

How to get whois information of a domain name in my program?

Asked 16 years, 3 months ago Modified 1 year, 8 months ago

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I want to get whois information of a domain name from my c#/java programs. Is there a simple way to do this?

3



c#

java

whois

domain-name



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asked Sep 10, 2008 at 8:27



Niyaz

54.8k ● 56 ● 152 ● 183

7 Answers

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I found a perfect C# example on dotnet-snippets.com (*which doesn't exist anymore*).

10



It's 11 lines of code to copy and paste straight into your own application.



```
/// <summary>
/// Gets the whois information.
/// </summary>
/// <param name="whoisServer">The whois server.</param>
/// <param name="url">The URL.</param>
```



```
/// <returns></returns>
private string GetWhoisInformation(string whoisServer,
{
    StringBuilder stringBuilderResult = new StringBuil
    TcpClient tcpClnetWhois = new TcpClient(whoisServ
    NetworkStream networkStreamWhois = tcpClnetWhois.
    BufferedStream bufferedStreamWhois = new
    BufferedStream(networkStreamWhois);
    StreamWriter streamWriter = new StreamWriter(buffe

    streamWriter.WriteLine(url);
    streamWriter.Flush();

    StreamReader streamReaderReceive = new StreamReade

    while (!streamReaderReceive.EndOfStream)
        stringBuilderResult.AppendLine(streamReaderRec

    return stringBuilderResult.ToString();
}
```

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edited Apr 30, 2018 at 22:32

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answered Jul 1, 2009 at 6:37



Andrew Shepherd

45.2k ● 33 ● 145 ● 211

2 Adding, that I had to add `using System.Net.Sockets;`
`using System.IO;` to complete the code...

– [KingsInnerSoul](#) Jul 7, 2016 at 2:43 ✎

1 TcpClient, NetworkStream, BufferedStream, StreamWriter &
StreamReader all need to be disposed of after use.

– [Paul Williams](#) Jun 7, 2021 at 13:33



4

I think, the easiest way is a socket connection to a whois server on port 43. Send the domainname followed by a newline and read the response.



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answered Sep 10, 2008 at 8:33

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Thomas

1,029 ● 9 ● 14



You need to determine *which* whois server to use first.

There's an example of that here: here's a good example:

flipbit.co.uk/2009/06/querying-whois-server-data-with-c.html

– Colin Pickard Jun 17, 2014 at 13:05

'All requests are terminated with ASCII CR and then ASCII LF.' tools.ietf.org/html/rfc3912 2. Protocol Specification

– brewmanz Apr 11, 2017 at 3:31



4

Thomas' answer will only work if you know *which* "whois" server to connect to.



There are many different ways of finding that out, but none (AFAIK) that works uniformly for every domain registry.



Some domain names support an `SRV` record for the `_nicname._tcp` service in the DNS, but there are issues with that because there's no accepted standard yet on how to prevent a subdomain from serving up `SRV` records which override those of the official registry (see

<https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/draft-sanz-whois-srv-00>).

For many TLDs it's possible to send your query to `<tld>.whois-servers.net`. This actually works quite well, but beware that it won't work in all cases where there are officially delegated second level domains.

For example in `.uk` there are several official sub-domains, but only some of them are run by the `.uk` registry and the others have their own WHOIS services and those aren't in the `whois-servers.net` database.

Confusingly there are also "unofficial" registries, such as `.uk.com`, which *are* in the `whois-servers.net` database.

p.s. the official End-Of-Line delimiter in WHOIS, as with most IETF protocols is `CRLF`, not just `LF`.

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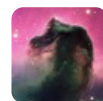
edited Oct 7, 2021 at 7:13



Community Bot

1 • 1

answered Oct 7, 2008 at 9:34



Alnitak

339k • 71 • 418 • 502



2

I found some web services that offer this information. This one is free and worked great for me.

<http://www.webservice.net/whois.aspx?op=GetWhoIS>

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answered May 29, 2009 at 0:24



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Jeff

5,933 ● 2 ● 29 ● 30



Looked promising but I get:

System.Net.Sockets.SocketException: The requested name is valid, but no data of the requested type was found at whois.whois.GetWhoIS(String HostName) (even when entering an ip address in the field on the info page itself)

– [Jimmy](#) Mar 25, 2014 at 14:13



2



I found a perfect C# example here. It's 11 lines of code to copy and paste straight into your own application. BUT FIRST you should add some using statements to ensure that the dispose methods are properly called to prevent memory leaks:



```
StringBuilder stringBuilderResult = new StringBuilder(  
using(TcpClient tcpClientWhois = new TcpClient(whoIsSe  
{  
    using(NetworkStream networkStreamWhois = tcpClientw  
    {  
        using(BufferedStream bufferedStreamWhois = new  
BufferedStream(networkStreamWhois))  
        {  
            using(StreamWriter streamWriter = new  
StreamWriter(bufferedStreamWhois))  
            {  
                streamWriter.WriteLine(url);  
                streamWriter.Flush();  
                using (StreamReader streamReaderReceive =  
StreamReader(bufferedStreamWhois))  
                {  
                    while (!streamReaderReceive.EndOfStream
```

```
StringBuilderResult.AppendLine(streamReaderReceive.Rea
    }
}
}
}
```

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edited Apr 23, 2013 at 21:51

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Brian

5,119 ● 7 ● 39 ● 49

answered Apr 23, 2013 at 21:21



user2313093

21 ● 1

Thanks for posting this answer. I have edited your post to fixed some code formatting issues. – [Brian](#) Apr 23, 2013 at 21:48

- 1 Did you actually run the code? I got a "Cannot access a closed stream" exception when running this code. If I did not put a using before StreamReader streamReaderReceive = new StreamReader(bufferedStreamWhois), I got no exception. – [Silent Sojourner](#) Jan 19, 2016 at 21:17



0

if you add `leaveOpen: true` to the `StreamWriter` and `StreamReader` constructors. You will not get "Cannot access a closed stream" exception



```
var stringBuilderResult = new StringBuilder();

using (var tcpClnetWhois = new TcpClient(whoIsServer,
using (var networkStreamWhois = tcpClnetWhois.GetStre
using (var bufferedStreamWhois = new BufferedStream(ne
```



```
using (var streamWriter = new StreamWriter(networkStre
true))
{
    streamWriter.WriteLine(url);
    streamWriter.Flush();

    using (var streamReaderReceive = new StreamReader(
leaveOpen: true))
    {
        while (!streamReaderReceive.EndOfStream)
        {
            stringBuilderResult.AppendLine(streamReade
        }
    }
}
```

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answered May 2, 2022 at 23:19

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[Erman Çetin](#)

13 ● 3

!Adding LeaveOpen as a parameter won't even compile for me. – [Art Hansen](#) Nov 9, 2023 at 12:39



Here's the Java solution, which just opens up a shell and runs `whois`:

-3



```
import java.io.*;
import java.util.*;

public class ExecTest2 {
    public static void main(String[] args) throws IOEx
        Process result = Runtime.getRuntime().exec("wh

        BufferedReader output = new BufferedReader(new
InputStreamReader(result.getInputStream()));
        StringBuffer outputSB = new StringBuffer(40000
```

```
String s = null;

while ((s = output.readLine()) != null) {
    outputSB.append(s + "\n");
    System.out.println(s);
}

String whoisStr = outputSB.toString();
}
```

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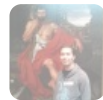
edited Apr 7, 2023 at 1:10



Olayinka

2,845 ● 2 ● 26 ● 43

answered Sep 10, 2008 at 8:36



Chris Bunch

89.6k ● 37 ● 129 ● 127

Do not shell out just to run a whois command this will create an endless stream of security and performance problems. Use instead the libraries inside your programming language to do whois queries or since the protocol is so simple just open a TCP socket to port 43 and send your query. Read RFC3912 for details. – [Patrick Mevzek](#) Jan 8, 2018 at 17:22
