

WEIRDS Status Update

Murray Kucherawy
<superuser@gmail.com>

The Story So Far

- WHOIS is a rudimentary protocol that originated in the early days of the Internet when domain registrations were centrally managed, and the data model was simple
 - Only one place to ask for any information
 - Rudimentary “finger”-like query protocol, free-form responses (or no responses)
 - Managed by DARPA, then InterNIC
 - See Wikipedia for additional history

The Story So Far

- Various attempts to improve WHOIS didn't take off:
 - WHOIS++
 - RWHOIS
 - CRISP
- WHOIS falls short in some key areas
 - No differential service
 - No internationalization
 - No common response syntax
 - No standard redirection capability
 - Except among the RIRs
 - No bootstrapping capability

The WEIRDS Approach

- WEIRDS WG chartered to deliver a protocol that supports:
 - Internationalization
 - A specific reply syntax
 - Redirection
 - Authentication (allowing differential service)
 - Over HTTP
 - Same mechanism for names vs. numbers
 - No special client knowledge

Where Are We Now?

- Documents about using HTTP for RDAP and security features basically done
- Documents about query syntax, JSON responses, redirection, bootstrapping, and data modeling in progress
- Informal Interoperability events right before every IETF meeting
- Next WEIRDS meeting is Thursday, where we will discuss all open documents