



WHOIS & RDS

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WHAT IS WHOIS

- WHOIS is not an acronym!
- Internet Protocol you can use to search registry and registrar databases and discover who registered a domain name or IP address
- Includes contact information for registrant

HISTORY OF WHOIS

- A directory of contacts ; ARPANET
- Serve the needs of different stakeholders
- Protocol that ICANN inherited in 1998
- ICANN consensus policies aimed at improving the WHOIS service

A typical WHOIS entry

```
Domain Name: SAMPLE.NET
Registrar: REGISTRAREXAMPLE
Whois Server: whois.registrarexample.com
Referral URL: http://www.registrarexample.com/en_US/
Name Server: GREEN.SAMPLE.NET
Name Server: PURPLE.SAMPLE.NET
Name Server: BLACK.SAMPLE.NET
Status: clientTransferProhibited
Updated Date: 09-jan-2008
Creation Date: 12-jun-2003
Expiration Date: 12-jun-2017

REGISTRANT: ILLUSTRATION, INC.
ADDRESS: 123 Street NW, City, State, Country

ADMINISTRATIVE CONTACT: Beto Toros
EMAIL: btoros@sample.net
ADDRESS: 456 S. Avenue, City, State, Country
PHONE: +123 456 789
FAX: +123 456 987
```

Why is WHOIS important?!

- + Helps network administrators find and fix system problems and maintain Internet stability
- + Manages registration status of domain names
- + Assists in fighting abusive use of Internet

Accuracy of WHOIS data is important!

- WHOIS records are created when a domain name is registered!
- Information changes over time and should be updated so that registrants can be easily contacted!
- Inaccurate records can lead to the domain name's cancellation!

Wrong or missing information??

- Send complaint to ICANN about inaccurate or missing WHOIS data

- Whois Inaccuracy Complaint Form

<https://forms.icann.org/en/resources/compliance/complaints/whois/inaccuracy-form>

- Whois Service Complaint Form

<https://forms.icann.org/en/resources/compliance/complaints/whois/service-form>

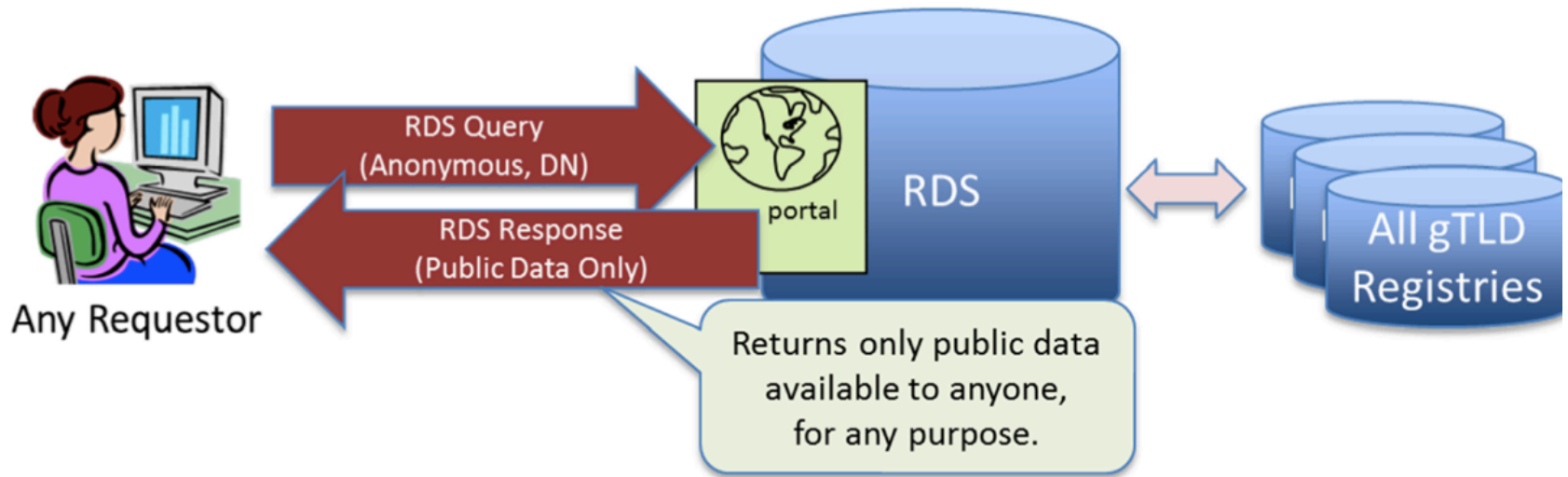
What if I don't want to share my personal information in the WHOIS database?

- ICANN requires all accredited registrars and registries to provide contact information for registrants and managers via WHOIS.
- Some registrars offer privacy or proxy services that show the contact information of the service instead of the registrant's.
- These are not truly anonymous. A registrar may be legally compelled to release information in some cases or will voluntarily release information in accordance with its policies.

What if my country's privacy laws prohibit collection of this data?!

- ICANN does not require registries or registrants to break laws in order to address conflicts between the collection of WHOIS data by a registry or registrar and sovereign privacy laws and regulations.
- Registries or registrars that can demonstrate national laws prohibiting the collection or publication of personal data can seek a waiver from this requirement.

Registration Directory Service (RDS)



- **Purpose-based disclosure**
- **Public Access to minimum set**
- **Gated Access to other data...**

Registration Directory Service

- An Expert Working Group has proposed a complete overhaul to how registrant information is provided to users.
- Proposed Next Generation gTLD Directory Services Model would streamline the way data is retrieved and validated.
- It would also help safeguard data against illegitimate uses.

GET INVOLVED

- Active At-Large WHOIS Related Working Groups

<https://community.icann.org/display/atlarge/At-Large+Whois+Policy>

<https://community.icann.org/display/atlarge/At-Large+Registration+Issues+Working+Group>

- Active GNSO WHOIS Related Working Groups

<http://whois.icann.org/en/gnso-working-groups>

Useful links

- WHOIS Lookup

<http://whois.icann.org/>

- WHOIS Review Team Final Report, available at:

<https://www.icann.org/en/news/public-comment/whois-rt-final-report-11may12-en.htm>

- Action Plan to Address WHOIS Policy Review Team Report Recommendations." 2012. Available at:

<http://www.icann.org/en/groups/board/documents/briefing-materials-1-08nov12-en.pdf>



Thank You