

Registrars' Association
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Foundation for Internet Domain Registration in the Netherlands
F.a.o. Mr S Springer
PO Box 5022
6802EA Arnhem

Our ref.: 20111030-A03
Subject: September 2011 / iPhone App

Gouda, 5 December 2011,

Dear Mr Springer,

Thank you for your response to our advice regarding SIDN's iPhone app. You indicated that SIDN intended the app to form part of its public Whois services; the RA accepts that that was the intention.

However, we do not believe that the change SIDN has made to the application goes far enough to bring it fully into line with that intention.

At present, the public Whois serves to indicate the availability of a given domain name and to provide details of the registrar that manages the name's registration.

However, the app not only offers the public Whois information in an alternative form, but also enables the user to monitor the status of a given domain name. If the status of a domain name changes (typically, if it is quarantined), the app user is automatically alerted.

The basis of the objection voiced by the RA board in its advice was twofold: first, the app features functionality that registrars cannot also offer, because the relevant data is not available to them from the DRS; second, the app could (and still can) be used by so-called 'domainers'. The RA's board accordingly wishes SIDN to disable the app's monitoring functionality, because it is central to both aspects of the original objection.

I look forward to your response,

Kind regards,

Vince van Domburg
Secretary to the Registrars' Association