Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP)

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15 September 2017
The Registration Data Access Protocol (RDAP) enables users to access current registration data and was created as an eventual replacement for the WHOIS protocol. RDAP was developed by the technical community in the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF).

RDAP Pilot Program is currently underway.
- The pilot started on 5-Sep-2017 and finalizes on 31-July-2018.
- The goal of this pilot program is to develop a baseline profile (or profiles) to guide implementation, establish an implementation target date, and develop a plan for the implementation of a production RDAP service.
- This voluntary program was initiated at the request of the ICANN gTLD Registries Stakeholder Group, with the support of the Registrar Stakeholder Group.
To participate in the RDAP pilot program, follow the instructions in the community wiki workspace @ https://icann.org/rdap

RDAP's advantages over WHOIS protocol include:

- Standardized query, response and error messages.
- Secure access to data (i.e., over HTTPS).
- Extensibility (e.g., makes it easy to add output elements).
- A bootstrapping mechanism that makes it easy to find the authoritative server for a given query.
- Redirection/reference mechanism (e.g., from a thin registry to a registrar).
- Builds on top of the well-known web protocol HTTP.
- Internationalization support for registration data.
- Provides the option to enable differentiated access (e.g., limited access for anonymous users and full access for authenticated users).