

# CommsWire

Essential daily reading for the communications industry executive

An iWire publication

[www.itwire.com](http://www.itwire.com)

Editor: Stan Beer

Thursday 31 May 2018

## QANTAS WIFI ROLLOUT ROLLS ON TO A330 PLANES



*CommsWire* (ISSN 2202-4549) is published by iWire Pty Ltd. 907/151 City Rd, Southbank, Vic, 3006

CommsWire/Telecommunications Editor: Stan Beer

Staff writers: Peter Dinham, Alex Zaharov-Reutt, Sam Varghese. Columnist: John de Ridder

Advertising: Director of Digital Media, Andrew Matler: [andrew.matler@itwire.com](mailto:andrew.matler@itwire.com) • Tel: 0412 390 000

# QANTAS CONTINUES IN-FLIGHT WI-FI ROLLOUT TO A330 PLANES

National airline Qantas says it will have Wi-Fi on two domestic A330s and half of the 737 fleet by the end of June, and then 75% of the combined fleet by the end of the year.

Qantas [launched its in-flight Wi-Fi deployment in April 2017](#). One year on, the first A330 Airbus has now been fitted out with the white hump that houses a Viasat Internet, and a kilometre of cabling.



This A330, registration VH-EBB, is being tested on the ground and in the air before the service is switched on for customers in the next few weeks.

A second A330 will follow before the end of June. By the end of the year, 75% of the combined domestic 737 and A330 fleet of 80 aircraft will have Wi-Fi, and the rest will be equipped during 2019. The fit-out takes a week on average and is scheduled around already existing maintenance schedules to reduce any service disruptions.

Full deployment will see 15 million passengers per year able to stay connected in the air.

While the fit-out of each aircraft takes on average one week to complete, it needs to be combined with the time aircraft are already planned to be out of service for maintenance, to avoid disrupting flight schedules.

With a year's worth of passenger usage information under its belt, Qantas says the majority of people connecting to in-flight Wi-Fi use it for Web browsing, social media and email. They enjoy speeds around 12Mbps, capable of streaming movies and TV shows.

Qantas has also added games to its Wi-Fi along with free access to audiobooks and music.

**David M Williams**

# FAMILY ZONE CUTS SECURITY DEAL WITH VODAFONE INDIA

**Australian listed security provider Family Zone has signed agreements with Vodafone India and Indian mobile and tablet manufacturer Micromax to supply its security software to both companies.**

---

A statement from Family Zone said Vodafone India, which had more than 430 million subscribers, had agreed to sell Family Zone's services to both its pre-paid and post-paid segments, either as a fee-based value-added or as a paid service bundle in some segments.



Micromax, which manufactures more than 30 million Android devices annually, has agreed to embed Family Zone's mobile app on its devices and promote the app through its 125,000 retail outlets within the country.

The commercial launch in India is expected to be in the final quarter of 2018.

Family Zone said that about 60% of children in India — about 200 million — were estimated to have a mobile device. The country as a whole has some 1.18 billion mobile services.

Family Zone's on-device technology is called Mobile Zone and it runs on Android, iOS, macOS, Windows and Chromebooks. Micromax devices run a version of Google's Android platform.

The company's managing director Tim Levy said: "India is an important strategic market for us. The country has an enormous and growing middle class that has rapidly adopted technology. Indian parents share the concerns of parents worldwide with the challenges of the cyber age.

"Reaching agreement with a Vodafone entity, one of the leading and largest telecom groups in the world, is a major acknowledgement of our company and our vision. Reaching agreement with Micromax continues our drive to embed cyber safety and access to the Family Zone ecosystem everywhere our children access the Internet."

Under the agreement, Micromax will preload Mobile Zone at the factory, providing parents with the option to sign up and activate the Mobile Zone service.

Micromax co-founder Vikas Jain said: "Family Zone is clearly a technology and market leader and we look forward to providing our users with a one-stop solution that gives children the freedom to engage online in a safe and healthy manner."

**Sam Varghese**



John de Ridder

Telecommunications Economist

strategic management • wholesale and retail pricing • regulatory issues

[click here to go to www.deridder.com.au](http://www.deridder.com.au)

# AUDA REGISTERS .AU DOMAINS, CLAIMS IT IS ALLOWED TO DO SO

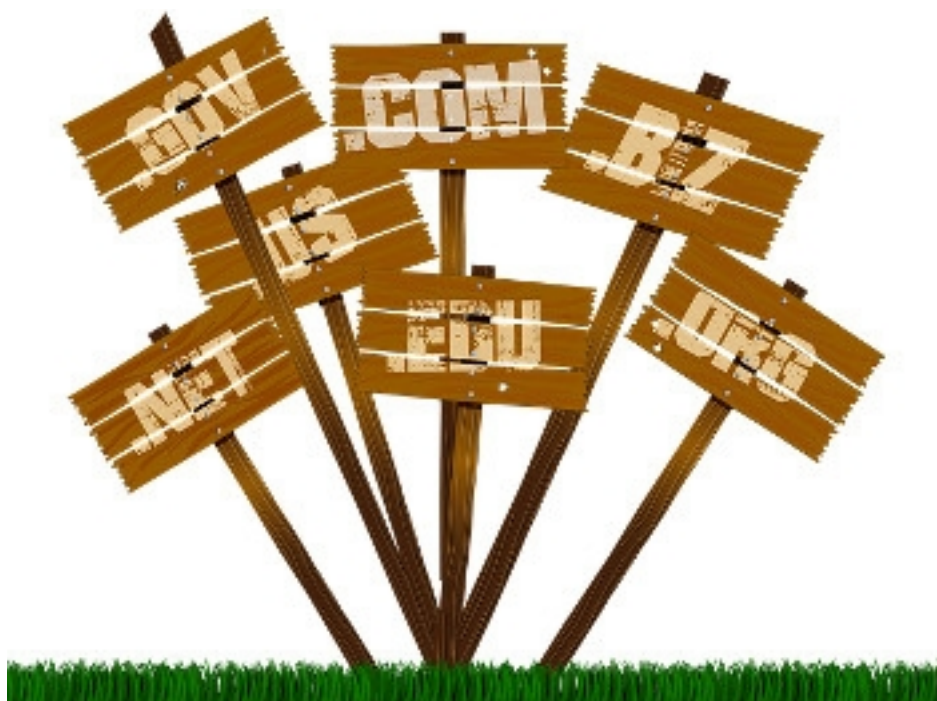
The au Domain Administration has gone ahead and registered two major direct domain names, despite deciding in the wake of an April government review that direct .au registrations would be put off to the second half of 2019 at the earliest.

---

auDA has registered the whois.au and registry.au domains, the current equivalents of which ([whois.com.au](http://whois.com.au) and [registry.com.au](http://registry.com.au)) are owned by commercial entities.

The [whois.com.au](http://whois.com.au) domain is held by Dreamscape Networks — owned by Crazy Domains — which also owns the WHOIS PTY LTD trademark.

[Registry.com.au](http://Registry.com.au) is owned by Registry Australia Pty Ltd.



The database, which stores all 3.1 million Australian domain names, has been maintained for the last 18 years by AusRegistry.

But the contract has been now handed to the American corporation, Afilias.

An auDA spokesperson told **CommsWire** that the organisation was not doing anything that it was not permitted to do under its

constitution.

"auDA has reserved specifically for registry operations a number of directname.au domains, and manages those as part of auDA's direct management of the top level .au name servers," the spokesperson said.

"To that end the registry.au and whois.au domains have been reserved and are used for registry services that apply across all of the second level domains - eg we have a single whois.au and registry.au service, that provide services for all names registered within .com.au, .net.au, .org.au, .id.au, .asn.au, .gov.au, .edu.au, act.au, vic.au, nsw.au, sa.au, wa.au, tas.au, qld.au, and nt.au.

"They are generic words with no intellectual property attached."

The spokesperson added that the whois.au and registry.au were being used, "specifically and exclusively in the test environment of the new registry operations, and www.whois.au diverts to AusRegistry.

"They have been added to the .au zonefile within the primary and secondary .au nameservers which are managed directly by auDA, and are currently not part of the new registry.

"auDA is permitted under its policies to use reserved (and use) any names essential to the operations and utility of the .au namespace."

Apart from the owners of [whois.com.au](http://whois.com.au) and [registry.com.au](http://registry.com.au), the owners of registry.net.au, whois.net.au and registry.org.au would also be entitled to lay claim to the direct domains were the rules that were put in place for .au domains to be applied.

auDA has experienced some internal turmoil after some auDA members expressed dissatisfaction and [petitioned](#) for a special general meeting, with the aim of getting rid of the chief executive Cameron Boardman, chair Chris Leptos and directors Suzanne Ewart and Sandra Hook.

One of the leaders in this dissenting group, Jim Stewart of StewArt Media, said at the time that auDA had promised to provide a business case for the change to direct domains, but had not done so.

The major irritant was the decision by the board to move from domains like .com.au and similar suffixes to .au.

The move for an SGM was finally [taken to court](#) and auDA was [told](#) to hold it before 28 July.

The meeting has now been scheduled for 27 July.

A Federal Government review into auDA, released in April, [found](#) its current management framework was no longer fit for purpose.

The government also released its [terms of endorsement](#) for auDA and asked it to provide, within 30 days, an implementation plan to demonstrate how it would achieve compliance with these terms by April 2020. That 30-day window ended on 18 May.

**CommsWire** understands that the version of the auDA plan that is approved by government will be released to members as soon as that happens.

**Sam Varghese**

# OPTUS WINS YET ANOTHER COURT BATTLE AGAINST TELSTRA

**Singtel Optus will be able to go back to running ads which say "Empires end. That's what they do," after a Victorian Supreme Court judge ruled on Wednesday that Telstra's claim that these ads were misleading or deceptive did not stack up.**

---

Telstra had claimed the phrase wrongly implied that Optus "undisputedly" was running the best mobile network in the country, *News Limited* [reported](#).

But Judge Ross Robson did not agree. "I find that Optus' advertisement conveys the representation that Optus' mobile network is better than Telstra's, but not that it is 'undisputedly' better," he said on Wednesday.

The win for Optus means that the second-ranked telco in Australia has got the better of its rival twice in recent days: last week, the Federal Court [found](#) that Telstra's use of the word "unlimited" in ads for its mobile service was misleading, after a complaint from Optus.

On Wednesday, Justice Robson overturned [an interlocutory injunction](#) granted on 16 May to stop Optus running the ads which also said: "The Optus Mobile Network has been ranked the best overall in voice and data", citing the P3 Mobile Benchmark of December 2017 as the basis for this claim.

He did not agree with Telstra's claim that the ads were telling people that the relative positions of the two telcos had changed.

"It would be fanciful to imagine that the humorous image of a Telstra phone box in a desert landscape would persuade a reasonable person that Telstra's strong position in the market has been permanently destroyed," Justice Robson said.

Telstra was ordered to pay Optus' legal costs.

Optus managing director of product and marketing, Ben White, said in a statement: "We're very pleased with the outcome. We believe Australians should know that Optus offers them a real alternative with an award-winning mobile network that delivers great value for customers. I'd also like to acknowledge our internal agency, Yes Agency, who developed the creative for this campaign.

"Optus will continue to invest and compete for customers with a national, premium quality network that continues to improve and expand, and deliver customers great value plus exclusive must-have sports and entertainment content."

A Telstra spokesman said: "This is a disappointing decision and surprising given the judge's original position

"Regardless of any advertising by our competitors, the fact remains we offer our customers Australia's largest and fastest mobile network and we connect millions more Australians than anyone else."

**Sam Varghese**

# 'BAFFLED' KIWIS TO PROVIDE FEEDBACK ON BROADBAND

**Thousands of New Zealand households are being roped in to help enforcement agency  
The Commerce Commission monitor and improve broadband performance.**

---

The commission — which maintains many consumers are baffled by broadband — is [seeking 3000 households](#) to be part of the nationwide program with monitoring results and reports to be published on a dedicated website from October.

“Kiwis love being connected to the Internet and together we spend more than NZ\$1.2 billion a year on home broadband bundles. Despite this, we know that many consumers find broadband baffling. Products and pricing can be complex and in-home performance can be hard for consumers to measure,” telecommunications commissioner Dr Stephen Gale said.

The program, to be run over three years, is costing NZ\$2.8 million.

According to the Commission, the aim of the monitoring program is to provide consumers with independent information on broadband performance across different providers, plans, and technologies, to help them choose the best broadband for their household.

And the Commission says shining a light on actual broadband performance will also encourage telco providers to compete on performance and not just price.

“To make sure we get an accurate picture of how New Zealand’s broadband is performing, we need volunteers from all parts of the country, of all ages, and on all types of broadband technologies, plans and providers to take part,” Dr Gale said.

Volunteers will be provided with a whitebox (similar to a modem) to plug in at home, with the device performing automated tests on a home’s Internet connection at different times.

The Commission says, however, the whitebox will not record any personal information or browsing history and does not interfere with the Internet service.

“A small amount of your broadband data will be used to conduct testing. However, this is expected to have little to no impact on testing volunteers,” the Commission says.

Dr Gale said London-based Internet performance measurement company SamKnows had been selected to run the program following an open tender.

“SamKnows was a standout applicant. It is considered to be a world leader in Internet service performance, currently assessing broadband performance for about half of the world’s Internet population,” Dr Gale said.

Monitoring results and reports will be available on a dedicated website from October at [www.measuringbroadbandnewzealand.com](http://www.measuringbroadbandnewzealand.com)

**Peter Dnham**

**Is this your own copy of CommsWire?**

For editorial, contact, Stan Beer, CommsWire Editor:  
0418 516 720 | [stan.beer@itwire.com](mailto:stan.beer@itwire.com)

To subscribe or advertise contact, Andrew Matler, CEO:  
0412 390 000 | [andrew.matler@itwire.com](mailto:andrew.matler@itwire.com)