

Understanding RDDS Responses

What is RDDS?

RDDS stands for “Registration Data Directory Service.” It includes both **Whois** and **RDAP**.

- ★ There are a few possible types of RDDS response
- ★ These different types of response can all be acceptable and compliant
- ★ It is complicated for RDDS users to know what type of response they see and understand what it means

RDDS response types:

- 1 Real data
- 2 Redaction (aka Masking)
- 3 Whois Privacy
- 4 Whois Proxy

Type of response	What it is	How to identify it	How to get more info
Real Data	The registrant consented to display their personal data on the domain’s public RDDS record	A person or organization’s name, a mailing address, phone number, and email address	Not applicable; all data is provided in the public response
Redaction (aka Masking)	Registration data is not displayed to the public, because the registrant did not consent. The registrar holds the real data, and displays placeholder data.	“REDACTED” in most data fields; a URL leading to a contact form OR an email address in the Registrant and Tech Email fields	Contact the Registrar to request disclosure of the redacted data. Requests must have a valid purpose and legal basis; the domain owner may be notified of the request and outcome. The Registrar may be contacted directly, or may be reachable via ICANN’s RDRS .
Whois Privacy (1.2)	The registrant is named on the registration record but alternative, reliable contact information is provided for display instead of the registrant’s direct contact info	Real name in the Registrant Name or Organization field, but the Privacy service provider’s contact information	Contact the Privacy service provider to request disclosure. They should have documentation requirements such as legal due process (warrant or subpoena).
Whois Proxy (1.3)	The registrant is licensing the use of the domain to a third party, effectively serving as a ‘Proxy service provider’; registration data displayed will not be who is benefiting from use of the domain	All data (Registrant name, Org, and contact fields) of the third party that is using the domain is replaced with the Proxy service provider’s contact information	Contact the Proxy service provider to request disclosure. They should have documentation requirements such as legal due process (warrant or subpoena).