INTERNET STIFTELSEN

The Swedish Internet Foundation's Web WHOIS

Service description

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1 Introduction

1.1 This document

This is IIS description of the WHOIS service.

1.2 Abbreviations & definitions

The Swedish Internet Foundation

The Swedish Internet Foundation (Internetstiftelsen) is responsible for the internet's Swedish top-level domain, .se and the top-level domain .nu. Its core operation is the registration of domain names, and the administration and technical operation of domain-name registry under .se and .nu. The Swedish Internet Foundation is an independent public utility organization that promotes the positive development of the internet in Sweden.

Registry Services *Registry Services is responsible for the administration and the technical operation of the domain-name registry .se and .nu.*

Registrar *A business party who has entered into an agreement with* The Swedish Internet Foundation *for the right to administer a registrant's domain name*

ccTLD *Country Code Top Level Domain*

CENTR *Council of European National Top-level Domain Registries*

Domain administrator

The person responsible for the administration of a national top-level domain

gTLD *Generic Top Level Domain*

ICANN *The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers*

Contact *A contact is a registrant. This contact is connected to one or more domains. Each contact is identified by a unique contact-ID.*

Contact-ID *A contact's identification. A contact-ID is unique and are allocated to the user when a new contact is created and therefore cannot be chosen by the contact him/herself*

Personal data *All types of information that can directly or indirectly be connect to a natural person. Examples of such information are name, personal identity number and address*

RFC *Request for Comments. A memorandum containing Internet standards and other documents regarding the Internet issued by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)*

TLD Top-level domain

Top-level Domain Act

The Swedish National Top-level Domains for Sweden on the Internet Act (SFS 2006:24)

WHOIS	*WHOIS is a TCP-based protocol used to allow lookups in a registry, for example, domain names or IP addresses*
Whois protocol	*See WHOIS*
Web whois	*See WHOIS, the difference here is that lookups are performed via a website to make it more user-friendly compared with using a command-based interface which is more common when the Whois protocol is used*

1.3 References

[1] Integrity Policy for the domain name register

[2] The Swedish National Top-level Domains for Sweden on the Internet Act (SFS 2006:24)

[3] WHOIS recommendations

http://www.icann.org/committees/security/whois-recommendation-01dec02.pdf

[4] RFC 812 and RFC 954

[5] CENTR report – WHOIS Requirements

https://www.centr.org/docs/2004/02/centr-ga21-whois.pdf

1.4 About The Swedish Internet Foundation

The Swedish Internet Foundation (Internetstiftelsen) is responsible for the internet's Swedish top-level domain, .se and the top-level domain .nu. Its core operation is the registration of domain names, and the administration and technical operation of domain-name registry under .se and .nu. The Swedish Internet Foundation is an independent public utility organization that promotes the positive development of the internet in Sweden. Through The Swedish Internet Foundation internet fund, the Foundation reserves money each year for projects that in various ways contribute to the development and use of the Internet. Read more at www.internetstiftelsen.se

2 Introduction

Since July 1, 2006 IIS has come under the national Top-level Domains for Sweden on the Internet Act, the Top-level Domain Act (SFS 2006:24). The Swedish National Post and Telecom Agency is the supervisory authority. The purpose of the Act is to provide the state with an opportunity for insight into and supervision of the domain administration.

According to the Top-level Domain Act, the domain administrator, in this case The Swedish Internet Foundation, is obliged to maintain a register of allocated domain names under the top-level domain. The information specified in the Act must be accessible without charge via the Internet. However, the domain administrator is responsible for personal data and must therefore also take current data protection legislation into account.

3 About WHOIS

WHOIS is a TCP-based protocol that is used to enable lookups in a register, for example, domain names or IP addresses.

The original purpose of the Whois protocol[1] and the databases this generates, and which contain register information for all who have registered domain names, was to provide system administrators and domain registrants with a possibility to rapidly and efficiently gain contact to secure Internet functionality and security to thereby maintain the stability of the Internet[2].

3.1 Purpose

The Swedish Internet Foundation main purpose for WHOIS is to provide information about the domain holder´s and other contacts. The information is used for the administrative and technical management of top-level domain, but with consideration to personal integrity. Furthermore, according to the Top-level Domain Act, The Swedish Internet Foundation is obliged to maintain a register of allocated domain names and information on registrants and whoever is responsible for technical administration of the domain name. It must be possible to obtain this information free-of-charge via the Internet.

[1] Specificied in RFC 812 and RFC 954
[2] See, for example, http://www.icann.org/committees/security/whois-recommendation-01dec02.pdf

4 The Swedish Internet Foundation's WHOIS service

4.1 Introduction

The WHOIS service can either be accessed via the Whois protocol or via a web-based service on The Swedish Internet Foundation's website, a.k.a. Web whois. The structure of the service for these views is in principle the same, but with one exception. You cannot search on contact-ID's through the Whois protocol, read more in chapter 4.3.3.

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Naturally, WHOIS can also be used to find out if a domain name is free or not, but this is not the main objective. A more suitable search tool for this is Free, http://free.iis.se/free?q=example.se

4.2 Target group

The Swedish Internet Foundation's WHOIS service can be used by anyone who is interested in receiving information about a domain name.

The Whois protocol is a command-based interface and more appropriate for experienced users, such as system administrators, and often requires that you install a program with commando prompts where you enter your whois question.

The Web whois has a graphic interface that makes it easier to use for ordinary people and does not require a special program. The Web whois is available on The Swedish Internet Foundation's website, http://www.internetstiftelsen.se.

4.3 Structure of The Swedish Internet Foundation's WHOIS service

There are no established requirements on how information is to be presented in WHOIS or which search variables are to be used. However, there are certain recommendations that can be read, for example, in CENTR's report on WHOIS **[5]**.

4.3.1 Search capacity

Many existing WHOIS services only provide accessibility to the register through one search variable – namely, the domain name. However, there is nothing in the Whois protocol that restricts access to only one domain name. Depending on how WHOIS has been implemented, several different search variables can be used based on the data available in the database.

When searching on a domain name, no assessment is made as to whether the registrant of a domain name is a legal entity or a natural person; this is only done if the search is for a Contact ID.

The information shown when the search pertains to a domain name or Contact ID can be found in Section 5.1.

4.3.2 Impeding automatic download (“data harvesting”)

The Whois protocol makes it possible to structure output data in a machine-readable manner. This also means that it is relatively easy to automatically retrieve large amounts of data from the register. In CENTR’s report on WHOIS **[5],** it is stated that a TLD is recommended for introducing mechanisms and procedures that impeded automatic download.

To impede automatic download and prevent abuse of information published in WHOIS, IIS has taken the following action:

- The Swedish Internet Foundation uses a CAPTCHA to prevent scripted lookups against the web site. The function we use is called reCAPTCHA and is widely considered one of the more secure and accessible solutions out there. Since the solution using a random code cannot be used in a command-based interface (Whois protocol), and therefore cannot obstruct automatic downloading, The Swedish Internet Foundation has chosen not to permit searches on Contact ID via the Whois protocol. Instead, the user receives a referral to our website. Naturally, it is entirely possible to search on a domain name.

- The Swedish Internet Foundation only permits a certain number of searches in a specific period of time. If too many searches are made during this period of time you will be blocked for a short period.

- Multi-criteria searches and other search functions that search on names, e-mail, fax numbers and corporate registration or personal identity numbers are not permitted. See also Section 4.3.4.

- Anyone searching in WHOIS is requested to read the general terms and conditions that apply for WHOIS. The following is contained in the terms and conditions:

  - The WHOIS service is provided only for information purposes and may not be used for commercial purposes.
  - That the user may not use the information to create their own database.
  - That the information is protected by the Swedish Copyright Act (1960:729) and catalog protection as described by the Swedish Copyright Act (1960:729)

4.3.3 Multiple criteria searches (Bulk access)

In CENTR’s report on WHOIS **[5]**, it is possible to read that Article 29 Working Party finds that bulk access to WHOIS shall be restricted. Bulk access can, for example, mean that the user, through a search, can retrieve information about several domain names at the same time. The advice against this is mainly based on each Registry’s responsibility for data protection, but also in terms of direct marketing and the original aim of WHOIS.

In its current form, The Swedish Internet Foundation does not permit bulk access to WHOIS.

5 Identification of natural persons and legal entities

Anyone applying for registration of a domain name under the top-level domain .se or .nu is requested that they, in connection with the application, provide certain information, including a corporate registration or personal identity number, name and/or company name.

In relation to the applicant's name, there are two fields. The first is "Name" and the second is "Company." Both fields can be completed or only the "Name field."

If the applicant provides a Swedish personal identity number and only completes the "Name" field, it is assumed that the registration pertains to a private individual (natural person). If the applicant provides a Swedish personal identity number and completes both the "Name" and "Company" fields, it is assumed that the registration pertains to a sole proprietorship. However, in terms of personal data, The Swedish Internet Foundation treats a sole proprietorship as a natural person.

If the applicant provides a Swedish corporate registration number, the "Company" field is compulsory. In these cases, it is assumed that the applicant is a company (legal entity).

5.1 Information published in The Swedish Internet Foundation web whois

In conjunction with registration, all registrants are requested to approve the registration terms for .se or .nu. For registrants as natural persons or a sole proprietorship, personal information are not published in The Swedish Internet Foundation's domain name search service (WHOIS).

For a company (legal entity), all contact information in the web whois is shown in addition to the contact person, as well as email address as these may contain personal information.

5.1.1 Searching on domain names in whois

When the user searches on a .se or a .nu domain name, the following information are displayed in WHOIS:

- *Domain name* – The domain name in question
- *Holder (contact ID)* - Contact ID for the registrant
- *Domain status* – the status of a domain name. Can be one of the following:

Active – the domain name is registered and the registration period has not expired

Expired – the registration period has expired and the domain name has lapsed. The domain name could be deactivated if it is not renewed. In WHOIS, the "deactivationdate" filed is displayed, which shows when the domain name will be deactivated.

Deactivated – the registration period has expired and the domain name has been closed from the Internet. Alternatively, a request for deregistration has been received.

In WHOIS, the fields"date_to_delete" and "date_to_release" are also shown. The date_to_delete field indicates when the domain name may be deregistered. The "date_to_release" field indicates when the domain name can be released for re-registration.

Quarantine – The domain name has been deregistered and placed in quarantine. The "date_to_release" field shows when The Swedish Internet Foundation will release the domain name for re-registration.

System – The domain name is blocked by The Swedish Internet Foundation. The "reason" box states the reason for the block.

- *Created* – Registration date
- *Last updated* - Date for the most recent change for the domain name
- *Expire date* - Date of registration period's expiry
- *Deactivation date* - The date on which the domain name is scheduled to be deactivated.
- *Transferred* – Date when the domain name changed registrar
- *Deletion date* – The date on which the domain name is scheduled to be deleted.
- *Release date* - The date on which the domain name is scheduled to be available for new registration.
- *Name server* – Name server
- *DNSSEC*, "signed delegation" or "unsigned delegation" - Whether the domain name has DNSSEC or not.
- *Registry lock, "*locked" or "unlocked" - Whether the domain name is locked for updates by having registry lock enabled or not.
- *Status* - Shows which EPP statuses a domain has. A domain can have one or more of the following statuses:

  ok – the domain name is active, has name servers, and the registration period has not expired

  inactive – the domain name has no name servers

  serverHold – the domain is deactivated

  clientHold – the domain is deactivated; the status is set by the registrar

  serverUpdateProhibited – the domain is locked for updates

serverDeleteProhibited – the domain is locked from being deleted

serverTransferProhibited – the domain is locked from being transferred to another registrar

serverRenewProhibited – the domain is locked from being renewed

pendingDelete – the domain has a scheduled deletion date

- *Registrar* – The registrar that administers the domain name

5.1.2 Search on domain to see contact details - when the registrant is a legal entity

The Swedish Internet Foundation usually publishes the information below in WHOIS when the user searches on a domain and then click "View contact information" if the registrant is assumed to be a company (legal entity). If any information is missing, this is marked with a dash.

If a search is made via the Whois protocol, the user is instead referred to The Swedish Internet Foundation's Web whois.

- *Contact ID* - Contact ID, the contact's identifier in the system
- *Name* – Contact person (not shown because it may constitute personal data)
- *Organization* – Company name
- *Organization number* – Corporate Registration Number
- *Holder e-mail address* – E-mail address (not shown because it may constitute personal data)
- *Phone* – Telephone number (not shown because it may constitute personal data)
- *Fax* – Fax number (not shown because it may constitute personal data)
- *Contact created* - Date when the contact was created
- *Contact last updated* - Date for most recent change for the contact
- *Registrar* – The registrar who manages the contact

5.1.3 Search on contact-ID - when the registrant is a natural person

When the registrant is a natural person (including sole proprietorship) and the user searches on Contact ID, no contact information is displayed.

If the search is made using the Whois protocol, the user is referred to The Swedish Internet Foundation Web whois.

6 Integrity policy

This document includes The Swedish Internet Foundation’s privacy policy for the domain name register, which can be found on The Swedish Internet Foundation’s website.