

ISPANZ considers separation proposals

The Minister of Communications has issued a draft determination on operational separation and there is an opportunity to submit on this before Friday April 27. Telecom has responded by proposing a form of structural separation.

ISPANZ directors are meeting with Vodafone, Telecom and InternetNZ to hear separation proposals and debate the merits of the different options, prior to formulating our own submission.

It is important to remember that separation is the just means to our goal, which is equivalence of access to the "bottleneck" access network.

It is only LLU and enhanced UBA that will deliver improved products for consumers as well as improved profitability for ISPs. So we need to ensure that the Government understands the priorities and that Telecom are not allowed to slow the process down.

ISPANZ is preparing a position paper on operational separation.

ComCom initiates standard terms determinations

The Commerce Commission has initiated standard terms determinations (STPs) for unbundled bitstream access (UBA), unbundled local loop (LLU) and co-location.

Following input from industry as to the priorities, Telecom is required to file LLU lines and co-location STPs by June 12, followed by the UBA proposal on July 11.

The STPs include a detailed definition of the service, all non-price terms of supply, a specification of all components that will be charged for, a detailed implementation plan, an operations manual and a service level agreement with incentives for compliance.

There will be opportunity for industry submissions and the timeframe for final determinations including pricing is Q4 this year.

The TCF's working groups will support Telecom in drafting the proposals. The aim of this is to maximize industry consensus and therefore minimise time spent debating submissions and cross-submissions.

UBS backhaul and interconnection

ISPANZ directors have met with Telecom regarding UBS backhaul and interconnection. ISPANZ put forward a list of priorities and received a generally negative response from Telecom.

On the issue of Ethernet handover the date slipped from May to June, and only for selected exchanges. There is also a packet limit that may not support L2TP.

Telecom refuses to budge on service provider equipment in its exchanges until after the standard terms determinations and will not consider multi-service handover links at this stage.

Telecom considers its URSA remapping charges fair and reasonable, has proposed external third party service level reporting instead of providing reporting from within its network, and says third party handover links will also have to wait until after the standard terms determinations.

A roadmap for equivalence of inputs will be produced, but is likely to take time, and ISPANZ is waiting on a breakdown of costs associated with ATM port fees.

ISPANZ follows up on Copyright submission

ISPANZ will follow up its submission to the Commerce Select Committee on the Copyright Amendment (New Technologies and Performers' Rights) Bill with a further letter to the Committee members.

The letter will address further issues raised in Select Committee meetings and further support points made in InternetNZ's submission around ISP Liability and the proposed 'notice and takedown' system.

There has been much discussion at Select Committee and in other forums about InternetNZ's proposed alternate notice and notice system, which has been supported by ISPANZ, Telecom and other submitters.

However, there has been opposition particularly from the Recording Industry Association of New Zealand (RIANZ), who want to be able to force material to be taken down on request.

Notice and notice would not free ISPs from responsibility for dealing with copyright infringement complaints but we would avoid having to make judgment calls about the likely copyright infringement of any particular users' content.

UBS pricing

The Commerce Commission released a draft UBS pricing reconsideration on February 21. This proposes a more appropriate model for calculating retail-minus UBS price but there are assumptions used that need work.

There are also issues relating to backhaul in Telecom's cross-submission that will need to be refuted. The Commission is having a conference in April

Telecom moves on peering

ISPANZ met recently with Telecom to hear its proposal to introduce local interconnection. This follows calls since 2004 for the two large telcos to re-peer at the peering exchanges and the Minister of Communications' highlighting of the issue earlier this year.

Telecom is in a consultation process, so its offer may still be changed, but it has proposed bilateral connections with ISPs at 29 points around New Zealand to exchange local data.

This is not national peering as many remember prior to 2004 and it remains unclear how it will work in with the existing Citylink peering exchanges or any future peering exchanges.

Issues requiring clarification are the cost of the bilateral links and the need for geographically-based connect points.

InternetNZ has set up a peering group headed by Dr Murray Milner, ex-CTO of Telecom. This is external to InternetNZ and aimed at finding industry-wide solutions on peering. ISPANZ is meeting with that group to provide its input.

ISPANZ earlier this year prepared a position paper on peering with a focus on pushing for the exchange of local data locally. While there is still work ahead, this seems a realistically possible achievement.

ISPANZ working groups

The ISPANZ working groups are being reviewed and it is important that members each consider how they can contribute.

The list of existing working groups, and a further proposed list, has been circulated through the members list. Members should review the document and respond with which groups they can lead or at least join. Groups with no leader will not be able to proceed.

Mark Frater joins Compass

ISPANZ director Mark Frater has moved to Compass Communications as Technology and Regulatory Advisor. He will be Compass' representative for ISPANZ and the TCF.

If you have any queries on the information above or actions for ISPANZ to consider please contact the directors individually, or jointly at directors@ispanz.org.nz

