

ARIN, Law Enforcement, & Public Safety

As a law enforcement and/or public safety agency, you may need to obtain information from ARIN to help solve a case. Typically, the information you need is publicly available in Whois, an Internet protocol and service used to query databases that store registered users or assignees of an Internet resource. However, there are occasions when you may need additional information that is not publicly available. Here's how ARIN can help.

Information Available in ARIN's Public Whois

- Internet Protocol (IP) addresses and Autonomous System Numbers (ASNs) managed by ARIN
- IP addresses and ASNs issued by ARIN's predecessor registries presently under ARIN's management
- Organizations that hold ARIN-managed resources
- Points of Contact for ARIN-managed resources or customer organizations
- Customer reassignment information (Internet number resources reassigned from an ISP to its customers)
- Referential information for other authoritative Regional Internet Registries (RIRs) and customer reassignment information put into a Referral Whois (RWhois) server by an ISP

Due to ARIN's business practice of maintaining confidentiality, we do not provide any non-public information without a properly issued and served subpoena or court order. For information on submitting your subpoena, please visit **arin.net/publicsafety**.

Considerations When Using Whois Data for Investigations

- Whois data retrievable via search.arin.net or whois.arin.net is public information.
- A duly issued subpoena is required for any information not available on Whois.
- Whois data may not be current, as it is the resource holder's responsibility to maintain their contact records.
- Not all customer records will be in Whois. These include reassignments smaller than /29, some IPv6 reassignments, and subdelegations available in RWhois.
- The most specific information about any Internet number resource issued by ARIN will be held by the upstream ISP or end user customer registered in Whois.

ARIN is here to help!

Email **compliance@arin.net** for more information

Published July 2025
© 2025 ARIN. All Rights Reserved.



ARIN, Law Enforcement, & Public Safety

Information Not Publicly Available in Whois

- Domain names and any associated information
- Authoritative information for subdelegations by ISPs using RWhois, resources registered in other RIRs' Whois, customer reassignments smaller than /29 (per ARIN policy), and some privatized residential customers (per ARIN policy)
- Routing information
- Accurate geographic location of the network

Why doesn't ARIN have the geographic location of the IP address?
The main purpose of Whois is to record authorized users or assignees of an Internet resource. ARIN cannot guarantee that the address associated with an Internet resource record is the actual physical location of the network.

Other Information ARIN May Be Able to Provide

- Upstream ISP or end user contact information
- Customer reassignment information smaller than /29
- Previous address holders subsequent to a transfer of the resources to another organization
- Financial transaction records and billing Points of Contact
- Other miscellaneous information provided by customers when seeking ARIN services

ARIN may be able to provide this information with a properly issued subpoena, which should include the name of the organization, the individual's name(s), the IP address or ASN in question, and the specific date range for alleged activity or for information requested. Subpoenas should not include extraneous material that is not related to ARIN's services or business model.

Useful Tools and Resources

Using ARIN's Whois
arin.net/resources/registry/whois/

ARIN's Bulk Whois Data (downloadable)
arin.net/reference/research/bulkwhois/

ARIN's Historical Whois Data (Whowas)
arin.net/reference/research/whowas/

Routing History
stat.ripe.net/

RIR Statistics
nro.net/about/rirs/statistics/

Number and Name Lookup Services (Root zone database for TLDs)
iana.org/domains/root/db

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS