

ICANN

COMMUNITY FORUM

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COPENHAGEN

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WHAT IS WHOIS
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- WHOIS Protocol developed in 1982 for ARPANET users (geeks) to 'look up' other users (geeks)
- With the growth of the Internet, WHOIS users included others: law enforcement agencies, Intellectual Property and trademark owners, businesses, consumers, etc
- Protocol adopted by ICANN with its formation in 1998

<https://whois.icann.org/en/history-whois>

What are the Requirements?

For registrars providing one or more gTLD

- Provide inter-active webpage and port 43 service providing free public query based access to up to date data concerning all active Registered Names sponsored by the Registrar

For Registries (base agreement)

- Provide public access to registration data - As above

What Information Are We Talking About: Clause 3.3 RAA (2013) *(similar in the Registry base agreement)*

- The name of the Registered Name;
- The names of the primary nameserver and secondary nameserver(s) for the Registered Name;
- The identity of Registrar (which may be provided through Registrar's website);
- The original creation date of the registration;
- The expiration date of the registration;
- The name and postal address of the Registered Name Holder;
- The name, postal address, e-mail address, voice telephone number, and (where available) fax number of the technical contact for the Registered Name; and
- The name, postal address, e-mail address, voice telephone number, and (where available) fax number of the administrative contact for the Registered Name.

Affirmation of Commitments (2009) committed ICANN to:

Enforcing its existing policy relating to WHOIS, subject to applicable laws. Such existing policy requires that ICANN implement measures to maintain timely, unrestricted and public access to accurate and complete WHOIS information, including registrant, technical, billing, and administrative contact information. (and regular reviews)

<https://whois.icann.org/en/history-whois>

WHOIS Final Report 2014

Issues in the WHOIS debate are varied. Any discussion of WHOIS will likely contain all of the words accuracy, privacy, anonymity, cost, policing, and SPAM. Each of the issues is important. This is sometimes lost in the heat of the debate and it is important to remind ourselves of this on a regular basis.

Additions to the original policy:

- Accuracy policies including validation and verification
- Abuse Point of Contact
- Marketing restrictions
- Privacy and Proxy service
- Compliance checks

SSAC: Proposal to revise (Clarify) the terminology Domain Name Registration Data –information that registrants provide when registering a domain name and that registrars or registries collect.

Domain Name Registration Data Access Protocol –the elements of a communications exchange—queries and responses—that make access to registration data possible. For example, the WHOIS protocol (RFC 3912) and Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) (RFC 2616 and its updates) are commonly used to provide public access.

Domain Name Registration Data Directory Service –the service offered by registries and registrars to provide access to the domain name registration data.

From SSAC 055

Issues with the WHOIS Protocol RFC 3912

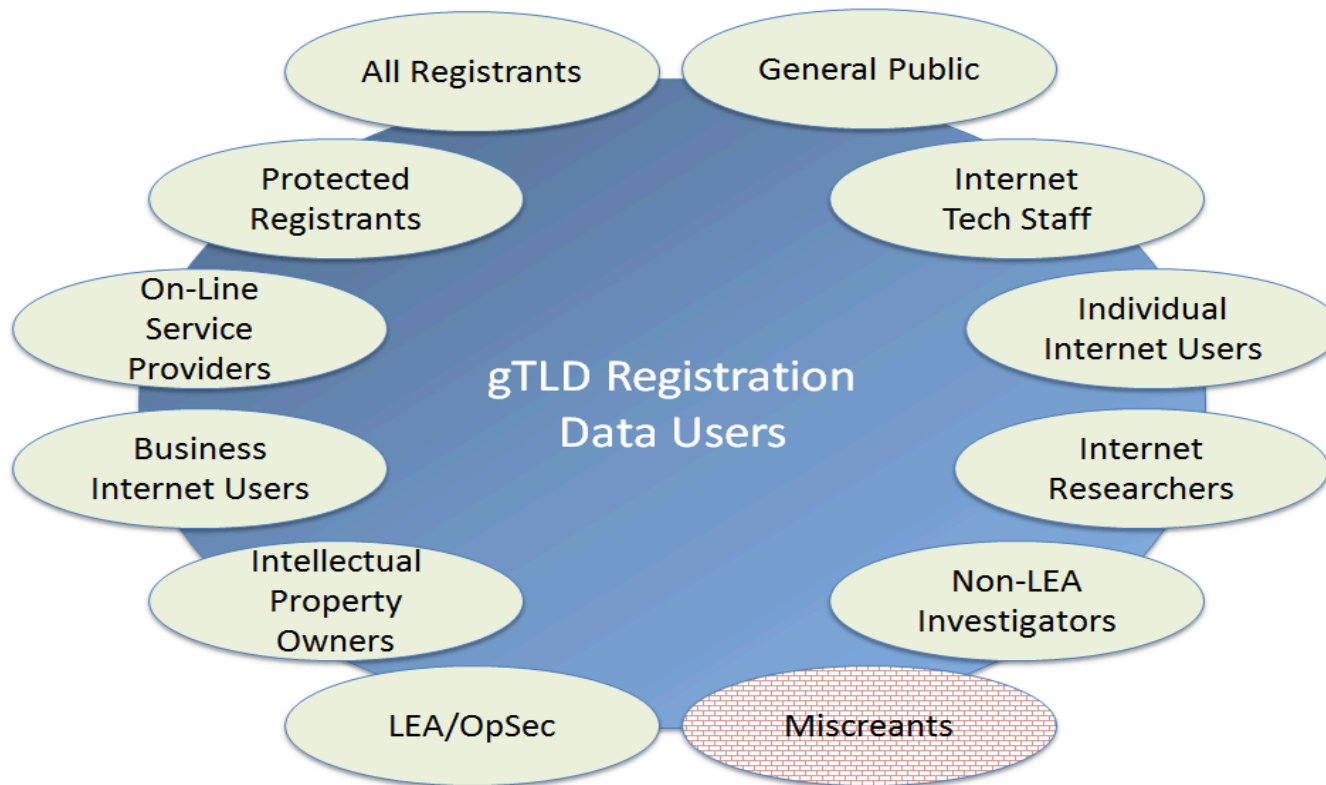
- Never Internationalised
- No data framework
 - Every service queries could present data differently
 - No standard for expressing dates, phone numbers, etc
- Cannot Support Differentiated Access

New protocol development in 2012: Web Extensible Internet Registration Data Service (WEIRDS) group developed RDAP (Registration Data Access Protocol)

So What's The Problem?

The EWG recognizes that personal information is protected by data protection law, and that even where there is no law, there are legitimate reasons for individuals to seek heightened protections of their personal information. In addition, some businesses and organizations may seek protection of their information for legitimate purposes, such as when they are preparing to launch a new product line, or, in the case of small business, where contact information discloses personal data.

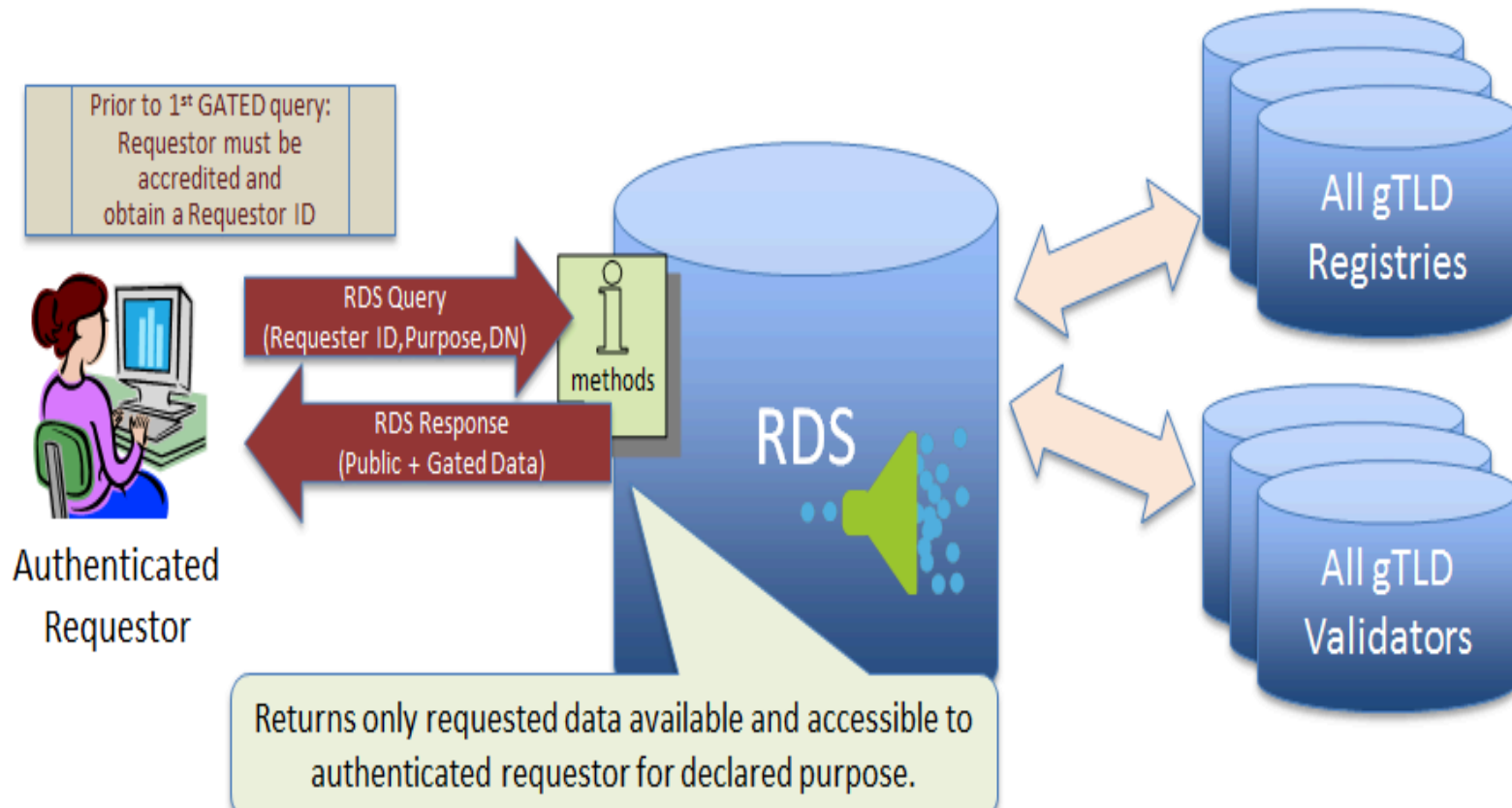
Who Uses the Registration Data *(from EWG)*



The Expert Working Group:

- The EWG unanimously recommends abandoning today's WHOIS model of giving every user the same entirely anonymous public access to (often inaccurate) gTLD registration data.
- Instead, the EWG recommends a paradigm shift to a next-generation RDS that collects, validates and discloses gTLD registration data for permissible purposes only.

The EWG PROPOSAL



Next Generation new gTLD Registration Directory Services WG: Charter

...the PDP WG is tasked with

- analyzing the purpose of collecting, maintaining and providing access to gTLD registration data and
- considering safeguards for protecting that data, determining if and why a next-generation Registration Directory Service (RDS) is needed to replace WHOIS, and
- creating policies and coexistence and implementation guidance to meet those needs.

CHARTER QUESTIONS

What are the fundamental requirements for gTLD registration data?

- When addressing this question, the PDP WG should consider, at a minimum, users and purposes and associated access, accuracy, data element, and privacy requirements.

Is a new policy framework and next-generation RDS needed to address these requirements?

If yes, what cross-cutting requirements must a next-generation RDS address, including coexistence, compliance, system model, and cost, benefit, and risk analysis requirements?

If no, does the current WHOIS policy framework sufficiently address these requirements? If not, what revisions are recommended to the current WHOIS policy framework to do so?

QUESTIONS?