

WHOIS

Service description

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1 Introduction

1.1 This document

This is .SE's description of the WHOIS service.

1.2 Abbreviations & definitions

.SE	<i>.SE (The Internet Infrastructure Foundation) is the name of the independent public-utility organization that is responsible for the Internet's Swedish top-level domain, meaning Internet addresses ending in .se. In addition to responsibility for administration and the technical operation of the national domain name registry, .SE promotes the positive development of the Internet in Sweden.</i>
.SE Registry	<i>When the new business model was introduced in 2009, the operations were split into two parts: .SE Registry and .SE Direkt. .SE Registry is responsible for the administration and the technical operation of the national domain-name registry.</i>
.SE Direkt	<i>.SE Direkt is .SE Registry's own registrar</i>
Registrar	<i>A business party who has entered into an agreement with .SE Registry for the right to administer a registrant's domain name</i>
ccTLD	<i>Country Code Top Level Domain</i>
CENTR	<i>Council of European National Top-level Domain Registries</i>
Domain administrator	<i>The person responsible for the administration of a national top-level domain</i>
DomainManager	<i>Web-based user interface for .SE Direkt's customers</i>
gTLD	<i>Generic Top Level Domain</i>
ICANN	<i>The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers</i>
Contact	<i>A contact can be a registrant, administrative contact, payment-notice recipient or a technical contact. These people are connected to one or more domains. Each contact can be identified by a unique Contact ID</i>
Contact-ID	<i>A contact's identification. A contact-ID is unique and are allocated to the user when a new contact is created and therefore cannot be chosen by the contact him/herself</i>
PuL	<i>Swedish Personal Data Act (SFS 1998:204)</i>
Personal data	<i>All types of information that can directly or indirectly be connect to a natural person. Examples of such information are name, personal identity number and address</i>
RFC	<i>Request for Comments. A memorandum containing Internet standards and other documents regarding the Internet issued by the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)</i>
TLD	<i>Top-level domain</i>
Top-level Domain Act	

The Swedish National Top-level Domains for Sweden on the Internet Act (SFS 2006:24)

WHOIS

WHOIS is a TCP-based protocol used to allow lookups in a registry, for example, domain names or IP addresses

Whois protocol

See WHOIS

Web whois

See WHOIS, the difference here is that lookups are performed via a website to make it more user-friendly compared with using a command-based interface which is more common when the Whois protocol is used

1.3 References

- [1] .SE Registry's Integrity Policy
- [2] The Swedish National Top-level Domains for Sweden on the Internet Act (SFS 2006:24)
- [3] WHOIS recommendations
<http://www.icann.org/committees/security/whois-recommendation-01dec02.pdf>
- [4] RFC 812 and RFC 954
- [5] CENTR report – WHOIS Requirements
<https://www.centr.org/docs/2004/02/centr-ga21-whois.pdf>

1.4 Fonts

The following fonts are used in this document:

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Small bold | Used for library structure, file names and input and output. |
| CAPITAL LETTERS | Computer names are always written in capitals. |

1.5 About .SE

The Internet Infrastructure Foundation (.SE) is responsible for the Internet's Swedish top-level domain, .SE. Its core operation is the registration of domain names, and the administration and technical operation of the national domain-name registry under .se. .SE is an independent public utility organization that promotes the positive development of the Internet in Sweden. Through .SE's Internet fund, the Foundation reserves money each year for projects that in various ways contribute to the development and use of the Internet.

Read more at www.iis.se

2 Introduction

Since July 1, 2006 .SE has come under the national Top-level Domains for Sweden on the Internet Act, the Top-level Domain Act (SFS 2006:24). The Swedish National Post and Telecom Agency is the supervisory authority. The purpose of the Act is to provide the state with an opportunity for insight into and supervision of the domain administration.

According to the Top-level Domain Act, the domain administrator, in this case .SE, is obliged to maintain a register of allocated domain names under the top-level domain. The information specified in the Act must be accessible without charge via the Internet. However, the domain administrator is responsible for personal data and must therefore also take the Swedish Personal Data Act (PuL) into account.

3 About WHOIS

WHOIS is a TCP-based protocol that is used to enable lookups in a register, for example, domain names or IP addresses.

The original purpose of the Whois protocol¹ and the databases this generates, and which contain register information for all who have registered domain names, was to provide system administrators and domain registrants with a possibility to rapidly and efficiently gain contact to secure Internet functionality and security to thereby maintain the stability of the Internet².

3.1 Purpose

.SE's main purpose for WHOIS is to provide information about the technical and administrative contacts for the management of domain names under the top-level domain, but with consideration to personal integrity. Furthermore, according to the Top-level Domain Act, .SE is obliged to maintain a register of allocated domain names and information on registrants and whoever is responsible for technical administration of the domain name. It must be possible to obtain this information free-of-charge via the Internet.

¹ Specified in RFC 812 and RFC 954

² See, for example, <http://www.icann.org/committees/security/whois-recommendation-01dec02.pdf>

4 .SE's WHOIS service

4.1 Introduction

The WHOIS service can either be accessed via the Whois protocol or via a web-based service on .SE's website Webbwhois. The structure of the service for these views is in principle the same, but with one exception. This exception is specified in the first point, third paragraph in Section 4.3.3.

.SE's main objective with WHOIS is to provide information regarding the technical and administrative contacts for administration of the domain names under the top-level domain, but taking into consideration personal integrity.

Naturally, WHOIS can also be used to find out if a domain name is free or not, but this is not the main objective. A more suitable search tool for this is Free, <http://free.iis.se/free?q=example.se>

4.2 Target group

.SE's WHOIS service can be used by anyone who is interested in receiving information about a domain name.

The Whois protocol is a command-based interface and more appropriate for experienced users, such as system administrators, and often requires that you install a program with commando prompts where you enter your whois question.

The Webbwhois has a graphic interface that makes it easier to use for ordinary people and does not require a special program. The Webbwhois is available on .SE's website, <http://www.iis.se>.

4.3 Structure of .SE's WHOIS service

There are no established requirements on how information is to be presented in WHOIS or which search variables are to be used. However, there are certain recommendations that can be read, for example, in CENTR's report on WHOIS [5].

4.3.1 SEARCH CAPACITY

Many existing WHOIS services only provide accessibility to the register through one search variable – namely, the domain name. However, there is nothing in the Whois protocol that restricts access to only one domain name. Depending on how WHOIS has been implemented, several different search variables can be used based on the data available in the database.

A common addition, over and above the domain name, is a possibility to search on so-called "NIC handles" or Contact ID. This is something used at .SE, and that is why WHOIS is also structured in such a way that the user has the possibility to search on domain names or Contact ID's. A search on a Contact ID provides information on the contact details of the registrant.

When searching on a domain name, no assessment is made as to whether the registrant of a domain name is a legal entity or a natural person; this is only done if the search is for a Contact ID.

The information shown when the search pertains to a domain name or Contact ID can be found in Section 5.1.

4.3.2 OPT-IN/OPT-OUT

Through opt-in/opt-out, the registrant is able to show certain contact information or conceal certain information. This choice is only available for natural persons because .SE's interpretation of the Top-level Domain Act is that the contact information for legal entities must always be shown.

Registrants who are natural persons can make their choices through their registrar. However, it must be said that contact details for natural persons are concealed as a standard practice. .SE deems this to be a more appropriate approach than the opposite in view of personal integrity and the importance of protecting personal data.

Exception: First- and last (name field) is always shown and the information about personal identity number (orgno field) is always hidden.

4.3.3 IMPEDING AUTOMATIC DOWNLOAD (“DATA HARVESTING”)

The Whois protocol makes it possible to structure output data in a machine-readable manner. This also means that it is relatively easy to automatically retrieve large amounts of data from the register. In CENTR's report on WHOIS [5], it is stated that a TLD is recommended for introducing mechanisms and procedures that impeded automatic download.

To impede automatic download and prevent abuse of information published in WHOIS, .SE has taken the following action:

- Anyone searching on Contact ID in .SE's Webbwhois receives a random code that must be entered before they can obtain contact information. However, if the registrant is a natural person, the contact information is not shown unless the registrant has opted for this.

The random code is not used if the search applies to a domain name. In other words, the random code is only used when the search is conducted via Webbwhois and if the user searches on Contact ID.

Since the solution using a random code cannot be used in a command-based interface (Whois protocol), and therefore cannot obstruct automatic downloading, .SE has chosen not to permit searches on Contact ID via the Whois protocol. Instead, the user receives a referral to our website. Naturally, it is entirely possible to search on a domain name.

- .SE only permits a certain number of searches on Contact ID per day, week and month.
- Multi-criteria searches and other search functions that search on names, e-mail addresses, fax numbers and corporate registration or personal identity numbers are not permitted. See also Section 4.3.4.
- Anyone searching in WHOIS is requested to read the general terms and conditions that apply for WHOIS. The following is contained in the terms and conditions:
 - The WHOIS service is provided only for information purposes and may not be used for commercial purposes.
 - That the user may not use the information to create their own database.
 - That the information is protected by the Swedish Copyright Act (1960:729) and catalog protection as described by the Swedish Copyright Act (1960:729)

4.3.4 MULTIPLE CRITERIA SEARCHES (BULK ACCESS)

In CENTR's report on WHOIS [5], it is possible to read that Article 29 Working Party finds that bulk access to WHOIS shall be restricted. Bulk access can, for example, mean that the user, through a search, can retrieve information about several domain names at the same time. The advice against this is mainly based on each Registry's responsibility for data protection, but also in terms of direct marketing and the original aim of WHOIS.

In its current form, .SE does not permit bulk access to WHOIS.

5 Identification of natural persons and legal entities

Anyone applying for registration of a domain name under the .se top-level domain is requested that they, in connection with the application, provide certain information, including a corporate registration or personal identity number, name and/or company name.

In relation to the applicant's name, there are two fields. The first is "Name" and the second is "Company." Both fields can be completed or only the "Name field."

If the applicant provides a Swedish personal identity number and only completes the "Name" field, it is assumed that the registration pertains to a private individual (natural person). If the applicant provides a Swedish personal identity number and completes both the "Name" and "Company" fields, it is assumed that the registration pertains to a one-man business. However, in terms of personal data, .SE treats a one-man company as a natural person.

If the applicant provides a Swedish corporate registration number, the "Company" field is compulsory. In these cases, it is assumed that the applicant is a company (legal entity).

5.1 Information published in WHOIS

In conjunction with registration, all registrants are requested to approve .SE's registration terms. This provides .SE an opportunity to publish personal data in WHOIS. But with respect to personal integrity any personal data should not be published when the registrant is a natural person, except for first name and family name. However, the registrant has a possibility to display the information if so desired.

If the registrant wants to display any information the request must be made through their registrar, however the registrar must obtain a written consent before any personal data can be published.

5.1.1 SEARCHING ON DOMAIN NAMES IN WHOIS

When the user searches on a .se domain name, the following information is displayed in WHOIS:

- State – the status of a domain name. Can be one of the following:

Active – the domain name is registered and the registration period has not expired

Expired – the registration period has expired and the domain name has lapsed. The domain name could be deactivated if it is not renewed. In WHOIS, the "deactivationdate" field is displayed, which shows when the domain name will be deactivated.

Deactivated – the registration period has expired and the domain name has been closed from the Internet. Alternatively, a request for deregistration has been received.

In WHOIS, the fields "date_to_delete" and "date_to_release" are now also shown. The date_to_delete field indicates when the domain name may be deregistered. The "date_to_release" field indicates when the domain name can be released for re-registration.

Quarantine – The domain name has been deregistered and placed in quarantine. The "date_to_release" field shows when .SE will release the domain name for re-registration.

System – The domain name is reserved or blocked by .SE. The "reason" box states the reason for the block.

- *domain* – The domain name in question
- *holder* - Contact ID for the registrant
- *admin-c* - Contact ID for any administrative contact person
- *tech-c* - Contact ID for any technical contact person
- *billing-c* - Contact ID for any billing contact
- *nserver* – Name server
- *created* – Registration date
- *expires* - Date of registration period's expiry
- *transferred* – Date when the domain name changed registrar
- *modified* - Date for the most recent change for the domain name
- *status*, “ok” or “inactive” – If the domain name has any name servers stated or not
- *registrar* – The registrar that administers the domain name

5.1.2 WHEN THE REGISTRANT IS A LEGAL ENTITY

.SE usually publishes the information below in WHOIS when the user searches on a Contact ID and the registrant is assumed to be a legal entity. If any information is missing, this is marked with a dash.

If a search is made via the Whois protocol, the user is instead referred to .SE's Webbwhois.

- *Contact ID* - Contact ID, the contact's identifier in the system
- *name* – First and family names of a private person, name of contact person in the case of a company
- *org* – Company name
- *orgno* – Corporate Registration Number
- *email* - E-mail address
- *street 1-3* – postal address
- *postalcode* – zip code
- *state/province* - State/province
- *city* - City
- *country* - Country/country code
- *phone* – Telephone number
- *fax* – Fax number
- *created* - Date when the contact was created
- *modified* - Date for most recent change for the contact

- *Status*, “ok” or “inactive” – If the contact is connected to any domain or not
- *registrar* – The registrar who manages the contact

5.1.3 WHEN THE REGISTRANT IS A NATURAL PERSON

When the registrant is a natural person (including one-man businesses) and the user searches on Contact ID, not other contact information is displayed except first and family names unless the registrant has requested that information be displayed.

When searching on Contact ID via Webbwhois, the comment “not shown” is displayed instead after each field. If the search is made using the Whois protocol, the user is referred to .SE’s Webbwhois.

6 Integrity policy

.SE's integrity policy belongs with this document and can be found on our website.