

# WHOIS Data Elements

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# Data Collected

- Registered Name Holder (Registrant)
  - The legal holder of the domain name
  - Should be corporate entity or individual
- Administration Contact
- Technical Contact
- Billing Contact (optional)
- Payment details (credit card etc)
- Domain name details (name, nameservers)

# Registrant data

- Name
- Organisation (optional)
- Full postal address (for land mail)
- Phone (optional)
- Fax (optional)
- Email (optional)
- Authentication data (optional)
  - E.g password, auth-info

# Admin and Tech contacts

- Name (e.g John Smith)
- Organisation (optional)
- Full postal address (for land mail)
- Phone
- Fax (if available)
- Email
- Authentication data (optional)
  - E.g password, auth-info

# Billing Contact (optional)

- As for admin and tech (all elements optional)
- Payment information (e.g credit card)

# Issues

- No clear purposes defined for registrant, admin, and tech contacts
  - Often default to be the same person
- Registrars and registrants handle them in different ways
- Often confusion between individual registering the name, and the legal holder of the name (could be the employer of the individual)

# Data access technologies

- WHOIS protocol (port-43 WHOIS)
  - Send some ASCII text and get some ASCII text back
  - Usually used to provide exact match lookup
- Interactive Web page
  - Wide range of implements by registries and registrars
  - Usually only exact match lookup
- File Transfer
  - For bulk access
  - subject to a user entering into a legal agreement (bulk access agreement)

# Data Displayed

- Domain details (name, nameservers)
- Creation date and time
- Expiry date and time
- Status (optional)
- Registrar (optional)
- Last update date and time (optional)
- Last transfer date and time (optional)



# Data displayed

- Registrant data
  - name and address
- Admin and tech
  - (name, address, phone, fax, email)

# Problems

- Port-43 WHOIS and interactive WHOIS used anonymously for data mining to collect large quantities of contact information
  - Non-standard approaches used by registrars to limit this
- Registrants not clear on purpose for data collected and how data users are given access to this data
- Concerns about accuracy and privacy of data
- Authorisation problems (who has authority to change domain name record, and who is responsible for the use of the name)