

# WHOIS for Tags

## 1. Introduction

This document proposes an extension to the Nominet WHOIS/WHOIS2 service to allow the retrieval of public information about tags. This can only be implemented following the implementation of much of our ongoing data restructuring and the online services for tagholders.

The benefits of such a service are:

- It provides an opportunity for tagholders to differentiate the service offerings and brand positioning of each of their tags.
- It allows the registrant to find out basic information about each tag in a central location. For example a registrant can see if the tag they are interested in is one that provides telephone support.
- It removes the need for tagholders to put advertisements into the "trading as" field on the domain whois.
- It allows the generation of a web front for the whois that makes the TAG a clickable link which then returns the information on that tag.

## 2. Proposal

### 2.1 Output

The proposal is to enable the whois server to respond with the following details for each tag, when queried specifically for that tag:

Data item	Description
Tagholder Name	This is the main name of the tagholder (in the new data structure this is the Account Name). This is the one item that the tagholder cannot change at will as all such changes need to be vetted by the tagholder support team. This item is the same for all of the tags for a particular tagholder.
Trading As	This is set on a per tag basis and can be changed at will by the tagholder. It can be left blank.
Address	This is set on a per tag basis and can be changed at will by the tagholder. It can be left blank.
Telephone	This is set on a per tag basis and can be changed at will by the tagholder. It can be left blank.
Fax	This is set on a per tag basis and can be changed at will by the tagholder. It can be left blank.
Email	This is set on a per tag basis and can be changed at will by the tagholder. It can be left blank.
URL	This is set on a per tag basis and can be changed at will by the tagholder. It can be left blank.
Notes	This is set on a per tag basis and can be changed at will by the tagholder. It can be left blank. This is restricted to 1000 characters and may not contain any HTML.

The actual layout of the text is still to be determined but it will follow the layout of the domain whois.

### 2.2 Access

The tag details are accessed by sending a whois query for the tag name, with no extension and no further information on the request line (except the whois2 required info). For example the command line lookup for the tag "NOTREAL" would be

```
> whois -h whois.nic.uk NOTREAL
```

generating the output roughly as follows:

```
Tag:
    NOTREAL

Tagholder Name:
    NR Enterprises
    Trading As:  NotReal Domains

Tagholders contact details:
    12 Walden Avenue
    Ambridge
    Middle England
    Tel:    0870 00010
    Fax:    01325 8923
    Email:  sales@notreal.sld.uk
    URL:    www.notreal.sld.uk

Notes:
NOTREAL are largest supplier of non-existent domain names to the technical
documentation market.
```

### 2.3 Tagholder configuration

It is proposed that this service is not made available until the online service for tagholders is introduced with functionality to allow tagholders to change the configurable details that appear on this whois output.

## 3. Recommendation

The PAB is asked to approve the following recommendation in the form of a draft resolution:

“The PAB recommends the introduction of a WHOIS for tags as proposed. This is to be introduced once the online facility that allows tagholders to set and amend their details is in place.”