

## **Whois**

Whois queries an Internet database for information about users and organizations. All users and organizations officially registered with the Internet Network Information Center (NIC) are included in the Whois database. Note that the Whois database is not a comprehensive list of Internet users. Typically only one person per Internet site is listed. That person is usually the network administrator.

The Whois database is stored on the host RS.INTERNIC.NET. Whois requires an Internet connection.

### **Topics**

Entering Queries

Handles

## Handles

A handle is a unique identifier that is assigned to each entry in the Whois database. Handles consist of a combination of letters and numbers, such as "ABC45". Handles are displayed in parentheses in Whois output. For example, the command "Whois Iglesias" might return an entry:

```
Iglesias, Julio (IGL24) julio@carnegie_hall.com (212) 555-4321
```

Julio's handle in this example is "IGL24".

## Entering Queries

Queries may be entered from the New Query dialog box. Enter the handle or the name of the user or organization.

Handles may be entered in upper or lower case, but must be entered exactly.

User names consist of the last name, followed by a comma and the first name, as in "last, first", or "Iglesias, Julio". The first name is optional.

User and Organization name queries may consist of the entire name of the user or organization (the default) or the first few letters. To search for all names beginning with the letters entered, uncheck the Exact Match checkbox.

Once a response has been retrieved from the Whois database, additional queries may be initiated by clicking on an output line that contains a handle.

