

## What is the WHOIS database and how does it work?



**W**HOIS is the standard or protocol that allows users to access various Top Level Domain databases. EURid, as the registry for the .eu Top Level Domain, manages the database of .eu domain names. Using the WHOIS protocol you can simply type in the .eu domain name you wish to query and access the .eu database to see whether that name is still available to register or, if it is already registered, when it was registered and by whom. This is called performing a WHOIS search. These searches can be performed directly on EURid's website, although many registrars do also offer this service on their own sites by connecting to the .eu WHOIS database.

### Information

If you query a name that has already been registered you will be shown some information about the person that registered the name, such as their name, the language they prefer to correspond in and an email address at which they can be contacted. If a company or organisation registered the domain name you queried, you will be also be given additional information, such as their physical address, telephone and fax number.

### Statuses

Along with information about the holder of the domain name (provided the name you queried has already been registered) all domain names, registered or otherwise, will also have a status. Domain names can have several different statuses, with each status having a different meaning. Some of the more common statuses are:

**Available:** The domain name is currently not registered. You could register it if you wanted to, provided you are based in the EU.

**Registered:** The domain name has already been registered by a private person, a company or an organisation within the European Union.

**On hold:** The domain name has been blocked by the registry (EURid) because it is subject to legal



proceedings or other investigations. This means that you can still surf to this domain's website but that the name cannot be sold or given to somebody else while the proceedings or investigations are ongoing.

**Blocked:** The domain name is on the list of blocked domain names. All the names on this list may never be registered. The list is published on the EURid website ([www.eurid.eu](http://www.eurid.eu)) and was compiled by the European Commission and its member states before .eu was launched.

**Reserved:** This name has been reserved by the European Commission or one of the member states for their own use and may not be registered by anyone else without their consent

**Quarantine:** When a domain name is deleted it remains in quarantine for 40 days before becoming available again for registration. During this quarantine period only the previous holder of the name can reactivate it.

Surf to [www.whois.eu](http://www.whois.eu) to perform your own WHOIS searches on .eu domain names you might be interested in registering.

