What WHOIS privacy is, and when you might want it

WHOIS privacy (also called domain contact protection) limits how much of your contact data appears in public domain lookups. It is not the same as hiding the domain itself.

By the Harer team · Updated 23 November 2026

> **QUICK ANSWER**
> WHOIS and RDAP are public lookups of a domain's registration record. A WHOIS privacy add-on, where the registry allows it, publishes proxy contacts instead of yours. It does not hide the domain, delete the registrar's records, or block a lawful request. At Harer the add-on is $7.99 a year.

What WHOIS and RDAP are

Every registered domain has a record that names the registrant and the contacts used for notices. The public lookup services for that record are WHOIS and its successor, RDAP. You can look up a name in ICANN Lookup.

The record is how the registry, the registrar and, in some cases, other parties reach the holder of the name — for example with a renewal reminder or a legal notice. It is not a marketing profile, and it is not a complete picture of a business.

What you may see in a public lookup today

After data-protection rules such as the EU GDPR came into force, many lookups no longer show a person's postal address, personal email or phone number. The page may say that personal data has been redacted. Company names and the registrar's name often still appear. The exact fields depend on the registrar, the registry and whether the registrant is a person or an organisation.

Redaction in the public display does not mean the registrar has deleted the data. The registrar still holds the contact details you gave at checkout, and you are responsible for keeping them accurate.

What a WHOIS privacy add-on does

A WHOIS privacy or “domain contact protection” service publishes proxy contact details in the public record instead of yours, where the registry allows it. Mail or messages sent to those proxy contacts are meant to be forwarded to you. At Harer this add-on is **$7.99** a year (USD), listed on the pricing page.

Country-code registries set their own public-record rules. Some require a local contact to stay visible. Do not assume that a privacy add-on will hide the same fields on every extension.

What it does not do

- It does not hide the fact that the domain exists, or hide your website.
- It does not remove your details from the registrar’s own account records.
- It does not stop a court order, a regulator, or a registrar’s own abuse process from reaching the holder of the name.
- It does not replace a correct registrant name. The domain should still be registered to you or your company, as explained in how to choose a domain name.

A note on email used for the domain

Renewal reminders for domains ordered through Harer go to the registrant email address in the domain record. Use an address you check, and one that does not depend on the domain itself, so a lapse does not cut off the reminders. More on that timeline is in domain grace periods and redemption fees.

Prices in USD, last updated 22 November 2026, checked again on 23 November 2026. Harer Hosting is a reseller store powered by ResellersPanel. Harer is not a domain registrar.

About domain registration

Common questions

▶ **Is WHOIS privacy the same as GDPR redaction?**

▶ **Do I need WHOIS privacy for a company domain?**

Sources

- ICANN Lookup (registration data) (checked 22 November 2026)

Written by the Harer team. Updated 23 November 2026. This is general information about how domains, email and hosting work, not advice for your specific setup. Read our editorial policy.