Figure 26-1: Whois Service Network Diagram. By distributing Whois service across multiple resolution sites, Whois transactions are highly available and performed with low latency.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Implementation/Configuration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Load Balancers                  | • Deployed as a pair for maximum availability and resilience.  
• Help ensure workload is evenly distributed across all systems within the .HOT gTLD resolution network.                                                                                                               |
| Layer-3 Switches                | • Four switches are installed in Verisign’s resolution network environment: two for front-office management, and two for back-office management.  
• Switches provide both routing and switching for the .HOT gTLD environment across the front-office network.                                                                                                               |
| Terminal Servers                | • Deployed as a pair of terminal servers to enable out-of-band management of all network hardware.  
• Used in the event that primary network access is unavailable at Verisign’s primary resolution sites.                                                                                                                        |
| Virtual Private Networks (VPN)  | • Pair of VPNs installed at each of Verisign’s primary resolution sites for secure remote access to the installed systems.                                                                                                       |
| Commodity Servers               | Supporting Whois data processing needs, each commodity server consists of the following specifications:  
• Two central processing units (CPUs)  
• 2 – 6 gigabytes (GB) random access memory (RAM) (as dictated by the server function)  
• 2x73GB hard drive                                                                                                                                         |
| Database Servers                | Supporting Whois data processing needs, each database server consists of the following specifications:  
• 16 cores (4 x quad-core CPUs)  
• 64GB RAM  
• 5x73GB hard drive                                                                                                                                           |

**Figure 26-2: Whois IT and Infrastructure Resources.** Verisign uses a common Whois resolution network architecture at each primary site provisioning the Whois service.

**Figure 26-3: Technical Overview.** Verisign’s Whois services are co-located at DNS locations.
Domain Name Data

**Query format:** whois EXAMPLE.TLD

Response format:

Domain Name: EXAMPLE.TLD
Domain ID: D1234567-TLD
Whois Server: whois.example.tld
Referral URL: [http://www.example.tld](http://www.example.tld)
Updated Date: 2009-05-29T20:13:00Z
Creation Date: 2000-10-08T00:45:00Z
Expiration Registry Expiry Date: 2010-10-08T00:44:59Z
Sponsoring Registrar: EXAMPLE REGISTRAR LLC
Sponsoring Registrar IANA ID: 5555555
Domain Status: clientDeleteProhibited
Domain Status: clientRenewProhibited
Domain Status: clientTransferProhibited
Domain Status: serverUpdateProhibited
Registrant ID: 5372808-ERL
Registrant Name: EXAMPLE REGISTRANT
Registrant Organization: EXAMPLE ORGANIZATION
Registrant Street: 123 EXAMPLE STREET
Registrant City: ANYTOWN
Registrant State/Province: AP
Registrant Postal Code: A1A1A1
Registrant Country: EX
Registrant Phone: +1.5555551212
Registrant Phone Ext: 1234
Registrant Fax: +1.5555551213
Registrant Fax Ext: 4321
Registrant Email: EMAIL@EXAMPLE.TLD
Admin ID: 5372809-ERL
Admin Name: EXAMPLE REGISTRANT ADMINISTRATIVE
Admin Organization: EXAMPLE REGISTRANT ORGANIZATION
Admin Street: 123 EXAMPLE STREET
Admin City: ANYTOWN
Admin State/Province: AP
Admin Postal Code: A1A1A1
Admin Country: EX
Admin Phone: +1.5555551212
Admin Phone Ext: 1234
Admin Fax: +1.5555551213
Admin Fax Ext: 4321
Admin Email: EMAIL@EXAMPLE.TLD
Tech ID: 5372811-ERL
Tech Name: EXAMPLE REGISTRAR TECHNICAL
Tech Organization: EXAMPLE REGISTRAR LLC
Tech Street: 123 EXAMPLE STREET
Tech City: ANYTOWN
Tech State/Province: AP
Tech Postal Code: A1A1A1
Tech Country: EX
Tech Phone: +1.1235551234  
Tech Phone Ext: 1234  
Tech Fax: +1.5555551213  
Tech Fax Ext: 93  
Tech Email: EMAIL@EXAMPLE.TLD  
Name Server: NS01.EXAMPLE.REGISTRAR.TLD  
Name Server: NS02.EXAMPLE.REGISTRAR.TLD  
DNSSEC: signedDelegation  

>>> Last update of Whois database: 2009-05-29T20:15:00Z <<<

Figure 26-4: Domain Name Data Object

Registrar Data

Query format: whois "registrar Example Registrar, Inc."

Response format:
Registrar Name: Example Registrar, Inc.  
Street: 1234 Admiralty Way  
City: Marina del Rey  
State/Province: CA  
Postal Code: 90292  
Country: USA  
Phone Number: +1.3105551212  
Fax Number: +1.3105551213  
Email: registrar@example.tld  
Whois Server: whois.example-registrar.tld  
Referral URL: http://www.example-registrar.tld  
Admin Contact: Joe Registrar  
Phone Number: +1.3105551213  
Fax Number: +1.3105551213  
Email: joeregistrar@example-registrar.tld  
Admin Contact: Jane Registrar  
Phone Number: +1.3105551214  
Fax Number: +1.3105551213  
Email: janeregistrar@example-registrar.tld  
Technical Contact: John Tech  
Phone Number: +1.3105551215  
Fax Number: +1.3105551216  
Email: johntech@example-registrar.tld  

>>> Last update of Whois database: 2009-05-29T20:15:00Z <<<

Figure 26-5: Registrar Data Object
### Name Server Data

**Query format:** whois "NS1.EXAMPLE.TLD" or whois "name server (IP address)"

**Response format:**
- **Server Name:** NS1.EXAMPLE.TLD
- **IP Address:** 192.0.2.123
- **IP Address:** 2001:0DB8::1
- **Registrar:** Example Registrar, Inc.
- **Whois Server:** whois.example-registrar.tld
- **Referral URL:** http://www.example-registrar.tld

>>> Last update of Whois database: 2009-05-29T20:15:00Z <<<

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential Abusive Searchable Whois Risks</th>
<th>Verisign Risk Mitigation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Source Data Mining</td>
<td>Access Control Lists (ACL): Implementation of an ACL at the network layer to block the offending IP address for a specified period of time; viable option given a single unique IP address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Application Rate Limiting: Implementation of rate-limiting at the application layer to regulate the number of queries allowed from the source IP address for a specified period of time; viable option given a single unique IP address</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Automated Data Mining</td>
<td>Access Control Lists (ACL) and Application Rate Limiting as defined for single source data mining</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Source: The mining of Whois data from a single IP address conducted through the use of automated scripts</td>
<td>Packet Inspection: Implementation of tools that analyze the incoming &quot;get&quot; request to determine whether the source is a valid user or whether the request is coming from an automated script or botnet; viable option based on &quot;get&quot; request signature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distributed: The mining of Whois data from multiple sources/IP addresses conducted through the use of automated scripts, or, &quot;botnets&quot;</td>
<td>Completely Automated Public Turing Test To Tell Computers And Humans Apart (CAPTCHA) Techniques: Implementation of a challenge-response test prior to processing the request; viable option that limits ability to predict challenge-response; almost always requires manual interaction</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**Figure 26-6: Name Server Data Object**

**Figure 26-7: Potential Searchable Whois Forms of Abuse and Mitigation.** *Verisign leverages its experience supporting the .name registry to build in to the system the safeguards necessary to minimize abusive Whois practices.*