

## RDS-WHOIS2 - Law Enforcement Needs Subgroup

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# Law Enforcement Needs Survey

This survey aims to identify current uses of the WHOIS. It seeks to collect evidence on whether WHOIS meets the legitimate needs of law enforcement agencies and to assess the impact of changes in the context of current adaptations to data protection laws.

Please note that this survey may be repeated in a few weeks to assess differences in accessibility of WHOIS information as registries and registrars implement new policies.

This survey was drafted and sent by the RDS-WHOIS2-RT Law Enforcement Needs Subgroup. More information is available [here](#).

By clicking on submit, you agree that your personal data will be processed in accordance with the ICANN [Privacy Policy](#), and agree to abide by the website [Terms of Service](#).

1. Please indicate the country of your duty station:

2. Please indicate your Unit/Department/Organization:

3. By which means do you or your agency look up WHOIS data?

Multiple choices possible

- Third party commercial service, e.g. DomainTools
- ICANN WHOIS lookup portal (<https://whois.icann.org/>)
- The Internet's Network Information Center (InterNIC, <https://www.internic.net/whois.html>)
- Portal provided by Registrar, e.g. Godaddy
- Portal provided by Registry, e.g. Verisign
- Port 43 interface

Other open source tools :

4. How many WHOIS lookups do you personally make per month?

- >10
- between 10 and 100
- between 100 and 1000
- between 1000 and 10000
- >10000
- None

5. How many lookups does your unit or other units or agencies in your jurisdiction whose use you are aware of make?

- >10
- between 10 and 100
- between 100 and 1000
- between 1000 and 10000
- >10000
- I don't know

6. Generally speaking, what is the percentage of WHOIS lookup results that help your investigation?

- >10%
- 10%
- 20%
- 30%
- 40%
- 50%
- 60%
- 70%
- 80%
- 90%
- 100%
- I don't know

7. What are the issues you have identified when using WHOIS data?

Multiple choices possible

- WHOIS data is incomplete (no registrant's email address and telephone number)
- WHOIS data is inaccurate, e.g. deliberately falsified
- Hard to tell whether the WHOIS data is accurate or not
- WHOIS data is protected by Privacy/Proxy service
- Inconsistent lookup results
- No central authority for WHOIS data lookup

8. Do you rely on third-party services provided by private companies in relation to WHOIS, e.g. DomainTools or others?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

9. To what extent do you rely on these external services?

- For all lookups
- Frequently
- Occasionally
- Rarely
- Non applicable

10. Does the current WHOIS lookup functionality (anonymous & public access) meet your needs for the purposes of law enforcement investigations?

- Yes
- Partially
- No

11. How does it not meet your needs?

- Inaccurate data
- No data available

Other :

12. Please specify in what way the WHOIS does not meet your needs

13. Which data fields do you rely on most or are most helpful to your investigation(s)?

Choose category - Multiple choices possible

- Registrant
- Admin
- Tech
- Billing
- Registrar
- Creation & updated date
- Name server and other technical information

14. Do you use cross-referencing/reverse lookup of WHOIS data fields, e.g. to identify other domains that were registered using the same information?

- Yes
- No
- Not available

15. How often is this used?

- Always or close to always
- Frequently
- From time to time
- Rarely
- Never or close to never

16. How important is WHOIS for law enforcement activities?

- Very important
- Important
- Neutral
- Not very important
- Unimportant

17. Are there alternative data sources that you could use or already use to fulfill the same investigative needs?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

18. Which data source(s) do you or could you use alternatively?

19. Have you come across any issues when requesting data behind privacy and proxy services in your use of the WHOIS?

- Yes
- No
- I don't know

20. If yes, please specify below

21. In what percentage of lookups (approximately) do you encounter privacy/proxy services?

- 0-10%
- 10-20%
- 20-40%
- 40-60%
- 60-80%
- 80-100%

22. Were you able to obtain data on the registrant?

- Yes
- No

23. Did cooperation with the privacy/proxy service function well?

- Yes
- No

24. Was the data obtained in time to allow the investigation to proceed?

- Yes
- No

25. Do you have experience using gated access systems, e.g. on the basis of credentials assigned to you personally or to your organisation? Which requirements exist for your organisation?

26. Are there any other relevant issues that the review team should be aware of? Please provide details.

27. If WHOIS access to the name and address of the registrant was discontinued, how would you conduct your investigations?

- By going to the ISPs
- By relying on direct cooperation with registrars and registries on the basis of a request form or other individualized request
- By obtaining a legal instrument and going to the registrars or registries

Other means (Please explain) :

28. Where WHOIS information is not available on a public query basis, how does this usually affect an investigation?

- Other means are pursued
- The investigation is delayed
- The investigation is discontinued

Other means (please explain) :

29. Please specify:

