

Ostomy care Urology & Continence care Wound & Skin care

Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) 4676 Admiralty Way, Suite 330 Marina del Rey, CA 90292-6601 USA



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In pursuit of cybersquatters - WHOIS registrant data

Dear Sirs,

As a group of 15 major Danish and Swedish companies we would like to present our view on the fact that ICANN is currently looking to make amendments to the WHOIS registrant data available in order to address privacy concerns.

In our view, lack of information relating to the registrant will be a step backward for brand owners. In fact, such a step will be of benefit to cybersquatters and add to the problems of tracking them down and getting into contact with them.

Publicly accessible WHOIS data is an essential tool in pursuit of cybersquatters. Moreover, such data are indispensable in facilitating due diligence, in relation to law enforcement purposes and in the management of large domain name portfolios.

We therefore recommend that this planned amendment is thoroughly reconsidered and hopefully abandoned.

As we all know, cybersquatters are indeed creative. More and more cases reflect the fact that when a cybersquatter receives a demand letter or a WIPO complaint he will not respond. Instead he withdraws the domain name registration and it seems that he has given it up. However, when you make a check the same domain name is now registered in another entity name. The fact is that cybersquatters when contacted by brand owners reregister domain names in different entity names with the result that they keep controlling the domain names - and the brand owners are forced to keep filing complaints in relation to the same domain name.

We recommend that steps be taken to address this issue as currently the complaint rules do not take this kind of creativity on the part of the cybersquatters into consideration. ICANN may want to consider some kind of 'Registrar Lock' to avoid registrants moving domain names from one entity to another.

We look forward to your comments.

On behalf of the following companies:

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Yours sincerely,

Lisheth Bahhek