national Internet infrastructure for education and research (TUIA Net)
- New Zealand's first commercial ISP established – Actrix¹

¹ <http://www.actrix.co.nz/about.html>

1992

- TUIA Net formalises into TUIA Society and includes DSIR and other government research groups

1994

- November – TUIA Society holds public meeting to establish a new public body to manage Internet Infrastructure development in response to increasing commercialisation of the Internet.

1995

- November 1995 – formation of the Internet Society of New Zealand Inc (ISOCNZ – now InternetNZ). Transfer of management of the “.nz” namespace to ISOCNZ.

1996

- ISOCNZ establishes subsidiary company the New Zealand Internet Registry Ltd (Domainz²) in response to increasing volume of commercial domain name registrations – can no longer be a volunteer activity. Charging for Domain names introduced.

3. Landmarks in Development of Internet Infrastructure

1995

- approximately 2000 domain names in “.nz”; by 2001 – 100,000 domain names, of which 96% are in “.co.nz” (cf. 38% in 1993³)
- first flutters of e-commerce – Amazon.com established

1996

- entry of Telecom into Internet Services Provision – claims 40,000 users within months.
- Technology and Crimes Reform Bill (The “Trevor Rogers Bill”) introduced and failed (ISOCNZ Submission⁴).

1997

- Creation of the ISP Code of Practice by ISOCNZ after community consultation, establishment of ISPANZ – Internet Service Providers Association of New Zealand. Code signed by all 25 members.

² <http://www.domainz.net.nz>

³ <http://www.netlink.co.nz/~mark/netsites-growth.html>

⁴ <http://www.internetnz.net.nz/issues/submsn9607tech-crimes-bill-reform.html>

1998

- American Government issues Green Paper on privatising the technical management of the global Internet. Extensive rounds of international consultation take place⁵.
- Internet Safety Group⁶ begins research

1999

- American Government hands, with caveats, the technical management of the global Internet to ICANN (the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers). ICANN created in secret and not as part of international consultation process. ICANN charged with or self-arrogates:
 - expansion of the global Top Level Domain Name Space (gTLDs)
 - attempts to regulate the Country Code Top Level Domains (ccTLDs), e.g., “.nz”
 - attempts to create new global Trade Mark ‘rules’ on all TLD’s, despite not having Treaty Organisation status.
 - Demands large financial contribution from ccTLDs without providing ccTLD representation on Board, nor providing any services⁷.
- Joint US-EU “International Conference on Combating Child Pornography Across the Internet” – much time spent attempting to educate law enforcement representatives on the nature of the Internet and therefore the futility of many of their proposals. Progress⁸ on working together via Hotlines, value of Codes of Practice.
- Relaunch of ISP Code of Practice as Internet Code of Practice⁹. Government endorsement of industry self-regulation.
- Ongoing debate about hacking/cracking legislation¹⁰ as abuses highlight gaps in the laws.
- Digital Divide issues become prominent – ISOCNZ sponsors research. Identifies need for a “champion” for Maori Internet development, and areas where ISOCNZ can back other workers and lobbyists.

2000

- Telecom introduces charging for Internet access from residential phones (0867). ISOCNZ meets with Telecom and then with government in response to community outrage¹¹. Charging is not implemented.
- Electronic Crimes Amendment Bill introduced
- Telecommunications Inquiry (submission¹²)

⁵ <http://www.internetnz.net.nz/international/icann-index.html#bkgd>

⁶ <http://www.netsafe.org.nz/>

⁷ <http://www.internetnz.net.nz/international/icann-index.html>

⁸ <http://www.stop-childpornog.at>

⁹ <http://www.internetnz.net.nz/icop/index.html>

¹⁰ <http://www.internetnz.net.nz/issues/hacking99consult-form.html>

¹¹ <http://www.internetnz.net.nz/issues/0867/index.html>

¹² <http://www.internetnz.net.nz/issues/submsn000525telecoms-inquiry.html>

- AS/NZS 4444 – Information Security Management Standard issued (now ISO 17799¹³)
- Incorporation of Te Whanau Ipurangi/New Zealand Maori Internet Society¹⁴
- Proposal to expand .nz namespace by introduction of “.bank.nz”¹⁵ – failed to gain support
- Start of process by ISOCNZ to change the New Zealand Internet Registry to a Shared Registry System¹⁶ – intention is to create more competition in the provision of domain name registration services whilst still protecting nameholder rights.

2001

- Crimes Amendment Bill #6 (submission¹⁷)
- Telecommunications Bill
- Electronic Transactions Act
- Digital Copyright Discussion Paper
- September 11
- ISOCNZ runs various Roadshows¹⁸ on the Internet
- Internet Society of New Zealand rebrands from ISOCNZ to InternetNZ
- September – Internet2 (NZ) Steering Group¹⁹ established
- November – proposal to create “.maori.nz”²⁰ – in progress
- late November Internet NZ holds New Zealand Internet Industry Forum²¹ to look at new legislation and self-regulation issues. Internet Code of Practice endorsed for revision and promotion to the Industry.

4. Future Issues – 2002 onwards

InternetNZ will shortly hold Strategic Planning for the year. Issues already identified are

- The implementation of the Shared Registry System²²
- Broadband issues
- Dispute Resolution, e.g. Domain Names
- Privacy
- Security
- Digital Divide
- International, especially ICANN

¹³ <http://www.standards.co.nz/seminars/secure-info.html>

¹⁴ <http://www.nzmis.org.nz/>

¹⁵ <http://www.internetnz.net.nz/dns/2nd-level-domains/2ld00overview.html>

¹⁶ <http://www.internetnz.net.nz/public/working-group-reports/wg-domainz-model-review/dmrwg001020report-final.html>

¹⁷ http://www.internetnz.net.nz/issues/iswg010209submsm_crimes-amend-bill-6.html

¹⁸ <http://www.internetnz.net.nz/public/committee-reports/ctte-impact/index.html>

¹⁹ <http://www.internetnz.net.nz/public/working-group-reports/wg-internet2/index.html>

²⁰ <http://www.internetnz.net.nz/dns/2nd-level-domains/2ld00overview.html>

²¹ <http://www.internetnz.net.nz/forum01-agenda.html>

²² <http://www.internetnz.net.nz/public/committee-reports/ctte-srs-implementation/>

- Standards and self regulation – revising Internet Code of Practice

5. Conclusion

InternetNZ continues to work for the development of the Internet infrastructure in New Zealand. That work is not about content policing but about standards setting. It is not about legislation but about self-regulation. It is about modelling new ways of development, so all aspects of our work involve continuous consultation and feedback with both stakeholders and the wider community. Events such as this fit well within that approach.

We believe that the pressing issues for 2002 are not technology issues per se, but are rather social issues. For instance, in the area of young people's safety, technology solutions such as "filters" are of limited value²³. The key here is for the community first to become familiar with the technology, and then with both the opportunities and risks associated with the new medium. Adults then need to take personal responsibility to assist young people to develop new and safe standards of online behaviour.

This is not an easy task as there have been no positive role models on the new frontier. The Internet Safety Group has taken up that challenge and now leads the word in creating safe models for both young people and adults.

InternetNZ is pleased to endorse the work done to date, and looks forward to further developments which will arise from this conference and the planned event in 2003.

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²³ "Internet Filtering Software Not a Substitute for Adult Supervision"
<http://www.internetnz.net.nz/communications/media-release010515filtering.html>