



## Registry Services Evaluation Policy (RSEP) Request

December 08, 2025

### Registry Operator

VeriSign, Inc.

### Request Details

Case Number: 01517788

This Registry Services Evaluation Policy (RSEP) request form should be submitted for review by ICANN org when a registry operator is adding, modifying, or removing a Registry Service for a TLD or group of TLDs.

The RSEP Process webpage provides additional information about the process and lists RSEP requests that have been reviewed and/or approved by ICANN org. If you are proposing a service that was previously approved, we encourage you to respond similarly to the most recently approved request(s) to facilitate ICANN org's review.

Certain known Registry Services are identified in the Naming Services portal (NSp) case type list under "RSEP Fast Track" (example: "RSEP Fast Track – BTAPPA"). If you would like to submit a request for one of these services, please exit this case and select the specific Fast Track case type. Unless the service is identified under RSEP Fast Track, all other RSEP requests should be submitted through this form.

## 1. PROPOSED SERVICE DESCRIPTION

### 1.1. Name of proposed service.

Removal of Searchable Whois for the .COMSEC TLD.

### 1.2. Provide a general description of the proposed service including the impact to external users and how it will be offered.

Searchable Whois is a service which offers additional search capabilities for Whois and is an approved service for the .COMSEC TLD. Currently, there are no Searchable Whois users and there have been no associated queries to the service in at least the past year for the .COMSEC TLD. This RSEP seeks to remove Section 4 (Searchable Whois) from Exhibit A (Approved Services) of the .COMSEC Registry Agreement.

### 1.3. Provide a technical description of the proposed service.

We are seeking to remove Searchable Whois from the RDDS services for the .COMSEC TLD. The RDDS services would otherwise remain unchanged.

### 1.4. If this proposed service has already been approved by ICANN org, identify and provide a link to the RSEP request for the same service that was most recently approved.

<https://itp.cdn.icann.org/en/files/consensus-policy/rsep-2025006-audi-request-01-04-2025-en.pdf>

### 1.5. Describe the benefits of the proposed service and who would benefit from the proposed service.

Removing the Searchable Whois service will increase efficiency for the operation of the .COMSEC TLD. The registry will no longer support a service that has no users and has not received any associated queries to the service in at least the past year.

### 1.6. Describe the timeline for implementation of the proposed service.

Immediately upon approval from ICANN.

### 1.7. If additional information should be considered with the description of the proposed service, attach one or more file(s) below.

**1.8. If the proposed service adds or modifies Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) languages or scripts that have already been approved in another RSEP request or are considered pre-approved by ICANN org, provide (a) a reference to the RSEP request, TLD(s), and IDN table(s) that were already approved or (b) a link to the pre-approved Reference Label Generation Rules (LGR). Otherwise, indicate “not applicable.”**

Not applicable.

## **2. SECURITY AND STABILITY**

**2.1. What effect, if any, will the proposed service have on the life cycle of domain names?**

The removal of the Searchable Whois service will not have any effect on the life cycle of domain names.

**2.2. Does the proposed service alter the storage and input of Registry Data?**

The removal of the Searchable Whois service will not have any effect on the storage and input of Registry Data.

**2.3. Explain how the proposed service will affect the throughput, response time, consistency or coherence of responses to Internet servers or end systems.**

The removal of the Searchable Whois service will not affect the throughput, response time, consistency or coherence of responses to Internet servers or end systems.

**2.4. Have technical concerns been raised about the proposed service? If so, identify the concerns and describe how you intend to address those concerns.**

No. Not applicable.

**2.5. Describe the quality assurance plan and/or testing of the proposed service prior to deployment.**

The Searchable Whois service for the .COMSEC TLD was deployed upon delegation of the TLD in 2015 following internal testing of the service prior to deployment.

**2.6. Identify and list any relevant RFCs or White Papers on the proposed service and explain how those papers are relevant.**

Not applicable.

### **3. COMPETITION**

**3.1. Do you believe the proposed service would have any positive or negative effects on competition? If so, please explain.**

The removal of the Searchable Whois service will not affect competition.

**3.2. How would you define the markets in which the proposed service would compete?**

None. The removal of the Searchable Whois service will not affect the domain name market.

**3.3. What companies/entities provide services or products that are similar in substance or effect to the proposed service?**

Other registry operators have offered similar Searchable Whois services and have subsequently removed the service following ICANN's approval. The Searchable Whois service for .COMSEC is specific to that TLD.

**3.4. In view of your status as a Registry Operator, would the introduction of the proposed service potentially affect the ability of other companies/entities that provide similar products or services to compete?**

The removal of the Searchable Whois service will not affect the ability of other companies/entities that provide similar products or services to compete.

**3.5. Do you propose to work with a vendor or contractor to provide the proposed service? If so, what is the name of the vendor/contractor and describe the nature of the services the vendor/contractor would provide.**

Not applicable.

**3.6. Have you communicated with any of the entities whose products or services might be affected by the introduction of your proposed service? If so, please describe the communications.**

No. Not applicable.

**3.7. If you have any documents that address the possible effects on competition of the proposed service, attach them below. ICANN will keep the documents confidential.**

## **4. CONTRACTUAL PROVISIONS**

**4.1. List the relevant contractual provisions impacted by the proposed service. This includes, but is not limited to, Consensus Policies, previously approved amendments or services, Reserved Names, and Rights Protection Mechanisms.**

The text of Section 4 (Searchable Whois) of Exhibit A of the Registry Agreement will be removed via an amendment following ICANN's approval.

**4.2. What effect, if any, will the proposed service have on the reporting of data to ICANN?**

There will be no change in the reporting of data to ICANN. There are no current users of the Searchable Whois service for the .COMSEC TLD.

**4.3. What effect, if any, will the proposed service have on Registration Data Directory Service (RDDS)?\***

This RSEP seeks to remove Section 4 (Searchable Whois) of Exhibit A (Approved Services) of the .COMSEC Registry Agreement. The RDDS services will continue to be offered as required by Specification 4 of the .COMSEC Registry Agreement.

**4.4. What effect, if any, will the proposed service have on the price of a domain name registration?**

None.

**4.5. Will the proposed service result in a change to a Material Subcontracting Arrangement (MSA) as defined by the Registry Agreement? If so, identify and describe**

the change. Please note that a change to an MSA requires consent from ICANN org through the MSA change request process. The RSEP request must be approved prior to submitting the MSA change request.

No.

## 5. AUTHORIZATION LANGUAGE

**5.1. A Registry Agreement (RA) amendment is required when the proposed service: (i) contradicts existing provisions in the RA or (ii) is not contemplated in the RA and, therefore, needs to be added to Exhibit A of the RA and/or as an appropriate addendum/appendix. If applicable, provide draft language (or a link to previously approved RA amendment language) describing the service to be used in an RA amendment if the proposed service is approved. If an RA amendment is not applicable, respond with “N/A” and provide a complete response to question 5.2.\***

**For examples or for IDN services, you may refer to the webpage for standard RA template amendments for commonly requested Registry Services.**

Please see attached draft Amendment 1 to the .COMSEC TLD.

**5.2. If the proposed service is permissible under an existing provision in the Registry Agreement, identify the provision and provide rationale. If not applicable, respond with “N/A” and provide a complete response to question 5.1.**

Section 4 (Searchable Whois) of Exhibit A of the .COMSEC Registry Agreement.

## 6. CONSULTATION

**6.1. ICANN org encourages you to set up a consultation call through your Engagement Manager prior to submitting this RSEP request. This is to help ensure that necessary information is assembled ahead of time.**

**Identify if and when you had a consultation call with ICANN org. If you did not request a consultation call, provide rationale.**

ICANN has previously approved a number of prior requests by other registry operators to remove Searchable Whois services.

**6.2. Describe your consultations with the community, experts, and/or others. This can include, but is not limited to, the relevant community for a sponsored or community TLD, registrars or the registrar constituency, end users and/or registrants, or other constituency groups. What were the quantity, nature, and results of the consultations? How will the proposed service impact these groups? Which groups support or oppose this proposed service?**

None. .COMSEC has no users and there have been no associated queries to the service in at least the past year for Searchable Whois.

## **7. OTHER**

**7.1. Would there be any intellectual property impact or considerations raised by the proposed service?**

No.

**7.2. Does the proposed service contain intellectual property exclusive to your gTLD registry?**

No.

**7.3. Provide any other relevant information to include with the request. If none, respond with "N/A."**

Not applicable.

**7.4. If additional information should be considered, attach one or more file(s) below.**

Amendment No. 1 to the Registry Agreement\_.comsec clean 12.4.2025docx

**Affected TLDs**

| Current Registry Operator | Top Level Domain | Registry Agreement Date |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| VeriSign, Inc.            | .comsec          | 2015-01-08              |





## Registry Services Evaluation Policy (RSEP) Request

December 08, 2025

### Registry Operator

VeriSign, Inc.

### Request Details

Case Number: 01517830

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## 1. PROPOSED SERVICE DESCRIPTION

### 1.1. Name of proposed service.

Removal of Searchable Whois for the .VERISIGN TLD.

### 1.2. Provide a general description of the proposed service including the impact to external users and how it will be offered.

Searchable Whois is a service which offers additional search capabilities for Whois and is an approved service for the .VERISIGN TLD. Currently, there are no Searchable Whois users and there have been no associated queries to the service in at least the past year for the .VERISIGN TLD. This RSEP seeks to remove Section 4 (Searchable Whois) from Exhibit A (Approved Services) of the .VERISIGN Registry Agreement.

### 1.3. Provide a technical description of the proposed service.

We are seeking to remove Searchable Whois from the RDDS services for the .VERISIGN TLD. The RDDS services would otherwise remain unchanged.

### 1.4. If this proposed service has already been approved by ICANN org, identify and provide a link to the RSEP request for the same service that was most recently approved.

<https://itp.cdn.icann.org/en/files/consensus-policy/rsep-2025006-audi-request-01-04-2025-en.pdf>

### 1.5. Describe the benefits of the proposed service and who would benefit from the proposed service.

Removing the Searchable Whois service will increase efficiency for the operation of the .VERISIGN TLD. The registry will no longer support a service that has no users and has not received any associated queries to the service in at least the past year.

### 1.6. Describe the timeline for implementation of the proposed service.

Immediately upon approval from ICANN.

### 1.7. If additional information should be considered with the description of the proposed service, attach one or more file(s) below.

**1.8. If the proposed service adds or modifies Internationalized Domain Name (IDN) languages or scripts that have already been approved in another RSEP request or are considered pre-approved by ICANN org, provide (a) a reference to the RSEP request, TLD(s), and IDN table(s) that were already approved or (b) a link to the pre-approved Reference Label Generation Rules (LGR). Otherwise, indicate “not applicable.”**

Not applicable.

## **2. SECURITY AND STABILITY**

**2.1. What effect, if any, will the proposed service have on the life cycle of domain names?**

The removal of the Searchable Whois service will not have any effect on the life cycle of domain names.

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The removal of the Searchable Whois service will not have any effect on the storage and input of Registry Data.

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The removal of the Searchable Whois service will not affect the throughput, response time, consistency or coherence of responses to Internet servers or end systems.

**2.4. Have technical concerns been raised about the proposed service? If so, identify the concerns and describe how you intend to address those concerns.**

No. Not applicable.

**2.5. Describe the quality assurance plan and/or testing of the proposed service prior to deployment.**

The Searchable Whois service for the .VERISIGN TLD was deployed upon delegation of the TLD in 2015 following internal testing of the service prior to deployment.

**2.6. Identify and list any relevant RFCs or White Papers on the proposed service and explain how those papers are relevant.**

Not applicable.

### **3. COMPETITION**

**3.1. Do you believe the proposed service would have any positive or negative effects on competition? If so, please explain.**

The removal of the Searchable Whois service will not affect competition.

**3.2. How would you define the markets in which the proposed service would compete?**

None. The removal of the Searchable Whois service will not affect the domain name market.

**3.3. What companies/entities provide services or products that are similar in substance or effect to the proposed service?**

Other registry operators have offered similar Searchable Whois services and have subsequently removed the service following ICANN's approval. The Searchable Whois service for .VERISIGN is specific to that TLD.

**3.4. In view of your status as a Registry Operator, would the introduction of the proposed service potentially affect the ability of other companies/entities that provide similar products or services to compete?**

The removal of the Searchable Whois service will not affect the ability of other companies/entities that provide similar products or services to compete.

**3.5. Do you propose to work with a vendor or contractor to provide the proposed service? If so, what is the name of the vendor/contractor and describe the nature of the services the vendor/contractor would provide.**

Not applicable.

**3.6. Have you communicated with any of the entities whose products or services might be affected by the introduction of your proposed service? If so, please describe the communications.**

No. Not applicable.

**3.7. If you have any documents that address the possible effects on competition of the proposed service, attach them below. ICANN will keep the documents confidential.**

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The text of Section 4 (Searchable Whois) of Exhibit A of the Registry Agreement will be removed via an amendment following ICANN's approval.

**4.2. What effect, if any, will the proposed service have on the reporting of data to ICANN?**

There will be no change in the reporting of data to ICANN. There are no current users of the Searchable Whois service for the .VERISIGN TLD.

**4.3. What effect, if any, will the proposed service have on Registration Data Directory Service (RDDS)?\***

This RSEP seeks to remove Section 4 (Searchable Whois) of Exhibit A (Approved Services) of the .VERISIGN Registry Agreement. The RDDS services will continue to be offered as required by Specification 4 of the .VERISIGN Registry Agreement.

**4.4. What effect, if any, will the proposed service have on the price of a domain name registration?**

None.

**4.5. Will the proposed service result in a change to a Material Subcontracting Arrangement (MSA) as defined by the Registry Agreement? If so, identify and describe**

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Please see attached draft Amendment 1 to the .VERISIGN TLD.

**5.2. If the proposed service is permissible under an existing provision in the Registry Agreement, identify the provision and provide rationale. If not applicable, respond with “N/A” and provide a complete response to question 5.1.**

Section 4 (Searchable Whois) of Exhibit A of the .VERISIGN Registry Agreement.

## 6. CONSULTATION

**6.1. ICANN org encourages you to set up a consultation call through your Engagement Manager prior to submitting this RSEP request. This is to help ensure that necessary information is assembled ahead of time.**

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ICANN has previously approved a number of prior requests by other registry operators to remove Searchable Whois services.

**6.2. Describe your consultations with the community, experts, and/or others. This can include, but is not limited to, the relevant community for a sponsored or community TLD, registrars or the registrar constituency, end users and/or registrants, or other constituency groups. What were the quantity, nature, and results of the consultations? How will the proposed service impact these groups? Which groups support or oppose this proposed service?**

None. .VERISIGN is a brand TLD and there are no users and there have been no associated queries to the service in at least the past year for Searchable Whois.

## **7. OTHER**

**7.1. Would there be any intellectual property impact or considerations raised by the proposed service?**

No.

**7.2. Does the proposed service contain intellectual property exclusive to your gTLD registry?**

No.

**7.3. Provide any other relevant information to include with the request. If none, respond with "N/A."**

Not applicable.

**7.4. If additional information should be considered, attach one or more file(s) below.**

Amendment No. 1 to the Registry Agreement\_.verisign clean 12.4.2025docx

**Affected TLDs**

| Current Registry Operator | Top Level Domain | Registry Agreement Date |
|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| VeriSign, Inc.            | .verisign        | 2015-08-13              |