

Registry Registration Data Directory Services Consistent Labeling and Display Policy

[Updated 21 February 2024 to reflect changes required to implement the Registration Data Policy. Contracted parties may implement this updated Policy beginning on 21 August 2024 and must implement no later than 21 August 2025.](#)

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "[NOT RECOMMENDED](#)", "MAY", and "[OPTIONAL](#)" and "[MAY](#)" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [BCP 14 \[RFC2119\] \[RFC8174\]](#) when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown [here](#). ~~RFC 2119, which is available at <http://www.ietf.org/rfc/rfc2119.txt>.~~

[Section 1 of this policy details technology-agnostic requirements that apply to all Registration Data Directory Services.](#)

[Section 2 of this policy details implementation requirements pertaining to WHOIS \(available via port 43\) and web-based Whois directory services only.](#) ~~Registry Operators, with the exception of .com, .jobs and .net, SHALL implement these requirements in conjunction with Section 1 of Specification 4 of the "Base Registry Agreement approved on 9 January 2014" ("Base Registry Agreement") or subsequent amendments thereto in order to comply with WHOIS (available via port 43) and web-based directory services requirements. The Registry Operators of .com, .jobs and .net MAY implement sections of this policy in conjunction with Section 1 of Specification 4 of the Base Registry Agreement that are relevant to a thin Registry.~~

- [1. Registry Operators, SHALL implement the following requirements:](#)
- [1.1. The URL of the ICANN RDDS Inaccuracy Complaint Form MUST be included in the RDDS output of domain name object queries:](#)
 - [■ URL of the ICANN RDDS Inaccuracy Complaint Form:](#)
<https://www.icann.org/wicf/>
 - [1.2. If a value is shown for the fields "Registry Admin/Tech/Billing/Registrant ID:", the value MUST be the Repository Object Identifier \(ROID\) for the contact object as specified in RFC 5733.](#)
 - [1.3. Additional RDDS fields MAY be included in RDDS output without further approval by ICANN. The additional field MUST NOT: include browser executable code \(e.g., Javascript\); provide confidential information of any](#)

sort; or cause a negative impact to the security, stability, or resiliency of the Internet's DNS or other systems. Prior to deployment, Registry Operator SHALL provide the list of all additional RDDS fields to ICANN. Registry Operator SHALL provide to ICANN any changes to the list of additional RDDS fields prior to deploying such changes.

~~1. In responses to domain name object queries the below fields MUST be included either (1) immediately after the "Registrar IANA ID" field or (2) immediately before the last field ("URL of the ICANN Whois Inaccuracy Complaint Form: <https://www.icann.org/wicf/>") in the following order:~~

- ~~■ Registrar Abuse Contact Email~~
- ~~■ Registrar Abuse Contact Phone~~

2. Registry Operators SHALL implement the following requirements in conjunction with Section 1 of Specification 4 of the "Base Registry Agreement approved on 9 January 2014" ("Base Registry Agreement") or subsequent amendments thereto in order to comply with WHOIS (available via port 43) and web-based WHOIS directory services requirements.

2.1. In responses to domain name object queries the below fields MUST be included either (1) immediately after the "Registrar IANA ID" field or (2) immediately before the last field ("URL of the ICANN Whois Inaccuracy Complaint Form: <https://www.icann.org/wicf/>") in the following order:

- Registrar Abuse Contact Email
- Registrar Abuse Contact Phone

2.2. If shown, the "Reseller" field MUST appear immediately before the "Domain Status" field.

2.3. If shown, the value of the "Reseller" field MUST be the name of the organization, in the case where the Reseller is a legal entity, or the name of a natural person.

2.4. If shown, the "Registrar Registration Expiration Date" field MUST appear immediately after the "Registry Expiry Date" field.

2.5. The value section (i.e., right-hand side of the colon) of the following fields MUST follow the below format specifications:

- "Registrar Abuse Contact Email" (as defined in the EPP RFCs for email fields)
- "Registrar Abuse Contact Phone" (as defined in the EPP RFCs for phone fields)
- "Reseller" is defined as token (see Extensible Markup Language 1.1)

- "Registrar Registration Expiration Date" (as defined in the EPP RFCs for date fields)

2.6. Registry Operator MUST update the name of keys in the output of the domain name, name server, and registrar objects as follows. The following table shows keys that are renamed from their original version in Specification 4 of the Base Registry Agreement. All other specifications (e.g. format specifications of the value section) remain unchanged.

~~2. In responses to domain name object queries the following fields are considered optional and should be treated as described in clarification 1 of the "Advisory: Clarifications to the Registry Agreement, and the 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) regarding applicable Registration Data Directory Service (Whois) Specifications" ("WHOIS Advisory"):~~

- ~~■ Registrar Registration Expiration Date~~
- ~~■ Reseller~~

~~3. If shown, the "Reseller" field MUST appear immediately before the "Domain Status" field.~~

~~4. If shown, the value of the "Reseller" field MUST be the name of the organization, in the case where the Reseller is a legal entity, or the name of a natural person.~~

~~5. If shown, the "Registrar Registration Expiration Date" field MUST appear immediately after the "Registry Expiry Date" field.~~

~~6. The value section (i.e., right hand side of the colon) of the following fields MUST follow the below format specifications:~~

- ~~a. "Registrar Abuse Contact Email" (as defined in the EPP RFCs for email fields)~~
- ~~b. "Registrar Abuse Contact Phone" (as defined in the EPP RFCs for phone fields)~~
- ~~c. "Reseller" is defined as token (see Extensible Markup Language 1.1)~~
- ~~d. "Registrar Registration Expiration Date" (as defined in the EPP RFCs for date fields)~~

~~7. Registry Operator MUST update the name of keys in the output of the domain name, name server, and registrar objects as follows. The following table shows keys that are renamed from their original version in Specification 4 of the Base Registry Agreement. All other specifications (e.g. format specifications of the value section) remain unchanged.~~

Original key in Specification 4 of the Base Registry Agreement	New key name	Object query where the key appears
Domain ID	Registry Domain ID	domain name
WHOIS Server	Registrar WHOIS Server	domain name, registrar, nameserver
Referral URL	Registrar URL	domain name, registrar, nameserver
Sponsoring Registrar	Registrar	domain name
Sponsoring Registrar IANA ID	Registrar IANA ID	domain name
Registrar Name	Registrar	registrar
Registrant ID	Registry Registrant ID	domain name

Admin ID	Registry Admin ID	domain name
Tech ID	Registry Tech ID	domain name

2.7. ~~8.~~ If the "Billing Contact" is shown, Registry Operator MUST update the name of the key in the output of the domain name as defined below. All other specifications (e.g. format specifications of the value section) continue to apply.

Original key in the WHOIS Advisory	New key name	Object query where the key appears
Billing ID	Registry Billing ID	domain name

2.8. ~~The URL of the ICANN Whois Inaccuracy Complaint Form MUST be included before the footer ">>> Last update of Whois database: <date and time> <<<".~~ ~~9. In responses to domain name object queries the following field2 MUST be included before the footer ">>> Last update of Whois database: <date and time> <<<".~~

■ ~~URL of the ICANN Whois Inaccuracy Complaint Form:~~
~~<https://www.icann.org/wicf/>~~

~~10. A Registry Operator that is permitted to provide redacted RDDS output in its registry agreement MAY treat the following fields as optional regardless of the existence of data in the Registry's Shared Registration System (SRS) as described in clarification 1 of the WHOIS Advisory. The redacted RDDS output MUST be consistent with the relevant RDDS provisions in the Registry Operator's registry agreement~~

- ~~Registry Registrant/Admin/Tech ID~~
- ~~Registrant/Admin/Tech Name~~
- ~~Registrant/Admin/Tech Organization~~
- ~~Registrant/Admin/Tech Street~~
- ~~Registrant/Admin/Tech City~~
- ~~Registrant/Admin/Tech State/Province~~
- ~~Registrant/Admin/Tech Postal Code~~
- ~~Registrant/Admin/Tech Country~~
- ~~Registrant/Admin/Tech Phone~~
- ~~Registrant/Admin/Tech Phone Ext~~
- ~~Registrant/Admin/Tech Fax~~
- ~~Registrant/Admin/Tech Fax Ext~~
- ~~Registrant/Admin/Tech Email~~

11. The fields "Registry Admin/Tech/Billing/Registrant ID:" refer to the Repository Object Identifier (ROID) for the contact object as specified in RFC 5733 (called Admin/Tech/Registrant ID in Specification 4 of the Base Registry Agreement).

12. Registry Operator MAY output additional RDDS fields, as defined in the WHOIS Advisory, without further approval by ICANN. The key and the value of each additional field MUST NOT: include browser executable code (e.g., Javascript); provide confidential information of any sort; or cause a negative impact to the security, stability, or resiliency of the Internet's DNS or other systems. Prior to deployment, Registry Operator SHALL provide the list of all additional RDDS fields to ICANN. Registry Operator SHALL provide to ICANN any changes to the list of additional RDDS fields prior to deploying such changes.

Effective Date: 1 August 2017

Implementation Notes

1. On 27 April 2015, ICANN published an [Advisory](#) in response to questions from both registries and registrars regarding the applicable [WHOIS \(available via port 43\) and web-based Whois services](#). ~~Registration Data Directory Services (commonly known as WHOIS) specifications~~. Registry Operators should continue to consult this Advisory to be in compliance with their registry agreement.
2. The following section describes example outputs for [WHOIS \(available via port 43\) and web-based directory services](#) ~~the~~ query objects:

[The examples below show how the data elements may appear in Whois \(port 43\) and web-based Whois, when required by ICANN Agreement or Policy.](#)

A. Domain Name Data: Full transfer, not subject to redaction and showing a key with an empty value for non-available data

[The following example has been generated using the following assumptions:](#)

- [Contact information is being transferred from the Registrar to Registry pursuant section 7.3 and 7.4 of the Registration Data Policy.](#)
 - [The values are not subject to the redaction requirements in section 9.2 of the Registration Data Policy.](#)
 - [Registry Operator does not support Registrar Registration Expiration Date or Reseller data elements; therefore, there is no data in the Registry database for these two data elements.](#)
 - [Registry Operator is including the key for data elements where no data is available for the data elements pursuant to section 1 of Addendum I of the Registration Data Policy.](#)
 - [Domain name is delegated, DNSSEC-signed, and glue records exist.](#)
- **Query format:** whois EXAMPLE.TLD
 - **Response format:**

Domain Name: EXAMPLE.TLD

Registry Domain ID: D1234567-EXAMPLE

Registrar WHOIS Server: whois.example-registrar.tld

Registrar URL: http://www.example-registrar.tld

Updated Date: 2009-05-29T20:13:00Z
Creation Date: 2000-10-08T00:45:00Z
Registry Expiry Date: 2010-10-08T00:44:59Z
Registrar Registration Expiration Date:
Registrar: EXAMPLE REGISTRAR LLC
Registrar IANA ID: 5555555
Registrar Abuse Contact Email: email@registrar.tld
Registrar Abuse Contact Phone: +1.1235551234
Reseller:
Domain Status: clientDeleteProhibited
<https://icann.org/epp#clientDeleteProhibited>
Domain Status: clientRenewProhibited
<https://icann.org/epp#clientRenewProhibited>
Domain Status: clientTransferProhibited
<https://icann.org/epp#clientTransferProhibited>
Registry Registrant ID: 5372808-EXAMPLE
Registrant Name: EXAMPLE REGISTRANT
Registrant Organization: EXAMPLE ORGANIZATION
Registrant Street: 123 EXAMPLE STREET
Registrant City: ANYTOWN
Registrant State/Province: AP
Registrant Postal Code: A1A1A16
Registrant Country: AA
Registrant Phone: +1.5555551212
Registrant Phone Ext: 12347
Registrant Fax: +1.5555551213
Registrant Fax Ext: 4321
Registrant Email: EMAIL@EXAMPLE.TLD
Registry Tech ID: 5372811-EXAMPLE
Tech Name: EXAMPLE REGISTRANT TECHNICAL
Tech Phone: +1.1235551234
Tech Email: EMAIL@EXAMPLE.TLD
Name Server: NS01.EXAMPLE-REGISTRAR.TLD
Name Server: NS02.EXAMPLE-REGISTRAR.TLD
Name Server IP Address: 192.0.2.123
Name Server IP Address: 2001:0DB8::1
DNSSEC: signedDelegation
URL of the ICANN Whois Inaccuracy Complaint Form:
<https://www.icann.org/wicf/>

• >>> Last update of RDDS database: 2009-05-29T20:15:00Z

<<< Domain Name: EXAMPLE.TLD

Registry Domain ID: D1234567-EXAMPLE

Registrar WHOIS Server: whois.example-registrar.tld

Registrar URL: <http://www.example-registrar.tld>

Updated Date: 2009-05-29T20:13:00Z

Creation Date: 2000-10-08T00:45:00Z

~~Registry Expiry Date: 2010-10-08T00:44:59Z~~
~~Registrar Registration Expiration Date: 2010-10-08T00:44:59Z~~
~~Registrar: EXAMPLE REGISTRAR-LLC~~
~~Registrar IANA ID: 55555555~~
~~Registrar Abuse Contact Email: email@registrar.tld~~
~~Registrar Abuse Contact Phone: +1.1235551234~~
~~Reseller: EXAMPLE RESELLER1~~
~~Domain Status: clientDeleteProhibited~~
~~<https://icann.org/epp#clientDeleteProhibited>~~
~~Domain Status: clientRenewProhibited~~
~~<https://icann.org/epp#clientRenewProhibited>~~
~~Domain Status: clientTransferProhibited~~
~~<https://icann.org/epp#clientTransferProhibited>~~
~~Registry Registrant ID: 5372808-EXAMPLE~~
~~Registrant Name: EXAMPLE REGISTRANT~~
~~Registrant Organization: EXAMPLE ORGANIZATION~~
~~Registrant Street: 123-EXAMPLE-STREET~~
~~Registrant City: ANYTOWN~~
~~Registrant State/Province: AP~~
~~Registrant Postal Code: A1A1A16~~
~~Registrant Country: AA~~
~~Registrant Phone: +1.5555551212~~
~~Registrant Phone Ext: 12347~~
~~Registrant Fax: +1.5555551213~~
~~Registrant Fax Ext: 4321~~
~~Registrant Email: EMAIL@EXAMPLE.TLD~~
~~Registry Admin ID: 5372809-EXAMPLE~~
~~Admin Name: EXAMPLE REGISTRANT ADMINISTRATIVE~~
~~Admin Organization: EXAMPLE REGISTRANT ORGANIZATION~~
~~Admin Street: 123-EXAMPLE-STREET~~
~~Admin City: ANYTOWN~~
~~Admin State/Province: AP~~
~~Admin Postal Code: A1A1A1~~
~~Admin Country: AA~~
~~Admin Phone: +1.5555551212~~
~~Admin Phone Ext: 1234~~
~~Admin Fax: +1.5555551213~~
~~Admin Fax Ext: 1234~~
~~Admin Email: EMAIL@EXAMPLE.TLD~~
~~Registry Tech ID: 5372811-EXAMPLE~~
~~Tech Name: EXAMPLE REGISTRANT TECHNICAL~~
~~Tech Organization: EXAMPLE REGISTRANT-LLC~~
~~Tech Street: 123-EXAMPLE-STREET~~
~~Tech City: ANYTOWN~~
~~Tech State/Province: AP~~
~~Tech Postal Code: A1A1A1~~

Tech Country: AA
Tech Phone: +1.1235551234
Tech Phone Ext: 1234
Tech Fax: +1.5555551213
Tech Fax Ext: 93
Tech Email: EMAIL@EXAMPLE.TLD
Name Server: NS01.EXAMPLE-REGISTRAR.TLD
Name Server: NS02.EXAMPLE-REGISTRAR.TLD
DNSSEC: signedDelegation
URL of the ICANN Whois Inaccuracy Complaint Form:
<https://www.icann.org/wicf/>
>>> Last update of WHOIS database: 2009-05-29T20:15:00Z <<<<
...

B. Domain Name Data: Full transfer, subject to redaction

The following example has been generated using the following assumptions:

- Contact information is being transferred from the Registrar to the Registry pursuant section 7.3 and 7.4 of the Registration Data Policy.
 - The values are subject to the redaction requirements in section 9.2 of the Registration Data Policy.
 - Registry Operator does not support Registrar Registration Expiration Date or Reseller data elements; therefore, there is no data in the Registry database for these two data elements.
 - Registry Operator is not showing the field for data elements where no data is available for the data elements pursuant to section 1 of Addendum I of the Registration Data Policy.
 - Domain name is delegated, DNSSEC-signed, and glue records exist.
- Query: whois EXAMPLE.TLD
 - Response:

Domain Name: EXAMPLE.TLD
Registry Domain ID: REDACTED
Registrar WHOIS Server: whois.example-registrar.tld
Registrar URL: http://www.example-registrar.tld
Updated Date: 2009-05-29T20:13:00Z
Creation Date: 2000-10-08T00:45:00Z
Registry Expiry Date: 2010-10-08T00:44:59Z
Registrar: EXAMPLE REGISTRAR LLC
Registrar IANA ID: 5555555
Registrar Abuse Contact Email: email@registrar.tld
Registrar Abuse Contact Phone: +1.1235551234

[Domain Status: clientDeleteProhibited](#)
<https://icann.org/epp#clientDeleteProhibited>
[Domain Status: clientRenewProhibited](#)
<https://icann.org/epp#clientRenewProhibited>
[Domain Status: clientTransferProhibited](#)
<https://icann.org/epp#clientTransferProhibited>
[Registry Registrant ID: REDACTED](#)
[Registrant Name: REDACTED](#)
[Registrant Organization: REDACTED](#)
[Registrant Street: REDACTED](#)
[Registrant City: REDACTED](#)
[Registrant State/Province: AP](#)
[Registrant Postal Code: REDACTED](#)
[Registrant Country: AA](#)
[Registrant Phone: REDACTED](#)
[Registrant Phone Ext: REDACTED](#)
[Registrant Fax: REDACTED](#)
[Registrant Fax Ext: REDACTED](#)
[Registrant Email: REDACTED](#)
[Registry Tech ID: REDACTED](#)
[Tech Name: REDACTED](#)
[Tech Phone: REDACTED](#)
[Tech Email: REDACTED](#)
[Name Server: NS01.EXAMPLE-REGISTRAR.TLD](#)
[Name Server: NS02.EXAMPLE-REGISTRAR.TLD](#)
[Name Server IP Address: 192.0.2.123](#)
[Name Server IP Address: 2001:0DB8::1](#)
[DNSSEC: signedDelegation](#)
[URL of the ICANN Whois Inaccuracy Complaint Form:](#)
<https://www.icann.org/wicf/>
[>>> Last update of RDDS database: 2009-05-29T20:15:00Z <<<](#)
...

C. Domain Name Data: minimum required output

The following example has been generated using the following assumptions:

- Contact information is not being transferred from the Registrar to Registry pursuant section 7.3 and 7.4 of the Registration Data Policy.
- Registry Operator does not support Registrar Registration Expiration Date or Reseller data elements; therefore, there is no data in the Registry database for these two data elements.
- Registry Operator is not showing the field for data elements where no data is available for the data elements pursuant to section 1 of Addendum I of the Registration Data Policy.

- Domain name is delegated, DNSSEC-signed, and glue records exist.

- Query: whois EXAMPLE.TLD
- Response:

Domain Name: EXAMPLE.TLD
Registry Domain ID: REDACTED
Registrar WHOIS Server: whois.example-registrar.tld
Registrar URL: http://www.example-registrar.tld
Updated Date: 2009-05-29T20:13:00Z
Creation Date: 2000-10-08T00:45:00Z
Registry Expiry Date: 2010-10-08T00:44:59Z
Registrar: EXAMPLE REGISTRAR LLC
Registrar IANA ID: 5555555
Registrar Abuse Contact Email: email@registrar.tld
Registrar Abuse Contact Phone: +1.1235551234
Domain Status: clientDeleteProhibited
https://icann.org/epp#clientDeleteProhibited
Domain Status: clientRenewProhibited
https://icann.org/epp#clientRenewProhibited
Domain Status: clientTransferProhibited
https://icann.org/epp#clientTransferProhibited
Name Server: NS01.EXAMPLE-REGISTRAR.TLD
Name Server: NS02.EXAMPLE-REGISTRAR.TLD
Name Server IP Address: 192.0.2.123
Name Server IP Address: 2001:0DB8::1
DNSSEC: signedDelegation
URL of the ICANN Whois Inaccuracy Complaint Form:
https://www.icann.org/wicf/
>>> Last update of RDDS database: 2009-05-29T20:15:00Z <<<
...

Registrar Data:

- **Query format: whois "registrar Example Registrar, Inc."**
- **Response format:**
Registrar: Example Registrar, Inc.
Street: 1234 Admiralty Way
City: Marina del Rey
State/Province: CA
Postal Code: 90292
Country: US
Phone Number: +1.3105551212
Fax Number: +1.3105551213

Email: registrar@example.tld
Registrar WHOIS Server: whois.example-registrar.tld
Registrar URL: http://www.example-registrar.tld
Admin Contact: Joe Registrar
Phone Number: +1.3105551213
Fax Number: +1.3105551213
Email: joeregistrar@example-registrar.tld
Admin Contact: Jane Registrar
Phone Number: +1.3105551214
Fax Number: +1.3105551213
Email: janeregistrar@example-registrar.tld
Technical Contact: John Geek
Phone Number: +1.3105551215
Fax Number: +1.3105551216
Email: johngeek@example-registrar.tld
>>> Last update of WHOIS database: 2009-05-29T20:15:00Z <<<
...

Nameserver Data:

- **Query format:** whois "nameserver (nameserver name)", or whois "nameserver (IP Address)"
- **Response format:**
Server Name: NS1.EXAMPLE.TLD
IP Address: 192.0.2.123
IP Address: 2001:0DB8::1
Registrar: Example Registrar, Inc.
Registrar WHOIS Server: whois.example-registrar.tld
Registrar URL: http://www.example-registrar.tld
>>> Last update of WHOIS database: 2009-05-29T20:15:00Z <<<
...

Background:

This Consensus Policy is a product of policy implementation directed by [ICANN Board resolutions 2014.02.07.08 - 2014.02.07.09](#), which adopted the GNSO Council Policy Recommendations for a new Consensus Policy on Thick Whois.

Recommendation #1 of the Thick Whois Policy Development Process (PDP) Working Group (WG), adopted by the GNSO Council on 31 October 2013, states: "*The provision of thick Whois services, with a consistent labelling and display as per the model outlined in specification 3 of the 2013 RAA, should become a requirement for all gTLD registries, both existing and future.*"

The [Final Report](#) [PDF, 1.23 MB] of the Thick Whois Policy PDP WG further included in its Section 7.2 'Implementation Considerations' guidance related to the timeline and requirements for implementing the transition from thin to thick Whois. It specifically notes that "*The WG does emphasize that implementation of one part of the recommendation (for example, transition of existing thin gTLD registries to thick model) should not unnecessarily delay the implementation of another part of the recommendation (for example, the consistent labeling and display of such data)*".

As a consequence, ICANN staff and the Implementation Review Team (IRT) agreed that consistent labeling and display could be decoupled from the implementation of the transition from thin to thick.

ICANN submitted a [draft proposal for implementation of the consistent labeling and display requirement for Public Comment on 3 December 2015](#). After considering the community's feedback and in collaboration with the Thick Whois IRT, ICANN revised its proposal as reflected in this Consensus Policy.

It should be noted that ICANN's objective in implementing the GNSO Policy recommendations has been to minimize the impact to registrants, end users, contracted parties and to the overall Registration Data Directory Services (RDDS) systems by seeking to synchronize, where appropriate, this implementation with other related initiatives such as the adoption of the Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP).

~~1-The Registry Operators of .com, .jobs and .net are expected to be required to implement the requirements set forth in this Policy as part of their transition from thin to thick registries pursuant to the implementation of the Thick Whois GNSO PDP Recommendations adopted by the ICANN Board on 7 February 2014.~~

12 Please note that this field updates the terminology and URL currently in use in Specification 3 of the 2013 RAA (as approved by the ICANN Board on 17 September 2013)