Experiment 07

Study the use of network reconnaissance tools like WHOIS, dig,traceroute, nslookup to gather information about networks and domain registrars.

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LO Mapped	LO3: Explore the different network reconnaissance tools to gather information about networks

Aim: Study the use of network reconnaissance tools like WHOIS, dig,traceroute, nslookup to gather information about networks and domain registrars.

Theory:

1. Whois: -

whois searches for an object in a WHOIS database. WHOIS is a query and response protocol that is widely used for querying databases that store the registered users of an Internet resource, such as a domain name or an IP address block, but is also used for a wider range of other information.

Most modern versions of whois try to guess the right server to ask for the specified object. If no guess can be made, whois will connect to whois.networksolutions.com for NIC handles or whois.arin.net for IPv4 addresses and network names.

Syntax:

whois [-h HOST] [-p PORT] [-aCFHlLMmrRSVx] [-g SOURCE:FIRST-LAST] [-i ATTR] [-S SOURCE] [-T TYPE] object

Options:

-h HOST Connect to WHOIS database host HOST.
-H Suppress the display of legal disclaimers.
-p PORT When connecting, connect to network port PORT.
--verbose Operate verbosely.
--help Display a help message, and exit.

2. Dig Command: -

dig command stands for Domain Information Groper. It is used for retrieving information about DNS name servers. It is basically used by network administrators. It is used for verifying and troubleshooting DNS problems and to perform DNS lookups. Dig command replaces older tools such as nslookup and the host.

Installing dig command:-

In case of Debian/Ubuntu

$sudo apt-get install dnsutils

Working with dig command:

1. To query domain "A" record
dig google.com
This command causes dig to look up the “A” record for the domain name “geeksforgeeks.org”.

2. To query domain "A" record with +short
dig google.com +short
By default dig is verbose and by using “+short” option we can reduce the output drastically
as shown.

3. To remove comment lines.
dig google.com +nocomments
This command makes a request and excludes the comment lines.

4. To set or clear all display flags.
dig google.com +noall

5. To query detailed answers.
dig google.com +noall +answer
If we want to view the answers section information in detail, we first stop the display of all section using "+noall" option and then query the answers section only by using "+answer" option with the dig command.

3. Traceroute command: -
traceroute command in Linux prints the route that a packet takes to reach the host. This command is useful when you want to know about the route and about all the hops that a packet takes. Below image depicts how traceroute command is used to reach the Google(172.217.26.206) hosts from the local machine and it also prints details about all the hops that it visits in between.The first column corresponds to the hop count. The second column represents the address of that hop and after that, you see three space-separated time in milliseconds. traceroute

command sends three packets to the hop and each of the time refers to the time taken by the packet to reach the hop.

Syntax:
traceroute host_Address
eg. traceroute google.com

4. nslookup command: -

nslookup (stands for “Name Server Lookup”) is a useful command for getting information from the DNS server. It is a network administration tool for querying the Domain Name System (DNS) to obtain domain name or IP address mapping or any other specific DNS record. It is also used to troubleshoot DNS related problems.

Syntax:
nslookup [option]
e.g.
nslookup google.com :
nslookup followed by the domain name will display the "A Record" (IP Address) of the domain. Use this command to find the address record for a domain. It queries to domain name servers and get the details.

nslookup -type=ns google.com : Lookup for an ns record
NS (Name Server) record maps a domain name to a list of DNS servers authoritative for that domain. It will output the name services which are associated with the given domain.

nslookup 192.168.0.10 : Reverse DNS lookup
You can also do the reverse DNS look-up by providing the IP Address as argument to nslookup.

5. ping

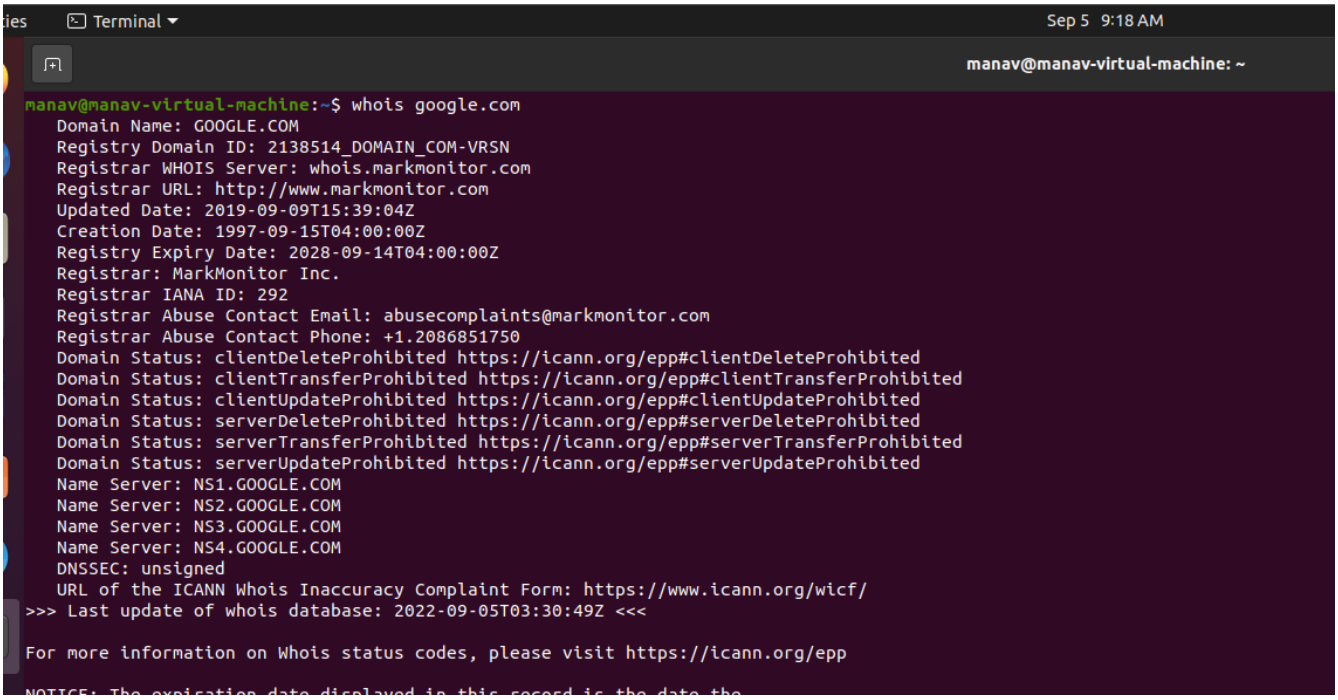
PING (Packet Internet Groper) command is used to check the network connectivity between host and server/host. To stop pinging we should use ctrl+c otherwise it will keep on sending packets.

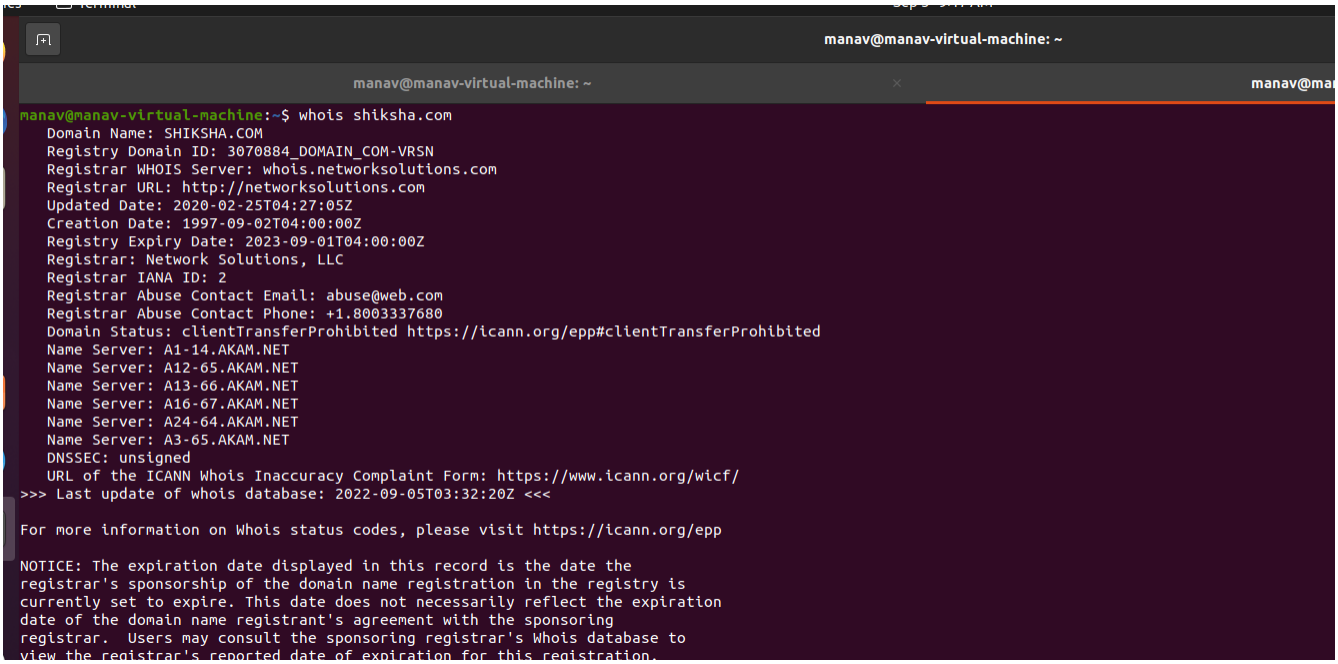
6. netstat

Netstat command displays various network related information such as network connections, routing tables, interface statistics, masquerade connections, multicast memberships etc.

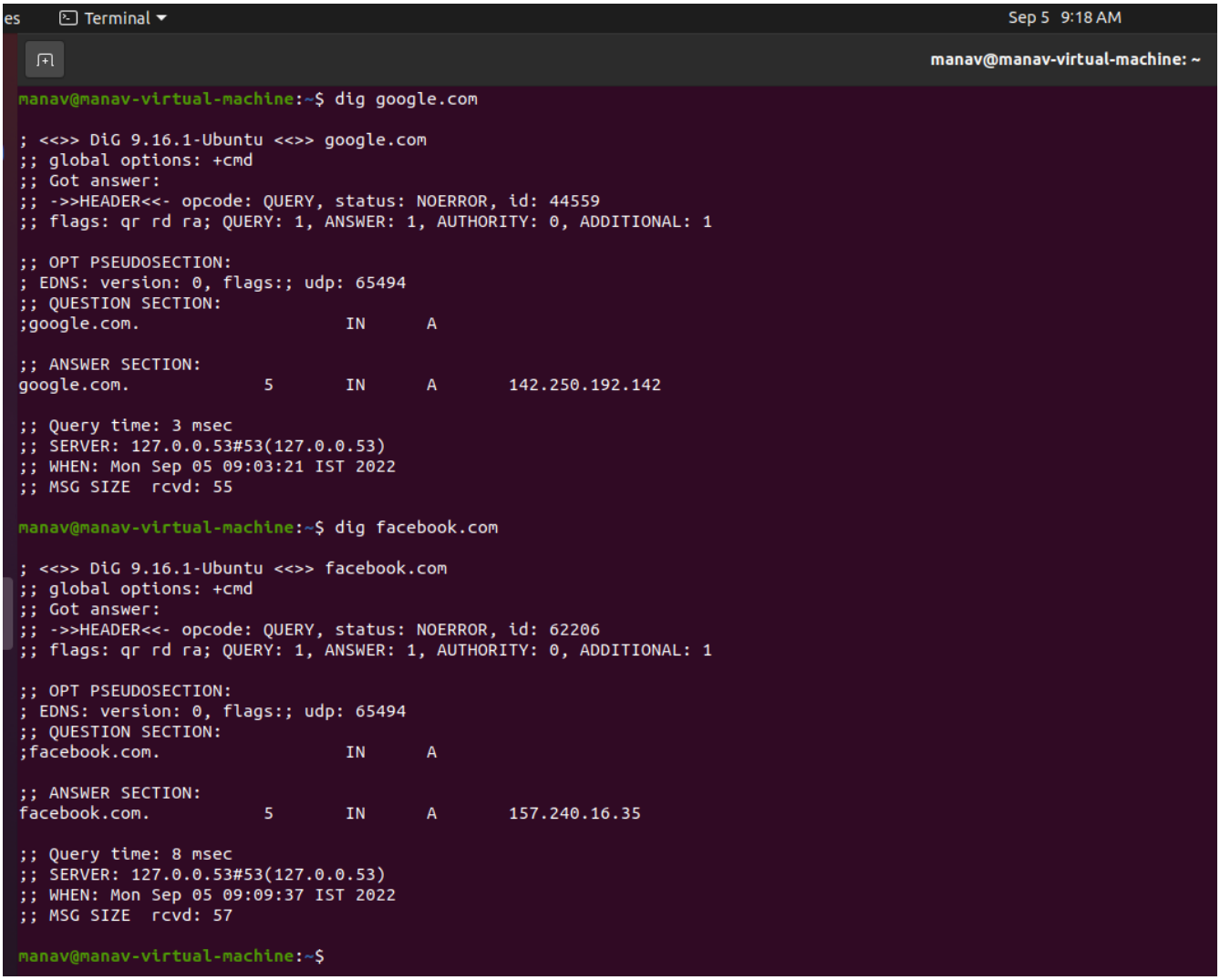
Results:

1. whois command

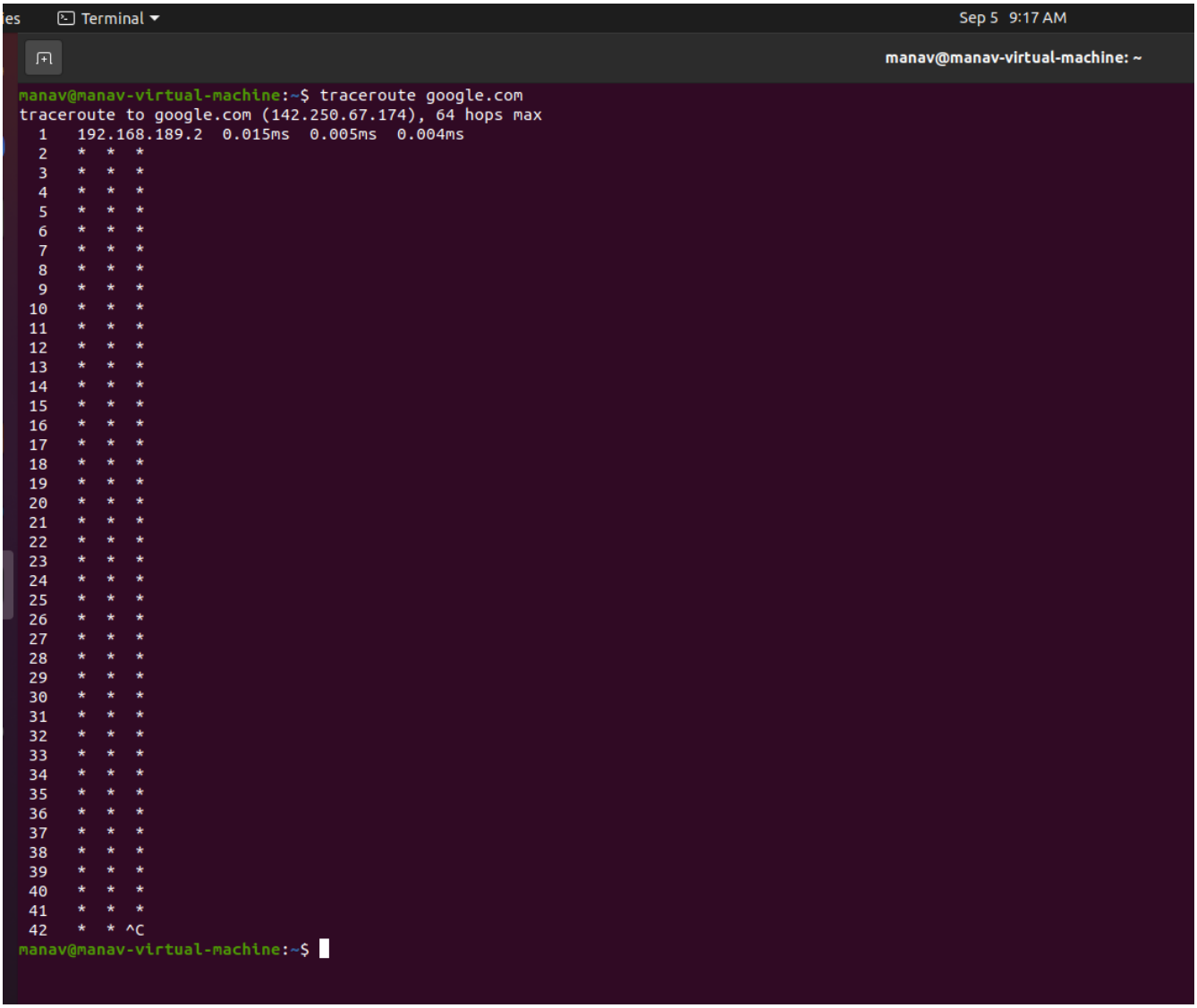




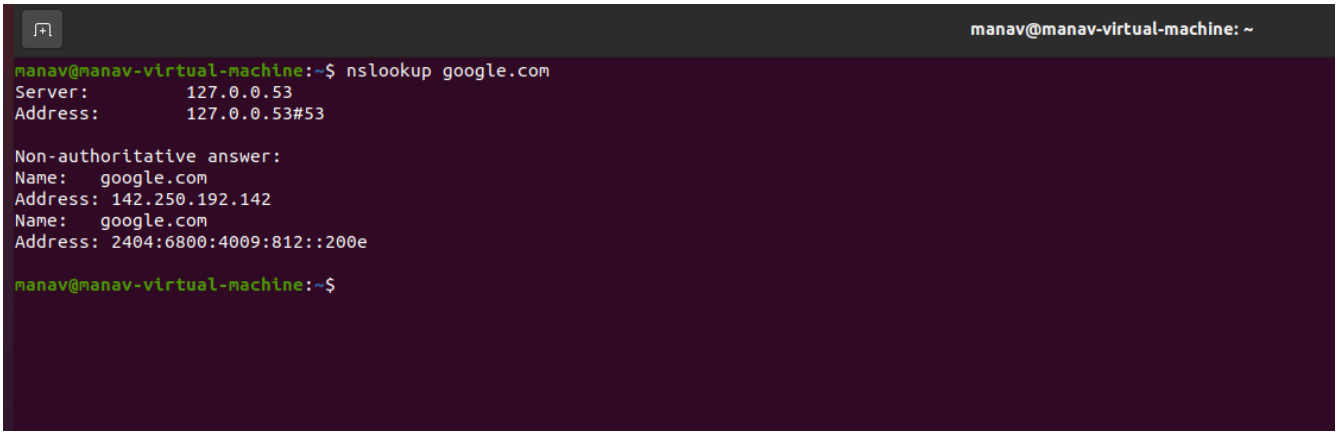
2. dig command



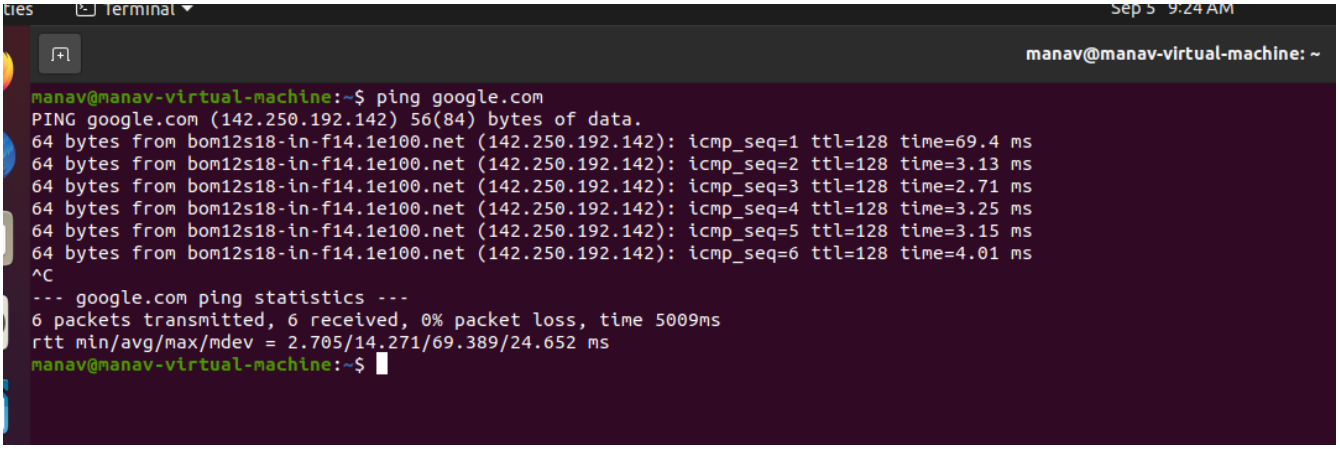
3. traceroute command



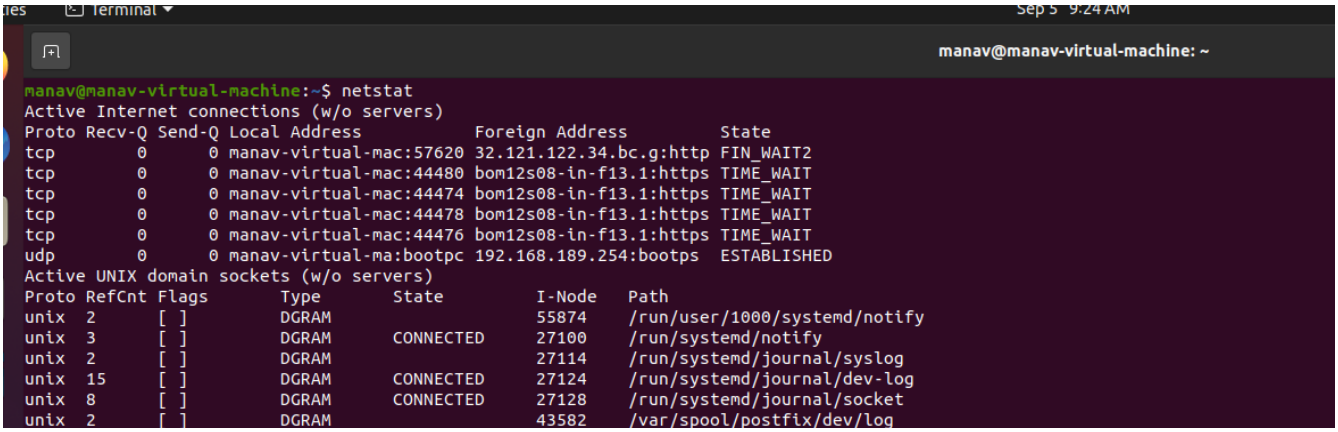
4. nslookup



5. ping



6. netstat



Conclusion:

Thus, we have studied the use of network reconnaissance tools like WHOIS, dig, traceroute, nslookup to gather information about networks and domain registrars.