



Number Resource Organization

December 2011

Internet Number Resource Report



## Whois Data Validation

#### John Curran, NRO Chair

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#### Considerations

Several factors influence Whois data accuracy across the Regional Internet Registries (RIRs):

- Internet number resources issued directly from an RIR versus legacy resources
- Membership and/or service contract requirements
- RIR business practices

The RIRs each pursue Whois data accuracy as directed by the community in their respective regions; as improvements in practices occur in one region, they are often considered by the other regions.



#### <u>AfriNIC</u>

- Maintains accuracy through routine informal member interactions
- Reviews member data before annual billing cycle
- Routinely checks and validates WHOIS contact information when members request additional resources or services.
- Committed through RSA to maintain their data always accurate in the WHOIS.
- Staff also perform annual data consistency cleanup as well.



APNIC

- Maintains regular contact with account holders and through the annual renewal process and thereby updates Whois objects for resources delegated to those account holders
- Indicates that changes to the database are very rare as most resources are registered to "role" objects
- Obligates the member to maintain their own assignment information records, therefore no validation is conducted
- Provides a public form for reporting invalid details in which staff follow up with members
- Performs an annual Whois data cleanup process which helps to maintain current and valid information
- Updates Whois data when processing requests



ARIN

- Obligates the resources holders contractually through legacy or standard services agreement to maintain accurate data
- Provides a public form for reporting invalid/fraudulent details in which staff research and update accordingly
- Performs a rolling annual point-of-contact (POC) validation per Annual POC Validation policy

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#### LACNIC

- Reviews Whois data when resources are requested and updates accordingly
- Updates data as a result of other efforts such as outbound member communications resulting in corrected information
- Obligates the resources holders contractually through their RSA.

#### RIPE NCC

• Conducts monthly reviews of about 50 Whois records resulting in 500-600 annual so called 'audits'



#### **RIPE NCC (Continued)**

- Plans to conduct a yearly self-audit by the LIRs and bi-yearly audit performed by Registration Services Department when reaching the last /8
- Performs Whois database queries to locate, research, and correct inconsistencies
- Updates legacy Whois data as holders register their address space
- Conducts updates persuant to Policy 2007-1, specifically "Contractual Requirements for Provider Independent Resources Holders in the RIPE NCC Service Region"



## Conclusion

Each Regional Internet Registry conducts Whois data validation consistent with their community and regional needs, although overall the RIR's have no uniform position for Whois data validation.

Any global approach would need to be introduced to the policy development process in each region, ratified by the appropriate policy body each region, and subsequently ratified by the ICANN Board per the global number resource policy development process.



# thank you

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