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## Notes On WHOIS Privacy Reform

By Greg Ferro

The European Union GDPR laws mean the WHOIS database for domain registrations can no longer be made public because it contains personal information. ICANN is responsible for managing various Internet namespaces. It publishes the details of owners in the WHOIS database. While ICANN is a US company registered in California, it must comply with GDPR regulations that cover EU citizens.

In the early days of DNS, personal details in WHOIS were regarded as a courtesy so that an IT administrator could contact owners to advise of problems with email or network routing. Privacy wasn't a concern then; the dream was all about openness/freedom and the power of information, so it was obvious that anyone should be able to locate you.



packetpushers.net

Lookup

By submitting any personal data, I agree that any the personal data will be processed in accordance with the ICANN [Privacy Policy](#), and agree to abide by the website [Terms of Service](#).

Showing results for: **PACKETPUSHERS.NET**

Original Query: packetpushers.net

### Contact Information

#### Registrant Contact

Name: Contact Privacy Inc. Customer 0127222165  
Organization: Contact Privacy Inc. Customer 0127222165  
Mailing Address: 96 Mowat Ave, Toronto ON M6K 3M1 CA  
Phone: +1.4165385457  
Ext:  
Fax:  
Fax Ext:  
Email: packetpushers.net@contactprivacy.com

#### Admin Contact

Name: Contact Privacy Inc. Customer 0127222165  
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**Submit a Complaint for WHOIS**

[WHOIS Inaccuracy Complaint Form](#)  
[WHOIS Service Complaint Form](#)

[WHOIS Compliance FAQs](#)

Today the ICANN WHOIS database is a huge commercial resource for corporate surveillance, and has been exploited for user tracking and ad display. More nefarious uses include locating domain holders and offering false services such as SEO, listings, and false registrations.

Maintaining the security, stability and resiliency of the Domain Name System In accordance with ICANN's mission through the enabling of lawful access for legitimate third-party interests to data elements collected for the other purposes identified herein - ICANN Purpose 2

WHOIS is also a valuable resource for threat analysis, spam detection, and security research. The information in WHOIS can be correlated with other information to produce useful commercial information for sale.

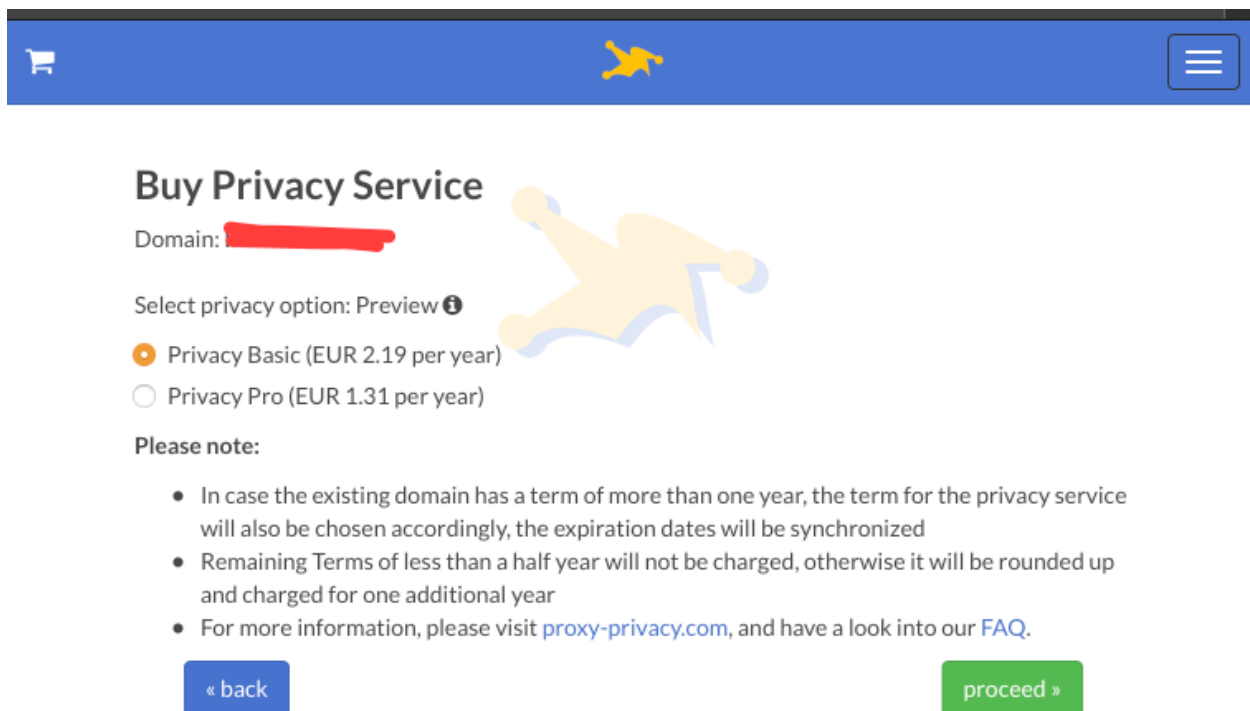
## Why Should Personal Data Be Private?

Corporate surveillance is more than a business model to exploit; it is now impacting politics and society. Domain metadata is just one element in building a personal profile to track users online. Businesses can extract large amounts of profit/value when this data is correlated and cross-referenced with other data.

The EU government explicitly set out to protect consumers from invisible data collection with the GDPR legislation. The reach of the EU legislation means that ICANN cannot publish details of EU citizens in a public space.

Most registrars today offer a privacy service so that your personal information is solely held by the registrar. Low-quality registrars do not hide this data, presumably to reduce costs, and after registering a domain I received a deluge of spam for false services, false listings, and SEO services, in addition to a much wider range of general spam. Note that DNS registrars will provide your details to a suitable legal request, though details are obscured for everyday purposes.

While most providers offer a privacy service as part of the registration fee, less reputable services will charge extra to keep your details private.



The screenshot shows a web interface for purchasing a privacy service. At the top, there is a blue navigation bar with a shopping cart icon, a yellow dog logo, and a hamburger menu icon. Below the bar, the main content area has a white background. The heading "Buy Privacy Service" is in bold black text. To the right of the heading is a yellow cartoon dog jumping. Below the heading, the text "Domain:" is followed by a redacted domain name. Underneath, it says "Select privacy option: Preview" with an information icon. There are two radio button options: "Privacy Basic (EUR 2.19 per year)" which is selected, and "Privacy Pro (EUR 1.31 per year)". Below these options is a "Please note:" section with three bullet points. At the bottom, there are two buttons: a blue "« back" button and a green "proceed »" button.

## Buy Privacy Service

Domain: [REDACTED]

Select privacy option: Preview ⓘ

Privacy Basic (EUR 2.19 per year)

Privacy Pro (EUR 1.31 per year)

**Please note:**

- In case the existing domain has a term of more than one year, the term for the privacy service will also be chosen accordingly, the expiration dates will be synchronized
- Remaining Terms of less than a half year will not be charged, otherwise it will be rounded up and charged for one additional year
- For more information, please visit [proxy-privacy.com](https://proxy-privacy.com), and have a look into our [FAQ](#).

« back

proceed »

## ICANN Must Comply

Multiple attempts by [ICANN](#) to be exempted from the legislation following official approaches to the privacy commission have been rejected.

European data regulators have torn up the latest proposal by internet overseer ICANN over its Whois data service, sending the hapless organization back to the drawing board for a third time. -[The Register](#)

And:

The [Temporary Specification](#), effective today, still requires gTLD registry operators and registrars to collect all registration data. If you submit a WHOIS query for a registration subject to the GDPR, you will only receive "thin" data in return, which includes technical data sufficient to identify the sponsoring registrar, status of the registration, and creation and expiration dates for each registration, but not personal data. - [ICANN](#)

ICANN attempted various end runs around the EU legislation:

In addition, the EDPB shot down ICANN's argument that different rules apply when a domain name is registered by an individual or a legal entity like a corporation. Not so, said the EDPB, stating that if a personal email address is given for a corporate website it still falls under the GDPR privacy legislation. - [The Register](#)

For those wondering, the EU GPDR legislation certainly impacts any company in the world that has any data on EU citizens. There are two tiers of administrative fines that can be levied as penalties for non-compliance: Up to €10 million, or 2% annual global turnover – whichever is higher. Up to €20 million, or 4% annual global turnover – whichever is higher.

## Security Angle - What We Lose

Brian Krebs has been speaking out on the security angle by pointing out that analysis of the limited WHOIS database is often key to forensic analysis or using the metadata as a sign post.

Security researchers who rely on data included in Web site domain name records to combat spammers and scammers will likely lose access to that information for at

least six months starting at the end of May 2018, under a new proposal that seeks to bring the system in line with new European privacy laws. The result, some experts warn, will likely mean more spams and scams landing in your inbox. - [Krebs](#)

Threat intelligence companies do use WHOIS data because DNS is a key element in their data gathering. Look at the number of DNS companies acquired by bigger security companies, such as OpenDNS by Cisco.

If you want to see the privacy rights of domain name registrants respected, you need to weigh in. And if you don't weigh in, you can be sure that Facebook, the MPAA, the trademark interests, cybersecurity firms who monetize Whois data, and other anti-privacy rights interests will be out in force. - [Internet Governance](#)

## The EtherealMind View

I have to admit, I'm torn between two opposing issues of privacy and security. We need the Internet to be safer and more secure, but we also need privacy. Access to metadata is vital part of the next generation of security tools as TLS 1.3 encryption obscures the payload and protects users. Yes, this also means detecting bad actors is more difficult and requires advances in technology.

At the same time, non-professionals registering a new domain name are at risk of scammers and spammers, plus their personal details are published for anyone to scrape, collect, and store. More advanced surveillance companies such Facebook and Google are able to correlate this data to track people around the Internet and exploit their personal data for various purposes (mainly ads and sales tracking).

The ability to detect and remediate in the network becomes more difficult and expensive. Today, network security is cost-effective through the use of inspection and firewalls at key points in the network. The costs of network security are increasing and this leads to endpoint security returning to viability.

ICANN is accepting submissions from interested parties [here](#) , if you want to contribute to the debate then this is your chance.

## References:

Link: Initial Report of the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Team - ICANN -<https://www.icann.org/public-comments/epdp-gtld-registration-data-specs-initial-2018-11-21-en>

Link: Whois-Privacy Reform Hits its First Milestone - Internet Governance Project - <https://www.internetgovernance.org/2018/11/25/whois-privacy-reform-hits-its-first-milestone/>

ICANN't get no respect: Europe throws Whois privacy plan in the trash • The Register -[https://www.theregister.co.uk/2018/07/06/europe\\_no\\_to\\_icann\\_whois/](https://www.theregister.co.uk/2018/07/06/europe_no_to_icann_whois/) - Retrieved 26 Nov, 2018

Link: Who Is Afraid of More Spams and Scams? — Krebs on Security - <https://krebsonsecurity.com/2018/03/who-is-afraid-of-more-spams-and-scams/>

Link: ICANN Launches GDPR Lawsuit to Clarify the Future of WHOIS | Threatpost | The first stop for security news - <https://threatpost.com/icann-launches-gdpr-lawsuit-to-clarify-the-future-of-whois/132427/>

Link: ICANN Files Legal Action in Germany to Preserve WHOIS Data - ICANN - <https://www.icann.org/news/announcement-2018-05-25-en>

Link: Initial Report of the Expedited Policy Development Process (EPDP) on the Temporary Specification for gTLD Registration Data Team - ICANN -<https://www.icann.org/news/announcement-2-2018-11-21-en>

Link: Law Enforcement Agencies Will Have Authority on Registries and Registrars - [http://www.circleid.com/posts/20181026\\_law\\_enforce...](http://www.circleid.com/posts/20181026_law_enforce...)

## **Sponsor: Virtual Design Clinic 3 - Holiday Change Freeze Edition**

Join the Packet Pushers and a holiday assortment of guests for our third [Virtual Design Clinic](#) on December 19th.

This free, live, online event includes presentations on continuous integration/continuous testing for networks, network design for NVMe over Ethernet fabrics, and Ask Me Anything panels with network and design experts. You'll also hear from our sponsor, Apcela, on three steps to boost the ROI of SD-WAN.

If you can't join us live, we'll post all the videos and presentations on [Ignition](#), our membership site. You can also check out VDCs 1 and 2 there right now.

[Register here](#) and we'll see you December 19th.



## Internets Of Interest

### Bridging the Gap Between the Classroom and Real-World IT - Network Phil

Phil Gervasi has an excellent post, based on his experience as an adjunct instructor, of the disconnect between real-world IT skills and knowledge and what gets taught in classrooms.

He writes: "For my very last class, I chose not to cover anything in the textbook or any of the bullets on the syllabus. Instead, I introduced my students to systems and network automation. What may seem old news to you and me was brand-new to

my class, and I don't believe this is the exception ."

[LINK](#)

## **Monolithic Architecture vs. Microservices: Choosing the Right Architecture for the Project - Yellow.id**

The microservices architecture is the new hotness for application development, while monolithic architectures (even the name seems pejorative) have fallen out of favor. But this post from a dev team at Yellow does a nice job of outlining the pros and cons of each approach--and yes, microservices have their flaws. If you're looking for a solid overview, hit the link.

[LINK](#)

## **HTTP/3 Explained - Daniel Stenberg**

Daniel Stenberg has published a free e-book on HTTP/3, which is an early look at the next version of this essential protocol - so early that version 3 isn't even ready and there aren't any working implementations in any browsers. However, he says he'll update the book as more information emerges. Besides, it's free, so give the guy a break.

Daniel writes "The book describes what HTTP/3 and its underlying transport protocol QUIC are, why they exist, what features they have and how they work. The book is meant to be readable and understandable for most people with a rudimentary level of network knowledge or better ."

[LINK](#)

## **Packet Pushers News Bits**

News, blogs, videos and more from the Packet Pushers and contributors



## Apstra Adds Root Cause Identification To Its Intent-Based Networking Software

Apstra, which makes intent-based networking (IBN) software for data center automation, has [announced new features and product upgrades](#) in version 2.3 of its AOS software.

New features include:

- Root cause identification
- vSphere integration
- Support for Junos and Sonic

[LINK](#)

## Video: SDWAN over 4G ? Yes you can.

Fresh from a conference of MPLS providers telling people that only MPLS or Direct Internet Access (over MPLS) is the only possible solution. Its not, SDWAN over 4G works and often is cost effective too. MPLS is expensive and often more expensive than 3G/4G. An SDWAN solution makes a good network out of any bandwidth.

Don't trust your service provider to be honest here. They have spent billions building overpriced sliced networks (you might call it MPLS) and want you to keep paying.

An error occurred.

[Try watching this video on www.youtube.com](#), or enable JavaScript if it is disabled in your browser.

[LINK](#)

## Last-Mile Management: New Services Fix SD-WAN's Missing Link

Nearly [two years ago](#), I opined that supplier management might be the biggest threat to SD-WAN adoption. My argument was that SD-WAN required enterprises to equip locations with multiple Internet connections (assuming they were eliminating MPLS), ideally from different ISPs, if they're to match MPLS uptime.

All of which means that any IT team considering SD-WAN must go from managing one carrier relationship with MPLS to managing many ISP relationships with SD-WAN.

[LINK](#)

### The End Bit

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Human Infrastructure is bi-weekly newsletter with view, perspectives, and opinions. It is edited and published by Greg Ferro and Drew Conry-Murray from PacketPushers.net. If you'd like to contribute, email Drew at [drew.conrymurray@packetpushers.net](mailto:drew.conrymurray@packetpushers.net).

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