

Publishing Abuse Contact Information for number resource data in the AFRINIC Whois database

1.0 Introduction

The AFRINIC Board has recently ratified a policy proposal (AFPUB-2010-GEN-006) which specifies a dedicated object to be used by AFRINIC members to publish information about the contacts responsible for addressing abuse inquiries from the number resources which the member is issued. This policy was implemented by AFRINIC on 05 May 2012. Previously, it has not been possible to explicitly declare abuse contacts for AFRINIC Whois resource data.

Although the referral to the IRT object is optional in the resources objects, AFRINIC encourages all members to actively start making use of this policy to publish abuse contact information. This chiefly ensures that complaints from anyone about abuse issues emanating from a given number resource are redirected to the appropriate individual(s).

This document recommends guidelines that concerned organizations could use while making use of this policy to avail contact persons responsible for network abuse related queries pertaining to their IP addresses and other number resources.

2.0 Specifying Abuse Contacts

The “irt” (Incident Response Team) Whois database object has been introduced for the purposes of availing abuse contact information for any given number resource.

IRT objects provide information about a CSIRT (Computer Security Incident Response Team), which is basically a group of individuals responsible for handling network security incidents and reports for any given organization or entity.

3.0 Adding the IRT to the Whois database

Once created/formed by the members or concerned organization, the following information about an IRT should be available before attempting to create the object:

- Name of the Incident Response Team.
- Physical address, telephone and fax contacts.
- E-Mail address: An e-mail address for contacting the IRT. This should be a role email address which delivers e-mail to several individuals in the IRT. It should not be any one individual’s e-mail address. This is such that if one individual is not available, another can receive and act on the issue.
- Abuse E-Mail Address: A specific e-mail address to which all security incidents should be sent. This should also be a role e-mail address that delivers to several individuals.
- Administrative contact: The person(s) handling admin matters for the IRT.

- Technical contact: The person(s) handling technical matters for the IRT.

3.1 The IRT Whois database template

- a. Browse to <http://whois.afrinic.net>
- b. Search for: `-t irt`
- c. Copy the entire template as returned by the server, complete all fields as appropriate
- d. Send to auto-dbm@afrinic.net

4.0 Using PGP with the IRT object

“Signature” and “encryption” attributes in the IRT object require PGP keys. PGP key can also be used as authentication scheme in the object. Although PGP use is optional in the IRT object, we strongly recommend its usage when managing IRT data. PGP is the preferred method of use for secure e-mail communication. In order to send secure communication to the IRT and for the IRT to send out secure communication, it is necessary to use PGP by creating “key-cert” objects in the Whois database, which are basically public keys to be used for this purpose.

The public key in the “signature” attribute is for authenticating all correspondence from the Incident Response Team (IRT), while the key in the “encryption” attribute is for encrypting correspondence to the IRT.

As associating the IRT object to the resources objects requires the authentication through the authentication scheme of the IRT object, using PGP avoids sharing the IRT password with resources holders/maintainers

5.0 Finding abuse contacts for resources in AFRINIC Whois

Anyone using AFRINIC database to look for abuse contacts for resources allocated by AFRINIC should use contact information from the IRT object associated to the concerned objects before proceeding as described at <http://www.afrinic.net/Registration/spam.htm>.

6.0 Assistance & Additional Information

Please address any issues or concerns to hostmaster@afrinic.net