

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.*

Component	Implementation/Configuration
Load Balancers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployed as a pair for maximum availability and resilience. • Help ensure workload is evenly distributed across all systems within the .COACH gTLD resolution network.
Layer-3 Switches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 .COACH gTLD environment across the front-office network.
Terminal Servers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pair of VPNs installed at each of Verisign's primary resolution sites for secure remote access to the installed systems.
Commodity Servers	<p>Supporting Whois data processing needs, each commodity server consists of the following specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two central processing units (CPUs) • 2 – 6 gigabytes (GB) random access memory (RAM) (as dictated by the server function) • 2x73GB hard drive
Database Servers	<p>Supporting Whois data processing needs, each database server consists of the following specifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.*

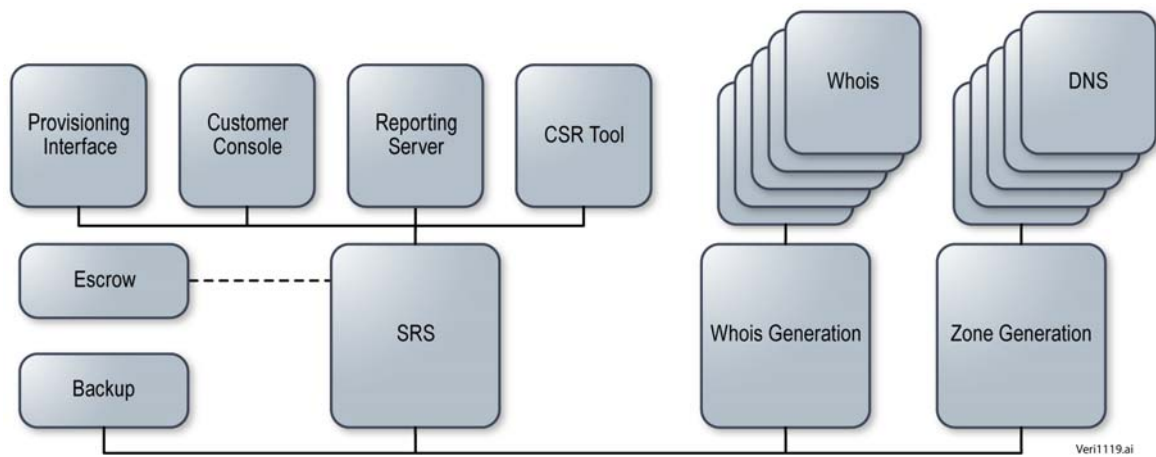


Figure 26-3: Technical Overview. *Verisign's Whois services are co-located at DNS locations.*

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>

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.EXAMPLEREGISTRAR.TLD
Name Server: NS02.EXAMPLEREGISTRAR.TLD
DNSSEC: signedDelegation
DNSSEC: unsigned
>>> 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 <<<

Figure 26-6: Name Server Data Object

Potential Abusive Searchable Whois Risks	Verisign Risk Mitigation
Single Source Data Mining The mining of Whois data from a single IP address conducted through manual queries	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 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
Automated Data Mining Single Source: The mining of Whois data from a single IP address conducted through the use of automated scripts Distributed: The mining of Whois data from multiple sources/IP addresses conducted through the use of automated scripts, or, "botnets"	ACL and Application Rate Limiting as defined for single source data mining Packet Inspection: Implementation of tools that analyze the incoming "get" 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 "get" request signature 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

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.*