



Private Registration Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

How does a Private Registration work?

The Network Solutions® Private Registration service masks the information that appears in WHOIS so that the registrant's personal data isn't available to the public. With the private registration the following items are masked:

Email: An alphanumeric e-mail alias is randomly created every 10 days. Network Solutions filters out any spam sent to the alternate address and forwards legitimate e-mail to the customer's email account on record with Network Solutions.

Postal Address: A Network Solutions P.O. Box is listed as an alternate to the customer's address so that mail can be sent to the customer c/o Network Solutions. As an agent for the customer, Network Solutions opens all USPS Express and Certified Mail, per our Service Agreement, and emails a scanned copy to the customer's e-mail address on record for free. (A customer may pay Fed Ex charges to have hard copies forwarded.) First class mail is returned to the sender, and Third Class mail is shredded.

Telephone Number: We provide you with a Network Solutions Private Registration toll telephone number listing in WHOIS, which serves as an answering and screening service for Private Registration customers. Callers receive a recorded message stating that this is a Private Registration and the only information that can be given is the same information listed in the WHOIS record. If a caller holds to speak to our customer service specialists, he is referred to your masked email and postal address.

Note: This service is currently not available for .AT, .BE, .CA, .DE, .EU, .GD, .PL, .TC, .TW, .US and .VG

What is WHOIS, and what information is made public?

The WHOIS public database is a requirement of ICANN and displays a domain name holder's contact information. The public WHOIS database is accessible by anyone, 24 hours a day. Information that must be contained in the public WHOIS database includes:

- The domain name registrant's (or domain name holder's), email, phone number and postal address
- Email, phone number and postal address of other designated contacts for the domain name account

- Date the domain name was registered
- Date of the most recent update to the domain name record
- Date the domain name registration will expire
- Host name and IP addresses for the domain name servers

What is ICANN?

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is the nonprofit body responsible for accrediting domain name registrars. ICANN requires all domain name providers, including Network Solutions®, to make the registrant contact information publicly available.

Why should I be concerned about my information in WHOIS?

When you register a domain name, your information is accessible to ANYONE via the online WHOIS search tool found on the websites of all accredited registrars. These sites typically allow searches to be performed one domain name at a time. However, some of these sites are susceptible to automated “mining” of the information by high-speed computer queries.

ICANN requires all accredited domain name registrars to make a complete copy of their WHOIS data available to any third party that signs a contract. Once the agreement is signed, individual parties become licensed to access all of a registrar’s WHOIS data for an annual fee not to exceed \$10K. This maximum fee is established by ICANN. Many domain holders may be unaware that personal ‘registered’ information is posted to public databases and readily accessible by anyone with Internet access.

How is the Network Solutions Private Registration service different from the “proxy” services?

Those who offer Private Registration by “proxy” offer this service by becoming the domain name holder or registrant themselves, giving the service provider full control over the domain name.

With the Network Solutions Private Registration service, the domain name remains registered in the customer’s name when Private Registration is added to the domain name. The registrant maintains full management capabilities as the holder of the domain name registration.