

Wednesday, July 24, 2019 at 4:56 PM

From: ICANN Global Support <noreply-globalsupport@icann.org>

Date: Wednesday, July 24, 2019 at 4:56 PM

Subject: IMPORTANT REMINDER NOTICE Implementation of RDAP Service



Dear Registrars,

This is a reminder that all gTLD registries and registrars are required to implement a Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) service no later than 26 August 2019, as per ICANN org's [27 February 2019 legal notification](#). Registries and registrars are recommended to implement RDAP according to the [February-2019 version of the gTLD-RDAP Profile](#) created by the RDAP Working Group and endorsed by the gTLD Registries Stakeholder Group (RySG) and Registrars Stakeholder Group (RrSG) on [26 February 2019](#).

RDAP enables access to current registration data and was created as an eventual replacement for the WHOIS protocol. RDAP offers many advantages over the current WHOIS service including standardized queries, secure access to data, extensibility, differentiated access, support for internationalization of registration data, and enabling search for objects. RDAP is the protocol required to deliver the policies of the future registration data directory services. Now is the ideal time to gain experience with RDAP prior to attempting to implement more complex policy requirements.

ICANN org is coordinating the multi-phased transition of Registration Data Directory Services from WHOIS to RDAP in partnership with the contracted parties. A successful transition requires a brief period of having both services available to ensure both the community users and contracted parties develop experience with the new protocol and tools before retiring WHOIS services. Thus, it is imperative for registries and registrars **to continue to offer access to port 43 and web-based WHOIS service** until a coordinated sunset of WHOIS services has been defined.

Next, ICANN org will work with the contracted parties to incorporate the RDAP service more robustly into the respective Registry Agreements (RA) and the 2013 Registrar Accreditation Agreement (RAA) via contractual amendments. We expect to initiate formal discussions of amendments to the RAA with the RrSG in August 2019.

Our goal is for the amendment to be specifically limited to the definition of the RDAP service and retirement of the WHOIS service. We expect the amendment would include:

- The RDAP profile similar to how the WHOIS output is currently defined in the RAA
- The Service Level Agreements (SLAs) for RDAP
- The details for the sunsetting of WHOIS (port 43) services, and
- Updating the many references to WHOIS throughout the contract

Many of the items above have already been discussed and preliminarily agreed to between the contracted parties and ICANN during the development of the RDAP Profile, and we hope the amendments will be done collaboratively and relatively swiftly.

Registrar Actions:

1. Registrars who cannot meet the RDAP implementation date of 26 August 2019 **are requested to please contact ICANN org** via globalsupport@icann.org.
2. If you have questions about continuing to offer WHOIS and/or Port 43 access please let us know via globalsupport@icann.org.
3. Update RADAR to register the registrar's RDAP base URL into ICANN's database. Details on how to enter your RDAP URL can be found on icann.org/rdap.

Questions about this gTLD-RDAP Profile may be directed to globalsupport@icann.org.

Learn more: ICANN RDAP Overview page: <https://www.icann.org/rdap>

Best Regards,

Russ Weinstein
Sr. Director, gTLD Accounts & Services