

WHOIS Services Policy

This policy explains what information is available on the WHOIS lookup service. It also explains the rules for acceptable use of this service.



WHOIS Services Policy

This page defines our Policy in relation to the WHOIS Services valid from 16 November 2020.

1. Definitions

Administrative Contact is the party authorised to act on behalf of the Registrant, and has been designated to receive and provide administrative information-related to a .ie domain name.

Hosts or Nameservers are used to host a website. For .ie domains, a minimum of two are required with each request for registration, and these must be configured in accordance with RFC protocols 1034 and 1035, and with authoritative zones to host the domain in question.

Legal Person, for the purpose of this Policy means any incorporated entity or registered charity in the island of Ireland.

Natural Person for the purpose of this policy means an individual human person, or other type of Registrant, as opposed to a legal person (incorporated entity or registered charity).

RDAP - The Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) enables users to access current registration data and was created as an eventual replacement for the WHOIS protocol.

Registrant means the party that has been granted the right to use the .ie domain name during the registration period.

Registrant Contact ID refers to the contact ID for the party granted the right to use the .ie domain name. This may be a Legal Person or a Natural Person.

Registry means IE Domain Registry CLG, trading as .ie, which manages and operates the .ie namespace.

Sponsoring Registrar or **Registrar** means the party responsible for domain management, including the payment of registration and renewal fees to IE Domain Registry.

Technical Contact is the party designated to receive information related to technical aspects of the administration of a registered .ie domain name, such as hosts, domain locking or DNSSEC.

WHOIS Services refers to the available WHOIS and RDAP service, which enable the lookup of information related to .ie domain registrations. The availability of these services is subject to certain rules, which are set out within this policy.

2. Policy Statement

The IE Domain Registry CLG, trading as .ie, is responsible for the management of the .ie namespace and administers the database of registered .ie domain names.

The Registry provides the WHOIS Services as a publicly viewable register solely to allow users to obtain information about the existence and status of the .ie domain name.

Where the Registrant is a Legal Person (see Definitions for clarification), the identity (Registrant name) of this party is published on the .ie WHOIS Services for the general purposes set out below, but always subject to the restrictions listed below.

These WHOIS Services are available to any individual or organisation, provided the rules of acceptable use are followed.

The Registry provides the WHOIS Services free of charge.

Access to the WHOIS Services may be withdrawn at any time.

Use of the WHOIS Services by any means is subject to adherence to this policy and its associated rules.

You should not access the .ie WHOIS Services or use the data returned by a WHOIS or RDAP query if you do not agree to this policy and its associated rules.

The WHOIS Services database and underlying register are Database Rights and Copyright © of IE Domain Registry CLG, trading as .ie, 2020. All rights reserved.

The WHOIS Services are provided through various channels, e.g. via our website and via queries to our WHOIS server whois.weare.ie, and via our Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) service. Note that the RDAP standard is described in IETF RFCs 7480 - 7484, and 8056, available at <https://tools.ietf.org/html/>

The provision of these WHOIS Services can be withdrawn at any time, at the discretion of the Registry.

2.1. Policy

Our WHOIS Policy is to provide the following information relating to all registered .ie domain names:

- Domain name
- Domain status
- Creation date
- Expiry date
- Updated date
- Registrant name ^{Note 1}
- Registrant contact ID
- Admin contact ID
- Tech contact ID
- Sponsoring Registrar
- Sponsoring Registrar's abuse-contact email address and telephone number
- Hosts
- DNSSEC status

Note 1 Registrant name:-

The Registrant name is not published for Natural Persons, as defined in Section 1., "Definitions".

A Natural Person Registrant may choose to allow its name to be published on the output from the WHOIS services for some or all of its .ie domain registrations, where the Registrant provides its explicit consent to this publication. The Registrant can revoke this consent to publication at any time.

Note that the Registrant name is published where the Registrant is a Legal Person, as defined in Section 1., "Definitions".

The Sponsoring Registrar's abuse contact email address and telephone number must be published within the output from the WHOIS Services. This information is published to enable anyone to report allegations of online technical abuse which uses the DNS, or illegality in respect of the usage of a .ie domain.

All users of the WHOIS Services facility must adhere to the rules of acceptable usage, as specified in this policy.

There is a "rate limiter" facility, which guards against overuse of the services by any one source in a 24-hour period. For direct connections, the amount and type of data returned varies, depending on the source IP address for each query. It is our policy to block access from IP addresses which breach acceptable usage limits.

2.2. Rules

2.2.1. WHOIS Services – General rules relating to Acceptable Use

1. The maximum query rate is 100 queries per rolling 24 hours
2. If you exceed the query limits, a block will be imposed. These limits are per IP address.
3. If you require a higher query rate per rolling 24 hours, please email whois@weare.ie outlining why you need this, and we will consider adding you to our whitelist.

The Registry works on the following principles, which are the core purposes of our Acceptable Use Rules. The objective of our Acceptable Use Rules is to ensure that:

- a) no copy is made of a significant part of the register or other databases we hold;
- b) we protect the personal data held within our systems;
- c) services are only used as intended;
- d) all users comply with the limits set on their access to our systems;
- e) we do not put our systems at risk; and
- f) our general policies, available at <https://www.weare.ie/our-policies/> (e.g. on privacy, data protection and access), are not compromised.

2.2.2. Restrictions relating to the use of the WHOIS Services and data

You must not:

- a) re-package, compile, re-distribute or re-use any or all of the output from the WHOIS Services databases or data (unless you are a lawful user using an insubstantial part);
- b) use any or all of the WHOIS Services data for advertising or as part of a process of identifying entities, names or addresses for future advertising activity of any sort (any such use may also be unlawful under data protection legislation, including the Data Protection Act 2018 (as amended) and General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation (EU) 2016/679) ("GDPR"), and any relevant successor or replacement to these laws;
- c) use any or all of the WHOIS Services data in a manner that would breach the GDPR;
- d) obscure, remove, hide or alter any part of the copyright notice and legal wording returned with a .ie WHOIS Services result; or
- e) conduct queries of a nature, rate or volume prohibited by our Acceptable Use Rules. Note that we record details about all WHOIS queries for the purposes of detecting and preventing unacceptable use.

2.2.3. Accessibility

Queries to the WHOIS Services may be made through any of the following channels:

- Via the external web, weare.ie.
- Via a direct network connection using the WHOIS protocol (TCP Port 43) to whois.weare.ie
- RDAP connection

3. Liability and Indemnity

The Registry does not guarantee the accuracy or availability of the WHOIS Service records. Any records returned from the WHOIS Services are provided on an “as is” basis without any representations or warranties of any kind.

The Registry is not liable for any damages or loss of any kind arising out of or in connection with the WHOIS Services or the records generated by the WHOIS Services or for any omissions or errors in the WHOIS records.

4. Modifying the WHOIS Services

The Registry reserve the right to update or change the fields published by the WHOIS Services, or to withdraw the service, at any time.

The Registry also reserve the right, at our discretion, to terminate or slow down your access to the WHOIS Services for any reason, particularly in the event of a breach of the Acceptable Use Rules or a failure to adhere to, or accept, these terms or any part of them