



The Importance of Whois

Accuracy

Leslie Nobile

Whois Facts



- Query and response protocol; used for querying databases that store registered users or assignees of an Internet resource (IP number resource or domain name)
- Used by network operators, researchers, public safety officials, and many other community stakeholders for a variety of reasons
- Responsibility of the registrant to ensure the accuracy of their Whois data

Why Maintain Accurate Whois Data?



- Accurate data helps keep the Internet safe and secure
- It helps protect your Internet number resources from being hijacked
- It's required under ARIN's Registration Service Agreements (RSA/LRSA)
- It's the right thing to do!

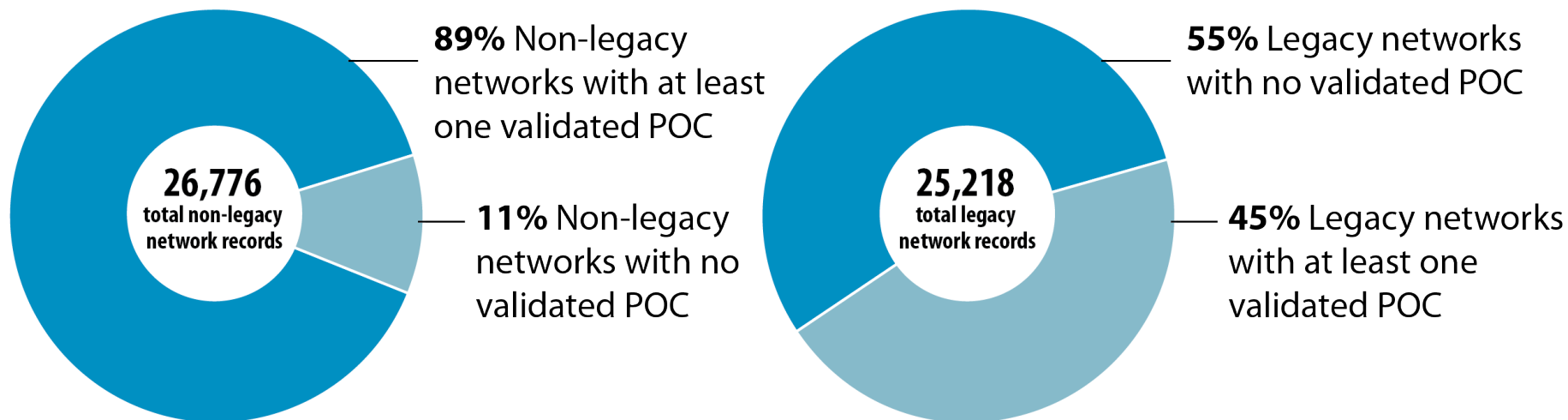
Recent Trends That Affect Whois Data



- Registration records that have not been updated and maintained are the target of hijackers
 - **Approach is to find dormant records and through a series of checks to determine whether they are in use**
 - **If not in use and registrant is no longer viable, they attempt to take over the Org ID and its related resources by pretending to be the registrant**
- Result - the registrant loses control of its resources and potentially, its Org ID and Point of Contact (POC) records as well

Hijack Targets

Legacy IPv4 nets are far less likely to have at least one validated POC



***The legacy nets with no validated POC total 345,837 /24s**

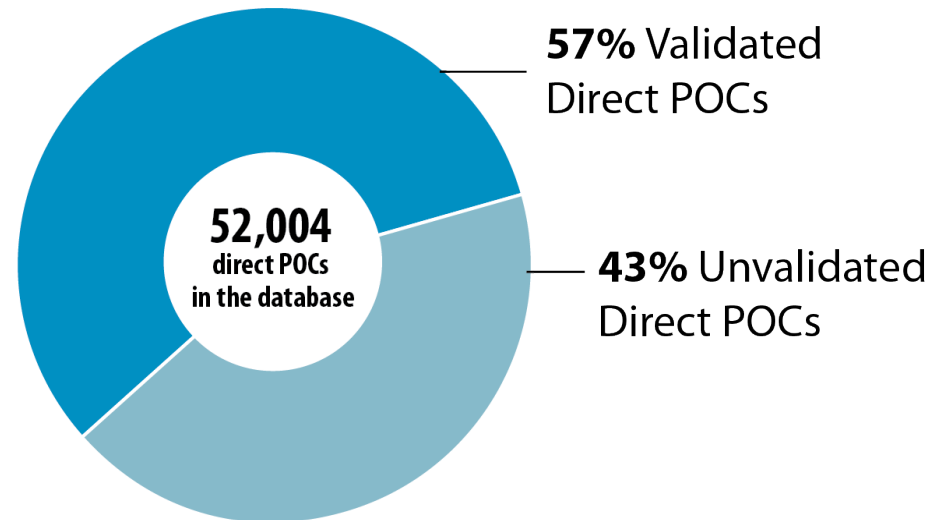
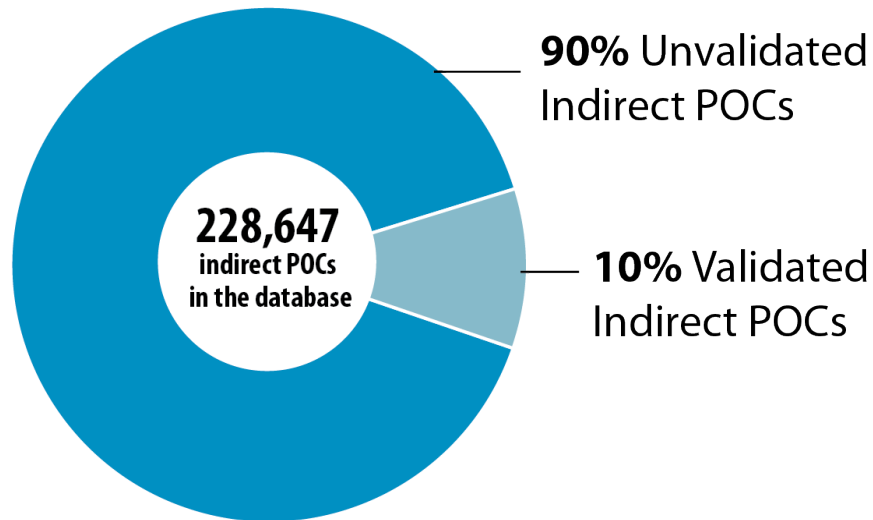
What Can You Do To Protect Your Whois Data?



- Ensure timely and accurate maintenance of your Whois data
 - **Including updating ARIN about any mergers, acquisitions, transfers and name changes**
- Respond to ARIN's annual POC validation request
 - **Either confirm registration information is correct or submit updated contact information to ARIN**

POC Validation Stats

Direct POCs **validate** more, but still room for improvement



POC Validation Process Enhancements



- Improve the POC validation messaging
- Improve the messaging sent to all newly registered POCs
- Create a new POC consolidation functionality
- Make it easier for ISPs to manage reassignment data (SWIP EZ)
- Send an annual POC Validation summary to ISPs

Specific Steps You Can Take



- Update outdated registration records
 - **Log into your ARIN online account or create a new one if you don't have one**
 - **Select the appropriate request category in left-hand navigation**
- Send questions to ARIN via the Ask ARIN function (ARIN online) or email hostmaster@arin.net
- Report inaccurate Whois data using the **“Whois Inaccuracy Reporting”** link on ARIN's homepage or send email to hostmaster@arin.net

Are These Actions Effective?



- Any update made to a Whois record is reflected in the “Last Updated” field
 - **This lets potential hijackers know that the POC and its associated organization are current and active**
 - **Can be a significant deterrent to hijackers**
- ARIN staff will investigate inaccurate Whois reports and try to obtain updated information

QUESTIONS?