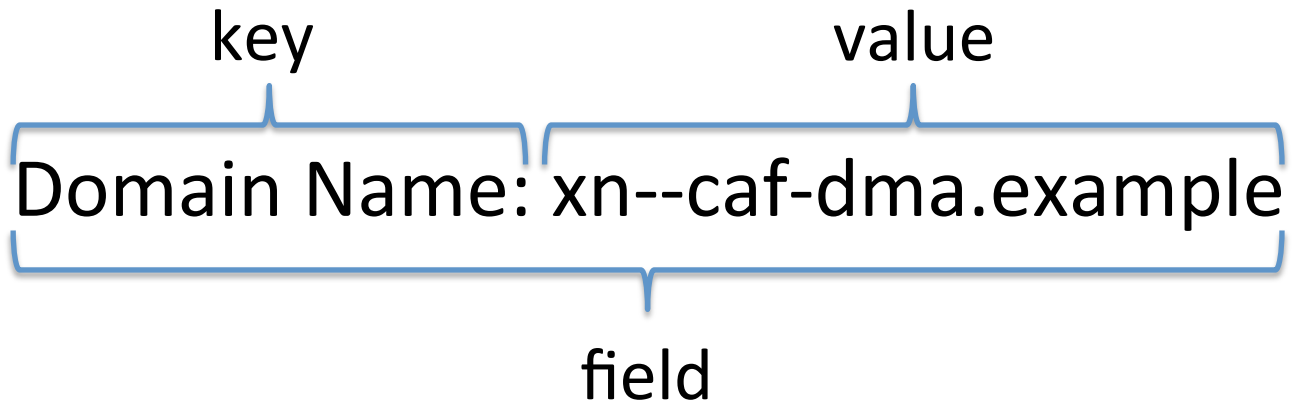


WHOIS Advisory

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- Published by ICANN:
 - <https://www.icann.org/resources/pages/registry-agreement-spec4-raa-rdds-2014-09-12-en>
- This document clarifies the WHOIS requirements for Registries and Registrars, in response to questions received by ICANN.

Glossary



Why?

- ICANN received questions regarding the WHOIS requirements in Specification 4 of the new gTLD RA and Section 4 of the 2013 RAA.
- Clarifications were needed in order to achieve an standard output.

This document is NOT:

- Trying to create new requirements.
- Trying to redefine the WHOIS protocol.
- Trying to define the content of the value of the fields.

Can we just wait for RDAP?

- As discussed during the session on this subject at the ICANN 51 meeting in Los Angeles (<http://la51.icann.org/en/schedule/thu-ietf-whois-replacement>), the timeline to have RDAP across the board, currently looks like it is in the order of years, even if only a few.
- After RDAP is deployed, it is expected that WHOIS will need to be supported for some time while transitioning to the new protocol.

Advisory timeline

- ICANN Staff drafted the first version of the advisory.
- The RySG provided feedback on the first version.
- First version was published on September 12, 2014.
- After publication, ICANN received questions / feedback.
- ICANN Staff is in the process of updating the advisory based on the feedback received.

Differences between version 1 and 2

- I.1:
 - Registrant/Admin/Tech Street is removed from the list of optional fields. (2013 RAA requires this information to be obtained).

Differences between version 1 and 2

- 1.7, now reads:
 - IP address(es) for name servers ~~are not required~~
MUST NOT be shown in the output of Whois queries for domain names.

Differences between version 1 and 2

- I.9, now reads:
 - "DNSSEC: signedDelegation" MUST be shown when **there is one or more DS records in the SRS** ~~and DS RR is published in the DNS~~ for the domain name being queried. "DNSSEC: unsigned" MUST be shown in all other cases.

Differences between version 1 and 2

- A clarification was added regarding fields that may appear multiple times when querying for a domain name.
- In responses to domain name object queries, the following fields can have multiple values and, therefore, MAY appear multiple times:
 - Domain Status
 - Name Server
 - Registrant/Admin/Tech Street (i.e., following EPP RFC 5733 usage)

Differences between version 1 and 2 (Registry only)

- I. 8, the clarification was modified to read:
- In the case of queries for name servers for which there is at least one active domain name that requires glue data in the DNS (please see RFC 1034), Registries **MUST** include in the response data from their SRS (e.g., Server Name, IP Addresses, Registrar) including related IP address(es). **Registries MAY provide a response with data from the SRS for other name server queries.** Please see clarification 1 in case that no IP addresses are shown in response to a name server query.
- Simplifying:
 - Internal hosts used as glue: **MUST**
 - Internal hosts: **MAY**
 - External hosts: **MAY**

Differences between version 1 and 2 (Registry Only)

- II.23, now reads:
- When receiving a query for a name server object, using either the name server name or IP address as a key, that matches more than one object, the registry SHOULD return *the line “Query matched more than one name server:”* followed by the matching ROIDs with corresponding name server name between parentheses, *one per line*.

Query matched more than one name server:

roid1abc-examplerep (ns1.foo.example)

roid5jkl-examplerep (ns2.example.com)

roid9mno-examplerep (ns1.example.net)

>>> Last update of WHOIS database: 2009-05-29T20:15:00Z <<<

Differences between version 1 and 2 (Registry Only)

- A clarification was added regarding fields that may appear multiple times when querying for a Registrar object.
- In responses to registrar object queries, the following fields can have multiple values and, therefore, MAY appear multiple times:
 - Admin Contact
 - Technical Contact
 - Email
 - Fax Number
 - Fax Ext
 - Phone Number
 - Phone Ext

Differences between version 1 and 2 (Registrar only)

- III. 42, now reads:
- The value section of the "Reseller" field can be left blank. If shown, the value of the field **MUST** be the name of organization, in case of a legal entity, or a natural person name otherwise.

General clarifications

- AWIP was integrated in the updated advisory. The AWIP URL next to the EPP statuses code must be shown on whois/43 and web whois.
- The AWIP footer MUST be shown after the last update footer described in clarification 16. An empty line MUST precede the AWIP footer. The legal disclaimer comes after the AWIP footer, preceded by an empty line
- The order of the fields is a requirement as per the contracts.

General clarifications

- For optional fields listed in the Registry Agreement, if no information is available, the key must be shown once.
 - E.g. Name Server:
- For additional fields, not listed in the agreement (i.e. Billing Contact, Internationalized Domain Name) nothing is required to be shown.
- The agreement and advisory are silent regarding the two types of postal information (int and loc). Registries may request approval (i.e. RSEP) from ICANN to add more fields if necessary.

General clarifications

- Reseller field was moved to the Registrar's section of the advisory. However, this field is going to be required for registries as indicated in the Thick Whois policy.
- The advisory is about lookup queries. For searchable Whois, registries can and should return multiple records.

Dates

- Compliance with the advisory (effective date): **2015/03/31** (it was 2015/02/15).
- Compliance will be tested in PDT and the PDT specs will be updated:
 - After publishing the PDT specs and before the effective date of the advisory: Warning.
 - After effective date of the advisory: Fail.