



Linux Ubuntu 26.04 Manual Pages on command 'whois.1'

\$ man whois.1

WHOIS(1)

Debian GNU/Linux

WHOIS(1)

NAME

whois - client for the whois directory service

SYNOPSIS

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whois [ { -h | --host } HOST ] [ { -p | --port } PORT ] [ -abCdGHIKILmMrRx ]
[ -g SOURCE:FIRST-LAST ] [ -i ATTR[,ATTR]... ] [ -s SOURCE[,SOURCE]... ] [ -T
TYPE[,TYPE]... ] [ --verbose ] [ --no-recursion ] OBJECT

whois -q KEYWORD

whois -t TYPE

whois -v TYPE

whois --help

whois --version
```

DESCRIPTION

whois searches for an object in a RFC 3912 database.

This version of the whois client tries to guess the right server to ask for the specified object. If no guess can be made it will connect to whois.networksolutions.com for NIC handles or whois.arin.net for IPv4 addresses and network names.

OPTIONS

- h HOST, --host=HOST Connect to HOST.
- H Do not display the legal disclaimers that some registries like to show you.
- p PORT, --port=PORT Connect to PORT.
- I First query whois.iana.org and then follow its referral to the whois server authoritative for that request. This works for IP addresses, AS numbers and domains. BE?

WARE: this implies that the IANA server will receive your complete query.

--no-recursion

Disable recursion from registry to registrar servers.

--verbose

Be verbose.

--help Display online help.

--version

Display the program version.

Other options are flags understood by whois.ripe.net and some other RIPE-like servers:

- a Also search all the mirrored databases.
- b Return brief IP address ranges with abuse contact.
- B Disable objects filtering. (Show the e-mail addresses.)
- c Return the smallest IP address range with a reference to an irt object.
- d Return the reverse DNS delegation object too.
- g SOURCE:FIRST-LAST Search updates from SOURCE database between FIRST and LAST update serial number. It is useful to obtain Near Real Time Mirroring stream.
- G Disable grouping of associated objects.
- i ATTR[,ATTR]... Inverse-search objects having associated attributes. ATTR is the attribute name, while the positional OBJECT argument is the attribute value.
- K Return primary key attributes only. An exception is the members attribute of set objects, which is always returned. Another exception are all attributes of the objects organisation, person and role, that are never returned.
- l Return the one level less specific object.
- L Return all levels of less specific objects.
- m Return all one level more specific objects.
- M Return all levels of more specific objects.
- q KEYWORD Return information about the server. KEYWORD can be version for the server version, sources for the list of database sources or types for the list of supported object types.
- r Disable recursive lookups for contact information.
- R Disable following referrals and force showing the object from the local copy in the server.
- s SOURCE[,SOURCE]... Request the server to search for objects mirrored from SOURCE.

Sources are delimited by comma, and the order is significant. Use the -q sources parameter to obtain a list of valid sources.

- t TYPE Return the template for a object of TYPE.
- T TYPE[,TYPE]... Restrict the search to objects of TYPE. Multiple types are separated by a comma.
- v TYPE Return the verbose template for a object of TYPE.
- x Search for only exact match on network address prefix.

NOTES

When querying the Verisign gTLDs (e.g. .com, .net...) the registry servers for a domain, the program will automatically prepend the domain keyword to only show domain records. The nameserver or registrar keywords must be used to show other kinds of records.

When querying whois.arin.net for IPv4 or IPv6 networks, the CIDR netmask length will be automatically removed from the query string.

When querying whois.nic.ad.jp for AS numbers, the program will automatically convert the request in the appropriate format, inserting a space after the string AS.

When querying whois.denic.de for domain names and no other flags have been specified, the program will automatically add the flag -T dn.

When querying whois.dk-hostmaster.dk for domain names and no other flags have been specified, the program will automatically add the flag --show-handles.

RIPE-specific command line options are ignored when querying non-RIPE servers. This may or may not be the behaviour intended by the user. When using non-standard query parameters then the command line options which are not to be interpreted by the client must follow the -- separator (which marks the beginning of the query string).

If the /etc/whois.conf configuration file exists, it will be consulted to find a server before applying the normal rules. Each line of the file should contain a regular expression to be matched against the query text and the whois server to use, separated by white space.

IDN domains must use the ACE format.

The whois protocol does not specify an encoding for characters which cannot be represented by ASCII and implementations vary wildly. If the program knows that a specific server uses a certain encoding, if needed it will transcode the server output to the encoding specified by the current system locale.

Command line arguments will always be interpreted accordingly to the current system locale and converted to the IDN ASCII Compatible Encoding.

FILES

/etc/whois.conf

ENVIRONMENT

LANG When querying whois.nic.ad.jp and whois.jpri.jp English text is requested unless the **LANG** or **LC_MESSAGES** environment variables specify a Japanese locale.

WHOIS_OPTIONS

A list of options which will be evaluated before the ones specified on the command line.

WHOIS_SERVER

This server will be queried if the program cannot guess where some kind of objects are located. If the variable does not exist then whois.arin.net will be queried.

SEE ALSO

whois.conf(5).

RFC 3912: WHOIS Protocol Specification.

RIPE Database Query Reference Manual: <<https://www.ripe.net/data-tools/support/documentation/ripe-database-query-reference-manual>>

BUGS

The program may have buffer overflows in the command line parser: be sure to not pass untrusted data to it. It should be rewritten to use a dynamic strings library.

HISTORY

This program closely tracks the user interface of the whois client developed at RIPE by Ambrose Magee and others on the base of the original BSD client.

AUTHOR

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Marco d'Itri

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