WHOIS Policy for the TLD .cologne

I.   Purpose of this document

The purpose of this policy is to describe the WHOIS Service of the TLD .cologne, how the Service may be used, actions NetCologne may take to promote the accuracy of the service and those it may take to ensure the security and stability of the service.

II.   What is WHOIS?

WHOIS is the phrase 'who is', which is concatenated into the word WHOIS; it can also be written as WhoIs and Whois, and is also known as Registration Data Directory Services (RDDS).

WHOIS is a query and response protocol used to lookup certain information related to domain names. A WHOIS query returns information related to contact details, name servers, and the Registrar of a domain name.

Details about ICANN's policy with regard to WHOIS and additional information can be found on the ICANN website at the following link http://whois.icann.org

III.   Purpose of the WHOIS service

The purpose of a WHOIS service is to make available up-to-date contact data for the individuals involved in a given domain registration, i.e. the registrant, the Admin-C, the Tech-C and the registrar the domain is registered with.

A WHOIS query is used specifically:

- To check if a given .cologne domain is still available, or
- To resolve technical problems with a specific domain, or
- To contact the registrant over legal problems.

A WHOIS query is not used to obtain contact data for the above individuals for the purpose of unwanted contact or other purposes. The registry will take technical security measures to prevent automated access to WHOIS data. Security measures will also be taken to prevent bulk manual access to this data by third parties

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IV.   Who collects the information that is shown in the WHOIS Service?

NetCologne's agreement with ICANN requires that when a domain name is registered, it obtains certain information from the applicant. The information will be collected by the registrars and provide by them to NetCologne.

When applying to register a domain name, the applicant is asked to enter into an agreement with the registrar of his choice, acknowledging and authorizing the collection and use of the information required to provide the WHOIS Service.

V.   How to make a WHOIS query

Whois data for .cologne will be accessible via an interface on TCP port 43 at whois.nic.cologne, using the "Whois" protocol (as defined in RFC 3912). While the interface is publicly available, general use is rate limited to prevent data mining and mitigate denial of service attacks. Registrars may request to be exempted from the rate limiting measures by specifying IP addresses or address ranges to be put on a whitelist. Clients sending Whois requests from whitelisted IP addresses have unlimited access to the service.

We also offer a web-based interface for making a Whois query. The web Whois service operated at https://whois.nic.cologne shares the same functionality as the port 43 service, but receives query input via an HTML form. The output format is the same as for the port 43 service. To prevent the Web interface from being abused for data mining, a CAPTCHA test ("Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart") must be passed upon each web Whois query before any response data is displayed.

Both interfaces are provided free of charge to any Internet user.

VI.   What information is returned from a WHOIS query?

Where information exists a response will be returned containing details relating to the domain name, registrar, and name server data, described in detail in the following section.

NetCologne makes no guarantee as to the accuracy of the information contained in the response to a WHOIS query, and use of the service is subject at all times to our policy which can be found at the following link www.dotkoeln.de

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Domain Name: WHOIS.cologne
Domain ID: D1234567-TLD
WHOIS Server: whois.example.cologne
Referral URL: http://www.example.cologne
Updated Date: 2013-04-18T20:13:00Z
Creation Date: 2000-10-08T00:45:00Z
Registry Expiry Date: 2014-10-08T00:44:59Z
Sponsoring Registrar: EXAMPLE REGISTRAR LLC
Sponsoring Registrar IANA ID: 5555555
Domain Status: clientDeleteProhibited
Domain Status: clientRenewProhibited
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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: GE
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:
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
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VII.   Security measures

Third parties using the WHOIS service must agree to the registry's conditions for using the service. These conditions specifically include provisions stating that

- The WHOIS service is solely for the purposes listed under (III),
- The person-related data must be used solely for the purposes listed under (III), and
- Use of the person-related data to send unwanted e-mails and/or other unwanted contact Is prohibited, unless it serves a purpose listed under (III).

Third parties must further read and enter a CAPTCHA (Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart) before each WHOIS search, before the WHOIS service carries out the requested search.

VIII.   Data security

Independent of the security measures listed in the registry also takes technical and organizational security measures to protect person-related data supplied or collected, specifically against accidental or deliberate manipulation, loss, destruction or access by unauthorized parties. The security measures are continuously updated in line with technological developments.

IX.   WHOIS query exemptions

NetCologne may consider exemptions to the Whois query limits described in this section from law enforcement, government agencies, regulatory bodies, and subject always to our absolute discretion.

X.   Definition and review

This document has been prepared and published to represent our policy regarding the administrative and technical management of the TLD .cologne.

NetCologne may discontinue or amend any part or the whole of this policy from time to