# Classification of Privacy/Proxy Services

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In discussion of privacy/proxy services, I’ve found it helpful to think in terms of four levels of service.

P0 No proxy or privacy protection. This is included here for completeness.

P1 Privacy or proxy service provided by the registrar or an associated company.

P2 Privacy or proxy service provided by an unrelated third party.

P3 Registration under a different name, often an attorney.

P1 and P2 are both visible privacy or proxy services. That is, it is evident from looking at the registration the registration is protected by a privacy or proxy service.

The key distinction between P1 and P2 is whether the registrar has access to the underlying registration data. For a P1 service, the registrar may have strong rules in place controlling access to the underlying data, but in the extreme, e.g. when served with a subpoena or warrant, the registrar can obtain the registrant details. In the case of a P2 service, the registrar cannot obtain the data at all.

A P3 service is indistinguishable from an ordinary registration, i.e. a P0 registration. For most legal and operational purposes, the registrant is the party listed as the registrant.