

WHOIS SEARCHES AND IP TRACING

Lydia Crowe, University of Iowa Press
Digital Piracy Review and Discussion, AAUP, June 21, 2013

What is a WhoIs Search?

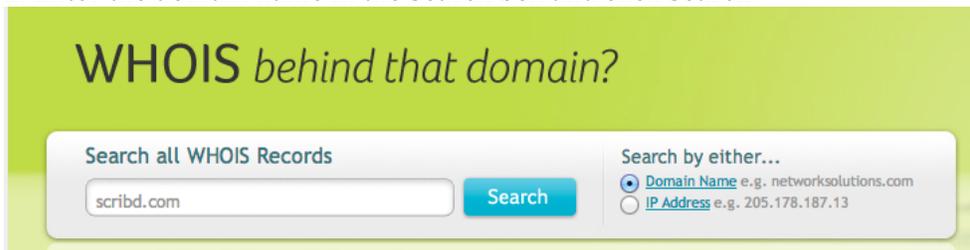
The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) requires registrars to publish valid contact details for the organizations or people behind each domain name. The “WhoIs” index makes these contact details publicly available.

How can the WhoIs Index help me?

When you want to send a takedown notice and the website administrator has not made his/her contact information available, you may be able to find contact information in the WhoIs Index. You can also use it to find out which country the site originates from and which, if any, copyright conventions that country subscribes to. This data could also be used for marketing purposes (where is my book being pirated? Is there a need for the book in that country that we could fill instead of pirates?).

How to Search the WhoIs Index

1. Go to: networksolutions.com/whois (we are using this specific site for the purposes of this tutorial, but there are many other websites that search the WhoIs index).
2. Enter the domain name in the Search box and click Search.



3. Scroll down a little and you’ll find the search results, which look like this...

scribd.com

Is this your domain name? [Renew it now.](#)



Current Registrar: GODADDY.COM, LLC
IP Address: [174.36.20.140](#) (ARIN & RIPE IP search)
Record Type: Domain Name
Server Type: Other 0
Lock Status: clientDeleteProhibited
WebSite Status: Active

...followed by a lot of plain text.

The Registrar is the company that reserves the domain name for the user. It has nothing to do with the site content. The Registrant is the organization or individual that registers the domain name. You are looking for the Registrant’s contact information. It looks like this:

```
Registrant: Scribd
211 Sutter St.
Floor 2
San Francisco, California 94108
United States
Administrative Contact:
```

Friedman, Jared jared2@scribd.com
Scribd
211 Sutter St.
Floor 2
San Francisco, California 94108
United States
6462960973

Now, you know the administrator's e-mail address and can send a takedown notice.

Sometimes, however, the information in the WhoIs index is out-of-date, incomplete, or dubious...

```
Domain ID:D166275951-LROR
Domain Name:BOOKOS.ORG
Created On:06-Aug-2012 12:05:57 UTC
Last Updated On:06-Oct-2012 03:52:51 UTC
Expiration Date:06-Aug-2013 12:05:57 UTC
Sponsoring Registrar:Internet.bs Corp. (R1601-LROR)
Status:CLIENT TRANSFER PROHIBITED
Registrant ID:INTE27x4ac76vt9w
Registrant Name:Domain Administrator
Registrant Organization:Fundacion Private
Whois Registrant Street1:Attn: bookos.org
Registrant Street2:Aptds. 0850-00056
Registrant Street3:
Registrant City:Panama
Registrant State/Province:
Registrant Postal Code:Zona 15
Registrant Country:PA
Registrant Phone:+507.65995877
Registrant Phone Ext.:
Registrant FAX:
Registrant FAX Ext.:
Registrant Email:501fb30ajn02wn11@t02cduv4f7f99a255f64.privatewhois.net
```

In this entry, the domain administrator for bookos.org has used the services of Fundación Private Whois, a Panamanian nonprofit that protects registrants' privacy (<http://www.privatewhois.net/>) by entering their own contact information in place of the registrants'. The organization will forward e-mail to the domain holder, but cannot guarantee a reply. The address shown is that of Fundación Private Whois. Many similar services exist, so WhoIs data is never guaranteed to be the administrator's real contact information. If you still wanted to find out the actual geographic location of the website for legal or marketing purposes, you could trace the IP.

How to Trace an IP Address

1. Go to ip-address.com.
2. Click "IP Tracing," on the upper left of the screen.
3. Scroll down to the box with a button that says "Track IP, host, or website." Enter the domain name (i.e., bookos.org) or IP address and click the button.

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4. You will see information about the geographic location of the computer that hosts the website. (This one is in Luxembourg.)

REQUIRED ELEMENTS OF A DMCA NOTICE

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Incomplete notices may be ignored by website administrators. Your takedown notice should include the following:

- ✓ A physical or electronic signature (i.e., Signed: Lydia Crowe, University of Iowa Press)
- ✓ Identification of the infringed work (i.e., a list of titles and authors)
- ✓ Identification of the infringing material to be disabled (i.e., a list of links)
- ✓ Your contact information (e-mail, phone number, and address)
- ✓ The following statement: "I have a good faith belief that the use of the material in such a fashion is not authorized by the copyright owner, its agent, or by operation of the law."
- ✓ The following statement: "Under penalty of perjury in a United States court of law, I state that the information contained in this notification is accurate, and that I am authorized to act on behalf of the exclusive rights holder for the material in question."

Also make sure to be courteous – always say "thank you." Remember that this format is for U.S. sites. If you are sending the notice to a foreign site, your request may be more effective if you format it according to the requirements of that country's copyright law. However, many countries have very similar requirements and I have had success in the past using the DMCA template.

SAMPLE

Attn: Copyright Agent, Scribd.com

Pursuant to 17 USC 512(e)(3)(A), this communication serves as a statement that:

1. I am the duly authorized representative of The University of Iowa Press, the exclusive rights holder for the following e-book title:
Signs in Culture: Roland Barthes Today by Steven Ungar and Betty R. McGraw
2. These exclusive rights are being violated by material available upon your site at the following URL(s):
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/129397490/Steven-Ungar-Betty-R-McGraw-Signs-in-Culture-Bookos-org>
3. I have a good faith belief that the use of this material in such a fashion is not authorized by the copyright holder, the copyright holder's agent, or the law;
4. Under penalty of perjury in a United States court of law, I state that the information contained in this notification is accurate, and that I am authorized to act on the behalf of the exclusive rights holder for the material in question;
5. I may be contacted by the following methods: address: 119 W. Park Rd., 100 Kuhl House, Iowa City, IA 52242. Telephone: (319) 335-2008. E-mail: lydia-crowe@uiowa.edu;

I hereby request that you remove or disable access to this material as it appears on your service in as expedient a fashion as possible.

Thank you.

Regards,

Lydia Crowe