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 .forex 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 .forex 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
- 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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name Server Data</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Potential Abusive Searchable Whois Risks</th>
<th>Verisign Risk Mitigation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Source Data Mining&lt;br&gt;The mining of Whois data from a single IP address conducted through manual queries</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&lt;br&gt;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&lt;br&gt;Single Source: The mining of Whois data from a single IP address conducted through the use of automated scripts&lt;br&gt;Distributed: The mining of Whois data from multiple sources/IP addresses conducted through the use of automated scripts, or “botnets”</td>
<td>ACL and Application Rate Limiting as defined for single source data mining&lt;br&gt;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&lt;br&gt;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 26-7: 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.