

RDS-WHOIS2 - Law Enforcement Needs Subgroup

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Law Enforcement Needs Survey

This survey aims to identify 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 participate in this survey if you are currently using WHOIS in performance of your duties or have used WHOIS in performance of your duties.

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

Please complete this survey no later than 23:59 UTC on 25 July 2018 so data may be processed in time for release of the RDS-WHOIS2 draft report and recommendations (if any). We are aware that exact figures may not be always available; where this is not the case, please use your best estimate.

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. What are the issues you identified when using WHOIS data? (if any)

Multiple choices possible

- No issues
- 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

5. 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

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

- For all lookups
 Frequently
 Occasionally
 Rarely

7. 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 related technical information (such as domain status)

8. 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

9. How often is this used?

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

10. Please provide any comment(s) you may have on cross-referencing/reversed look-up.

11. How important is WHOIS for law enforcement activities?

- Very important
 Important
 Neutral
 Not very important
 Unimportant

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

- Yes
 No
 I don't know

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

14. 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

15. If yes, please specify below

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

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

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

- Yes
 No

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

- Yes
 No

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

- Yes
 No

20. 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?

21. Where WHOIS access to the name and address of the registrant is 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) :

22. 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 (please explain) :

23. Please specify if possible:

The next set of questions asks about your usage of WHOIS prior to May 2018.

As you may be aware, the WHOIS access policy was changed at the end of May 2018, and a number of data elements that used to be publicly available for lookup are now redacted, in particular information on the registrant and other personal data. For more information on these changes, please see [here](#). The following set of questions seeks your input on your use of the WHOIS prior to these changes.

24. Prior to May 2018, how many WHOIS lookups did you personally make per month?

- <10
- Between 10 and 100
- Between 100 and 1000
- Between 1000 and 10000
- >10000
- None

25. Prior to May 2018, how many lookups did 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

26. Prior to May 2018, what was the percentage of WHOIS lookup results, generally speaking, that helped your investigation?

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

27. Prior to May 2018, did the WHOIS lookup functionality (anonymous & public access) meet your needs for the purposes of law enforcement investigations?

- Yes
- Partially
- No

28. Prior to May 2018, how did it not meet your needs?

- Inaccurate data
- No data available
-

Other :

29. Please specify in what way the WHOIS did not meet your needs

The next set of questions asks about your usage of WHOIS post May 2018.

30. Has your usage of WHOIS changed since May 2018?

- Yes
 No
 I don't know

31. How many WHOIS lookups do you personally make per month as of June 2018?

- Same as before/no change
 <10
 Between 10 and 100
 Between 100 and 1000
 Between 1000 and 10000
 >10000
 None

32. How many lookups does your unit or other units or agencies in your jurisdiction whose use you are aware of make as of June 2018?

- Same as before/no change
 <10
 between 10 and 100
 between 100 and 1000
 between 1000 and 10000
 >10000
 I don't know

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

- Same as before/no change
 <10%
 10%
 20%
 30%
 40%
 50%
 60%
 70%
 80%
 90%
 100%
 I don't know

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

enforcement investigations?

- Yes
- Partially
- No

35. How does it not meet your needs?

- Inaccurate data
- No data available

Other :

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

37. Are there any other comments you would like to share with the review team should be aware of?

Thank you for your input!