



Domain Name Abuse Forum

Finding solutions for a safer .nz

Our current .nz approach

.nz policy

As with many other Country Code Top Level Domain (ccTLD) managers, the Domain Name Commission (as part of its responsibility for compliance and policy enforcement in .nz) does not have the authority to act or make judgements based on the content on a website, or the use of a domain name. The .nz policies outline the extent of the DNC's powers, which include the power to carry out checks and audits to ensure compliance with these policies. Certain types of complaints are called out in policy as being outside the scope of the DNC's jurisdiction. These are the illegal or malicious use of a domain name (e.g. spam, phishing), objectionable or offensive website content and possible breaches of legislation.

While matters relating to the content of a website, or other use of a domain name is outside the DNC's mandate, the registration of a domain name is not. By extension, this means that most registration abuse falls under the DNC's mandate. .nz policy allows the DNC to sanction registrants of .nz domain names, including the cancellation of their domain name. If the registration details of a .nz domain name are found to be invalid or fraudulent, the DNC can direct the registrant to correct them, or, failing that, cancel the domain name.

Registration detail validation process

To operationalise the policy, the DNC uses the **registration detail validation process**. This process involves contacting the registrant of a .nz domain name using the details listed on the registration record. The registrant is asked to validate the contact details, to prove they are contactable on the details listed. In many instances, malicious domain names have fake contact details, and typically do not validate these details when requested. Failure to validate the contact details results in the cancellation of the domain name.

While the DNC does not directly act in matters related to content abuse, the registration detail validation process can sometimes assist. The DNC is referred domain names from trusted notifiers, and members of the public. The registration detail validation process is often a workable approach for issues of content abuse. However, if the registrant of an abusive domain name validates their registration contact details, the domain name remains active.

Cooperation with court orders

The .nz policies also outline the DNC's relationship with the broader legal system, specifically with respect to court orders. The DNC will cooperate with a court order instructing the locking or cancellation of a .nz domain name. Furthermore, .nz policy allows the DNC to cancel, suspend or transfer a registration where the maintenance of said registration would place the DNC in conflict with the law, including the terms of a court order. In practice, court orders relating to .nz domain name registrations are a rarity.

Mandate

In policy terms, the DNC's mandate is relatively clear. The DNC is not an adjudicator in matters of content or domain name use. In practice, the DNC's compliance actions have the effect of indirectly combating domain name content abuse.