

Whois Overview

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Whois Interests

WHOIS USER GROUP	INTEREST
Network operators / Internet service providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Identify operators of Internet hosts doing bad things (Ex: DDOS attack, need to track down slaves)
Law Enforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Fight Internet fraud, child porn by tracking down responsible domain registrants- Timeliness and efficiency in investigation
Consumer Protection Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Identify country of registrant to make referrals
Dissident Speakers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Avoid disclosing identity to repressive government
Consumers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Verify identity of web site operator (transparency)
Registrants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Privacy- Avoid being spammed- Easily check domain registration expiration date
Trademark & copyright owners	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Identify cybersquatters- Identify pirates- DMCA “notice & takedown”
Certificate authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Verification process for issuing certificates

Whois Implementations

<i>Registry</i>	<i>Thick vs. Thin</i>
.com	Thin
.org	Thin
.net	Thin
.info	Thick
.biz	Thick
.pro	Thick
.name	Thick
.aero	Thick
.coop	Thick
.museum	Thick

Thick = consolidated registry-level Whois

Thin = 2-level distributed Whois

- Registry points to registrar

- Registrar provides registrant contact info

Themes

- Accuracy of data
 - Verification
 - Consequences for provision of inaccurate data
 - Willful vs. inadvertent
 - Loss of registration & deletion of domain
- Access to data
 - Realtime? Free? Public?
 - Port 43 & Web-based queries
 - Third-party bulk access (online services, competitors)
 - Restrictions: Classes of people, purposes of access
- gTLDs vs. ccTLDs
- Data privacy legislation
- Registrar compliance & sanctions

The future

- Universal Whois

<http://uwho.verisignlabs.com>

- Harmonization of Whois data fields across gTLDs and ccTLDs?
- Use of XML schema?

And don't forget:

- IP address registration Whois services:

Ex: ARIN → RWhois protocol (RFC 2167)

Returns data about a network, given an IP address contained within the network

(RIR/ASO issue)

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