

# Introducing “Weirds”

Byron Ellacott, Technical Director



# Overview

- Weirds: an alternative to WHOIS
- Some background on WHOIS
- Major drivers for change
- Current status
- Future work

# Weirds: an alternative to WHOIS

- Web Extensible Internet Registration Data Service
- A web-based simple access protocol for Whois data
- Work undertaken in the IETF “weirds” working group
  - <http://tools.ietf.org/wg/weirds/>
- Based on work done by ARIN on the Whois-RWS service
  - <https://www.arin.net/resources/whoisrws/index.html>

# Some background on WHOIS

- Created in the 1980s for ARPANET
- Extremely simple: ask a question, get an answer
- Endlessly varied in what you can ask
- Endlessly varied in what you might get back

# Major drivers for change

- Internationalization support
- Consistency in query and answer formats
- Introduce a referral mechanism
- Provide for authorization and differentiation of service

# Current status

- RIR draft specifications for query and response
- Collaboration on adapting those for domain registries
- Pilot services running
  - <http://weirds-pilot.apnic.net/ip/202.12.29/24>
- Participation by a wide range of stakeholders

# Future work

- Producing workable specifications for both name and number registries
- Open questions about authentication and “bootstrapping”
- Implementation of production services
- Expanding scope to include searching

# Summary

- An alternative protocol to access Whois data
- Solving a number of long-standing WHOIS issues
- Collaborative work across a range of stakeholders
- At a fairly early stage, but prototypes are available now



# APNIC 34 CONFERENCE

PHNOM PENH  
CAMBODIA

21 - 31 August 2012

# Thanks!

Questions?

