ARIN WHOIS ACCURACY PROBLEM STATEMENT ABSTRACT

**Problem Statement**:

The WHOIS Directory serves several globally legitimate purposes, including:

* Ensuring IP address holders worldwide are accountable so individuals, consumers and the public are empowered to resolve abusive practices that impact safety and security
* Assuring the security and reliability of the network by identifying points of contact for IP addresses for network operators, ISPs, and certified computer incident response teams
* Assisting businesses, consumer groups, healthcare organizations and other organizations combating fraud (some of which have mandates to electronically save records) to comply with relevant legal and public safety safeguards
* Complying with national, civil and criminal due process laws in furtherance of investigations and providing justice for victims

If and when any of the aforementioned purposes is thwarted or individuals involved have their rights violated, the current WHOIS Directory does not always provide clear avenues for redress by identifying who is responsible for a particular IP address. Varying requirements for the level of detail in WHOIS in each region makes it difficult for the necessary personnel to get the exact data they seek. **Specifically, the sub-allocation of IP Address blocks can provide misleading or false information regarding which ISP ultimately assigned the IP address.** Despite some regions having policies requiring accurate data, there is inconsistent compliance with those policies, globally.

Failure to have up-to-date information often results in the following issues:

* Inability to serve legal process to the party responsible for the resources
* Delay in serving legal process, resulting in lost leads and evidence
* Domain and IP address hijacking, resulting in increased potential use for criminal abuse
* Inability to resolve network issues and technical matters
* Anything else?

CASE EXAMPLES, STATISTICS SECTION

While WHOIS information is one of several tools an investigator may use to conduct an investigation, it is the first tool and often the most essential tools.

The UN Declaration of Human Rights (UNDHR)[[1]](#footnote-1), Article 8 states "Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law." Furthermore, Article 3 of the UDHR states, “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

As the amount of global fraud and worldwide criminal activity enabled by the Internet continues to grow, users whose rights are abused (for example by spamming, IP address spoofing, DDOS attacks etc.) need to be able to obtain redress. For the WHOIS Directory to be useful and ensure timely and effective due process in compliance with international standards, it must be up to date and map IP addresses to end-users. Privacy, safety, security and justice are all equally important outcomes the WHOIS must ensure.

1. http://www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/index.html [↑](#footnote-ref-1)