

WHOIS and RDAP

The Overview and Impact of Changes on ccTLDs



Empowering Netizens

Rishab Dhaniya

National Internet Exchange of India

APTLD – 85, 21st Feb 2024

WHOIS & RDAP

- **WHOIS** : A protocol that is used for querying servers for information about registered internet resources and is defined in RFC 3912. It uses port 43 by default and exchanges data in a simple key-value format.
- **RDAP** : A standardized protocol and data format for querying and receiving public registration data about internet resources and is defined in RFC 7483. Based on HTTP/TLS & produce data in structured JSON format.

Deployment of WHOIS & RDAP - .IN Registry

- .IN Registry implemented the Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) in 2018 and WHOIS was there since the inception of ccTLD.
- .IN Registry has both the protocols used to access information about registered domains:
 - WHOIS - <https://whois.registry.in/>
 - RDAP - <https://rdap.registry.in/>

Statistics

Average number of queries we received for lookups:

- WHOIS :- 40 – 50 requests per sec
- RDAP :- 1 – 2 requests per sec

Note: Avg. of monitoring last 3 months data.

Role of Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA)

- Provided access to dedicated LEAs
- Helpful in terms of mitigating threats by getting real-time information
- Secure access to data
- Rapid resolution

Impacts and Challenges

Positive Impacts	Challenges and Considerations
Enhanced Privacy	Potential Cost Increases
Improved Data Accuracy	Legal & Regulatory Considerations
Increased Flexibility	Technical Expertise

Conclusion

- General people simply want a webpage to perform domain lookups and they don't want to know whether the backend technology is using WHOIS or RDAP.
- However, the domain name industry stakeholders need to consider themselves to make RDAP compliant because there should always be a Plan for future.



Thank You

Email: rishab@nixi.in