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From: [REDACTED]

Date: 13 February 2018 at 23:52

Subject: auDA PRP Submission: .au Whois Privacy to reduce spam, protect privacy, reduce associated costs on .au consumers

To: [policy.review@auda.org.au](mailto:policy.review@auda.org.au)

**PRP Submission:**

**.au Whois Privacy to reduce spam, protect privacy, reduce associated costs on .au consumers**

I submit that auDA needs to offer .au registrant consumers the option to choose **Whois Privacy** and that this is made policy as soon as is possible.

auDA has not kept up to date with the reasons why this is needed and how it has worked successfully now in the majority of world extensions as a FREE option by Registrars.

There is no reason to charge but of course some less market competitive registrars can choose to try and charge when most do not.

In many other global domain name extensions Whois Privacy is now actually the default setting.

New Zealand has taken their first steps now to catch up and now offers Whois Privacy as an option.

The failure by auDA to not already have Whois Privacy would have cost Australia hundreds of millions due to spam and the issues of risk associated with it.

Arguments against whois privacy have been assessed and answered globally in very detailed studies and reports.... after all of this the fact is Whois Privacy has now become the standard option with underlying data available being able to be provided to those who need it under certain circumstances.

It should have been policy 15 years ago. Imagine the savings of time and money plus the increased safety for business and .au registrants including personal registrants private information.

Sincerely  
[REDACTED]

auDA Member  
Accan Member

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**Spam is a massive problem in the world often linked to whois details being public.** auDA needs to help stop this and join other global extensions of allowing whois privacy.

1. How much spam do .au registrants receive?

**Stats say 50% of global email is now spam and it is increasing... It is being reduced in extensions who have whois privacy in use by the domain name registrant and those registrants who choose the option are facing less spam, costs and risk.**

**For larger organisations the burden of managing spam and the associated risks can cost millions per year.**

2. How much spam is caused by auDA not allowing whois privacy? What is the cost and risk to .au registrants already?

3. Why has auDA not allowed this before and when can the choice of whois privacy be put into policy?

**I think 1st July 2018 is a suitable time and Afilias can prepare now.**

4. There are NO valid arguments against whois privacy. All underlying data can be held by auDA, Wholesale Registry and made available when required as it is in other global extensions where Whois Privacy works very well.

5. I request that the auDA Board and PRP review this material and as soon as is possible allows whois privacy for .au names as an option to the registrant.

6. Most domain name Registrars globally offer whois privacy FREE where it is allowed.

7. There are no extra costs at all for Supply Wholesale registry, Registrars or Resellers if auDA enacts this update to policy. It is FREE by many registrars while some others who are less market competitive do charge for it which is also their choice but from auDA and Afilias there should be no fees.

Yours Sincerely,

  
[auDA.org.au](http://auDA.org.au) member

[Accan.org.au](http://Accan.org.au) member

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#### **Background materials**

<https://www.dnc.org.nz/irpo>

New Zealand Registrant Privacy Option now .nz policy

**From 28 November 2017 an Individual Registrant Privacy Option (also known as IRPO) will be available.**

**FREE** <https://www.1and1.com/private-domain-registration>

#### **Protect Your Privacy**

When you choose private registration for a domain name with 1&1, you will benefit from ultimate privacy and anonymity; this is achieved thanks to 1&1 acting as a middle man between you and the WHOIS database, the resource that stores publicly available contact details. This means that, instead of your personal information appearing on the database, 1&1 will provide generic company details as a replacement.

**Private domain registration allows you to keep your details out of the hands of spammers, telemarketers, data miners,**

and anyone else who might misuse it. **This helps your website remain secure and ensures your privacy is never compromised.**

- **What is private registration for a domain name?**

**Private registration for a domain name** allows you to remain anonymous and helps to increase the privacy and security of your website. Whenever you purchase a standard domain name, your [registrar](#) is required to pass on your personal information to ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers). This is then associated with your domain and registered within the WHOIS database. The personal information contained within the WHOIS database – including name, postal address, email address and phone number – is then available to members of the general public.

However, a private domain gives you the benefit of removing your personal details from the WHOIS database and replacing them with those of the registrar. In essence, it works in the same way as removing your telephone number from any publicly available listings – allowing you to keep your contact details out of the hands of strangers. In this case, 1&1 replaces your registrant details, administrative contact details, and technical contact details with our own. **This anonymity is particularly important to ward off threats to online security. A private domain gives you the peace of mind to continue operating online without sharing personal information with would-be hackers or other would-be threats.**

<http://support.melbourneit.com.au/articles/help/Private-registration-for-domains>

## Melbourne IT Private registration for domains



When you purchase a domain name, in many cases you have the option of making your details private. By default, the name, telephone number, address and email address of the domain name's registrant are visible online using a Whois lookup. While this may be appropriate for some users, particularly if the contact details refer to a business premises, **it isn't always appropriate as some users prefer to keep their details private. The reasons for activating private registration include:**

- **Spam minimisation - if your email address is visible online, this can be harvested by spam operations resulting in increased volume of unwanted mail**
- **Personal security - if the address on file is your home address, this may compromise personal safety**
- **Business concerns - you may not want your relationship to an online business to be public knowledge**

Private registration can be purchased for a domain name on registration through the checkout screen.

### Enabling Private Registration

1. Log into your Melbourne IT MyAccount
2. Under My Purchases click on Manage Domain Names
3. Click on the domain name you wish to enable private registration on.
4. Under the Overview you will see the option to Enable Private registration.

Overview	
Domain Name	melbitsupport.com
Registry Key	<a href="#">Retrieve</a>
Auth Code	<a href="#">Show</a>
Status	Registered
Registration Date	Mon Nov 17 15:21:37 GMT+10:00 2014
Expiry Date	Tue Nov 17 15:21:50 GMT+10:00 2015
Lock Status	 Unlocked
ICANN Status	Verified
Private Registration	<a href="#">Enable Private Registration</a>
Auto-renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> 1yr  <input type="button" value="Apply"/>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» <a href="#">Lock/Unlock Domain</a></li> <li>» <a href="#">Renew Domain</a></li> <li>» <a href="#">Enable Private Registration</a></li> <li>» <a href="#">View Domain Password (AuthInfo)</a></li> <li>» <a href="#">Cancel Domain</a></li> <li>» <a href="#">Change Domain Owner</a></li> </ul>	

When you transfer a domain name away from Melbourne IT, private registration needs to be disabled before the transfer can proceed. This is because your new registrar will need to send an email to the registrant address and an active private registration will replace this with a dummy address that will cause the email to bounce.

## Disable Private Registration

1. Log into your Melbourne IT MyAccount
2. Under My Purchases click on Manage Domain Names
3. Click on the domain name you wish to enable private registration on.
4. Under the Overview you will see the option to Disable Private registration if it is enabled.

**VENTRAIP ALREADY OFFERS WHOIS PRIVACY for other extensions**

<https://ventraip.com.au/faq/article/how-can-i-enable-id-protection-on-my-domain-name-registration/>

How can I enable ID Protection on my domain name registration?

Posted Tuesday April 15th 2014 / Category [Domain Contacts and Privacy](#)

**We recognise that it is important to many businesses and individuals that their contact information is protected. VentraIP offers ID Protection options which will hide your direct details from the domain name Whois system where the domain name extension type supports it.**

This is a feature often referred to as ID Protection, but also as Whois Protection and Domain Privacy. To enable your ID Protection within VIPControl, follow these steps:

1. Login to your [VIPControl](#) account.
2. Click the **Manage my Domains** button on your VIPControl dashboard.
3. Select the domain name you wish to enable ID Protection on.
4. In the drop down options select **ID Protection**.
5. Click **Enable ID Protection**.

And that's it! ID Protection is now enabled on your domain name; this gives you some privacy by putting some generic information onto your domain names Whois record – but importantly the masked email address forwards to your original email address.

As a little tip; any domains which support ID Protection have a little shield next to them in your domain list within VIPControl. When it's disabled the shield is grey, when enabled it changes to blue.

### Protection for .AU domain names? Unfortunately there isn't such a thing

<https://www.netregistry.com.au/domain-names/domain-privacy/>

<https://au.godaddy.com/domainaddon/private-registration.aspx>

<https://www.name.com/whois-privacy>

<https://www.crazydomains.com.au/help/how-to-hide-the-domain-whois/>

<https://www.crazydomains.com.au/help/the-difference-between-domain-privacy-and-private-tech/>

<https://uniregistry.com/security>

### Uniregistry Free WHOIS Privacy by Privacy.Link™

When you register a domain name, your name, phone number, address, and email are entered in the public WHOIS database.

Your personal information shouldn't have to be public.

Since anyone can access WHOIS data, it's no surprise that the WHOIS database is a frequent target for spammers and identity thieves.

Privacy.Link™ is a free service offered on all Uniregistry accounts. Simply enable it, and your WHOIS record will be masked.\*

We'll forward any mail or email that's sent to you, free of charge.

\* excludes certain domain name extensions due to registry restrictions.

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<https://www.greengeeks.com/blog/2015/12/08/7-reasons-why-you-should-be-using-whois-privacy-on-your-domains/>

Posted on [December 8, 2015](#) by [Kaamil Patel](#)

### 7 Reasons Why You Should Be Using WHOIS Privacy On Your Domains



The WHOIS database is essentially a collection of information, such as your name and email address, that registrars publish once you purchase a domain. It's used as contact information much like a traditional phone book. As you can guess, a great deal of complications can come from this information remaining in public access. Luckily, most registrars allow you to "purchase" privacy controls when you buy a domain. This removes that information from public view and keeps your contact info private.

Not everyone understands the value of keeping website ownership private. However, it can play a part in a variety of situations. For many people, the extra fee per year is far worth the peace of mind they get knowing that their information is hidden from view. Below are some of the reasons why you would want to utilize privacy on your domain. It may all center around what you're trying to accomplish with the website.

### Why Should You Use Privacy Controls on Domains?



#### 1. Reducing Spam

When your name and contact information is visible in a WHOIS search, you are opening yourself to a great deal of spam. Many marketers will use this information to develop lists to sell to virtually any organization looking to mass email information. This allows marketers to develop niche mailing lists to sell for their own gains while subjecting you to unsolicited email.

Spam could also include unsolicited email from those attempting to earn your business. Website designers, other website owners and other "deals" could easily begin to flood your inbox. Registrations scams, fake alerts and more can also become problematic if your information is made available to the public.

#### 2. Reducing Identity Theft

Not all identity thieves are looking to score your credit card information. Many will use your information to try to gain control of your site, create accounts in your name or otherwise spread digital mayhem. WHOIS privacy reduces the risks of losing your identity to those who have malicious intent.

#### 3. Personal Views vs. Professional Information



Many people will use privacy settings in order to keep their professional and personal lifestyles separate. For example: Let's say that you said something utterly controversial in social media channels. Without WHOIS privacy hiding your identity, your website could be linked to that comment by your name. You could find people boycotting your site on social media reducing the number of visitors.

#### 4. Control of Contact Information

From a professional perspective, using a private domain helps re-enforce visitors to use specific contact information. Instead of using your private phone, email or address to inquire about professional services, these individuals will need to use the information you provide on the website. This gives you superior control when it comes to the correct contact information for the business site or professional blog. The last thing you want is for someone to try and order a product your business sells at two in the morning when you're trying to sleep.

## 5. Hiding Your Physical Location



Not everyone on the Internet is friendly. If you post something on your site that could rile the attention of extremists, your home could be targeted. Although this is a more severe example, access to your private residence could open the floodgates for snail mail and other problematic pranks. You never know who will order you a dozen pizzas sent to your registered address because of something you did or wrote on your website.

## 6. Hiding Website Ownership or Designing Party

Not all registered users are directly tied to the website in question. It's a common enough practice where designers and site hosting providers register the domain for clients. For whatever reason, some clients would rather not have their personal information tied to the site. Instead of showing the designer's information, which may have nothing to do with the topic of the website itself, some will opt to use WHOIS privacy settings.

## 7. It's Inexpensive

Keeping your information out of public view isn't all that expensive in the grand scheme of things. For most registrars, it may be less than \$10 per year. That's less than a dollar per month to reduce spam, scams and negative feedback regarding your material. Learn about [GreenGeeks ID Protect](#) now and sign up today for this essential service.

## It's a Cyber-Jungle Out There; Keep Your Information Secure

As the Internet continues to grow and more people access websites, the risks to personal information continue to grow. Although you may believe your site is too small to get any real attention, it may be only a matter of time before your inbox becomes flooded with unsolicited messages and threats. Never assume that your site is too insignificant to be noticed, even if you just purchased the domain yesterday.

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## The difference between Domain Privacy and Private Tech

Article ID: 1492 Published: 22 Sep 2014 Authored by: Crazy Domains Support

**Unfortunately, Domain Privacy cannot apply to .AU Australia domain names due to restrictions enforced by .AU Policy.** We are, however, able to offer a limited version of Domain Privacy called Private Tech.

Australian .AU domain name registrations have two contact identifiers: Registrant and Tech.

Tech	Information under the Tech contact is not displayed on the public WHOIS, giving you full privacy.
Registrant	Remain as the owner information on WHOIS which will result in your personal information being disclosed on WHOIS in accordance with auDA policy.

Read more at <https://www.crazydomains.com.au/help/the-difference-between-domain-privacy-and-private->



<tech/#4tkYRCqwG7JfWBu7.99>

<https://www.dnc.org.nz/irpo>

## New Zealand Individual Registrant Privacy Option

**From 28 November 2017** an Individual Registrant Privacy Option (also known as IRPO) will be available for individual registrants of .nz domain names who are not in significant trade.

This change in the .nz domain name space came about after 5 rounds of consultation of the .nz WHOIS service relating to what information is collected, and how it is displayed.

You can read about the consultations, and the updates we provided throughout the process via the following link:

<https://dnc.org.nz/whois-review>

More information about IRPO can be found by clicking the links below:

### [How to Apply](#)

Information about how to apply for IRPO, and the .nz policy requirements for the use of this can be found in this section.

### [Access to Information](#)

Under .nz policy, certain entities will be allowed access to withheld information. Further details regarding this process can be found in this section.

### [Memorandums of Understanding](#)

As part of allowing access to withheld information, the Domain Name Commission will enter into Memorandums of Understanding ("MOU") with entities. A list of these can be found here

### [Transparency Reporting](#)

The DNCL will be publishing Transparency reports relating to IRPO. These will be published here: <https://dnc.org.nz/irpo/transparency>

### [Reporting Misuse](#)

Information on the reporting of misuse of IRPO can be found in this section.

Alternatively if you have any questions please feel free to email [info@dnc.org.nz](mailto:info@dnc.org.nz), or use our contact form here: <https://dnc.org.nz/contact>

[https://www.google.com.au/search?q=how+much+spam+do+.au+users+receive&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&client=firefox-b&gfe\\_rd=cr&dcr=0&ei=ce5-WriQI-\\_c8wfmX5\\_wDA](https://www.google.com.au/search?q=how+much+spam+do+.au+users+receive&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&client=firefox-b&gfe_rd=cr&dcr=0&ei=ce5-WriQI-_c8wfmX5_wDA)

[https://www.google.com.au/search?safe=active&client=firefox-b&dcr=0&biw=1120&bih=534&ei=XvR-Ws3kBorD0gT1orS4Dg&q=whois+privacy&og=whois+privacy&gs\\_l=psy-ab.3..0i67k1j0i7i30k1l7j0i67k1j0i7i30k1.5575.5575.0.6289.1.1.0.0.0.407.407.4-1.1.0....0...1c..64.psy-ab..0.1.406...0.m4VdQTJky\\_c](https://www.google.com.au/search?safe=active&client=firefox-b&dcr=0&biw=1120&bih=534&ei=XvR-Ws3kBorD0gT1orS4Dg&q=whois+privacy&og=whois+privacy&gs_l=psy-ab.3..0i67k1j0i7i30k1l7j0i67k1j0i7i30k1.5575.5575.0.6289.1.1.0.0.0.407.407.4-1.1.0....0...1c..64.psy-ab..0.1.406...0.m4VdQTJky_c)

<https://www.hover.com/blog/three-reasons-why-whois-privacy-is-important/>

"By protecting your information displayed on WHOIS you can ensure the **safety of your information**. Here are some reason why WHOIS privacy is important:



## 1. Protecting Your Identity

Our moms always told us never to talk to strangers... let alone give them our home address. With unmasked WHOIS your private information is available publicly. This includes your full name and phone number as well. The fact is, anyone with an Internet connection can access this personal information. It's easy to find with a quick online search. Don't let that information get into the wrong hands.

## 2. Block Spam

Having your email address/phone number available publicly makes you an easy target for spam, junkmail, telemarketers and the like. Having a WHOIS protected domain can save your inbox from an influx of unsolicited mail and a voicemail box that's full to bursting.

## 3. Avoid Unwanted Offers

Having your information available online can make it easy for anyone to contact you to make offers to buy your domain/website. This can obviously be seen as a pro or a con, but we think that you should be able to choose whether you make this information available. Instead, having a 'Contact' section on your website ensures you can direct inquiries to where you want them to go.

### Enable WHOIS Privacy for the low cost of \$0!

We at Hover think privacy should be free. It still shocks us that some registrars will charge you to protect your information online. That's why we never have and never will charge for WHOIS privacy. We even go above and beyond that to make the process quick and easy.. The Hover Help Center has a great article on [how to activate WHOIS privacy](#).

You'd never put your full address on Twitter or Facebook. So make sure you have the control when it comes to what information of yours is available online!"

## Privacy by default already!

### Note that some domain extensions have default privacy caveats:

- [.ai](#): No information about the owner is disclosed.
- [.at](#), [.co.at](#), [.or.at](#): Since May 21, 2010, contact data (defined as phone number, fax number, e-mail address) is hidden by the registrar and must be explicitly made public.<sup>[4]</sup>
- [.ca](#): Since June 10, 2008, the Canadian Internet Registration Authority no longer posts registration details of individuals associated with .ca domains.
- [.de](#): Owner and technical contact must show their postal addresses. Phone number and e-mail address do not have to be made public.<sup>[5]</sup>
- [.eu](#): If the registrant is a natural person, only the e-mail address is shown in the public whois records unless specified otherwise.<sup>[6]</sup>
- [.fr](#): By default, individual domain name holders benefit from the restricted publishing of their personal data in the AFNIC public Whois.<sup>[7]</sup>
- [.gr](#): No information about the owner is disclosed.
- [.is](#): May hide address and phone number.
- [.nl](#): Since January 12, 2010, registrant postal addresses are no longer publicly available.<sup>[8][9]</sup>
- [.ovh](#): Contact data is hidden by the registrar and must be explicitly made public.
- [.uk](#): Nominet, the guardian of UK domain namespace, provide domain privacy tools on their extensions ([.co.uk](#), [.me.uk](#) etc.), providing that the registrant is not trading from the domain name.<sup>[10]</sup> While the home address of the registrant can be hidden, the full name cannot.

**FREE Whois Privacy is now available globally by most registrars for available extensions.**

[https://www.google.com.au/search?q=whois+privacy+free&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&client=firefox-b&gws\\_rd=cr&dcr=0&ei=HAJ\\_WuvpMMGC0wSwu5SoCQ](https://www.google.com.au/search?q=whois+privacy+free&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8&client=firefox-b&gws_rd=cr&dcr=0&ei=HAJ_WuvpMMGC0wSwu5SoCQ)