

# Registrar experiences with WHOIS

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# WHOIS Purpose

- “Collected data should be relevant to a specific purpose, and be accurate, complete and up-to-date” - OECD Privacy Guideline
- “Registered Name Holder of record and is responsible for providing its own full contact information and for providing and updating accurate technical and administrative **contact information adequate to facilitate timely resolution of any problems that arise in connection with the Registered Name.**”
  - Registration Agreement

# Registrar use of WHOIS

- Registrars require access to the contact information to seek authorisations for transfer
- Registrars must also transfer the contact information to their own databases for the provision of WHOIS once a transfer is approved.

# Abuse of WHOIS by third parties

- Unsolicited renewal notices (complete with expiry date and other registry data) – often aimed to mislead the consumer to believing they are dealing with their original supplier
- Unsolicited marketing of related services – web hosting, website development, email services, SPAM filters, additional domain names
  - “We saw in the WHOIS registry that you registered xxxx.com. The next step is ....”

# Abuse of WHOIS by third parties

- Fraud to collect credit card information
  - Email registrar customers, and create a dummy website with same branding as registrar

# WHOIS usage

- Large registrars have around 10 bulk access agreements
- Sample stats for port 43 public WHOIS
  - 2 million queries a day
  - 137,000 separate locations
- \$30 buys 30 million WHOIS records