

Miscellaneous flags

Example: `whois -h whois.ripe.net -q sources`

Flag	Argument	Objects returned by query
-s	Source(s)	Specifies source database(s) and in which order to look up when performing a query.
-R		Switches off referrals for domain lookups. Query will only return an object in the local database that matches the lookup key.
-K		Only the primary keys of an object are returned. The exceptions are set objects where the member's attributes will also be returned. This flag does not apply to person and role objects.
-h	Server address	Specifies a query of another server.
-k	Optional normal query	Requests a persistent connection. A client may issue multiple queries on the same connection. The server will not close the connection until it receives a -k without an argument (after the first one).
-B		Switches off default e-mail filtering behaviour. Shows entire object including all e-mail addresses.
-G		Turns off logical grouping of objects in query results and lists objects according to type.
-g	Mirroring request	Request an NRMT stream from the server.
-b		Brief output mode. Only shows primary key (address range) and abuse mailboxes.
-F		Produce output using shorthand notation for attribute names.

This [RIPE Database Queries Reference Card](#) can also be found online at: <http://www.ripe.net/db/support/db-refcard.pdf>

Commonly used flags

Inverse Lookups:

Flag	Argument	Objects returned by query
-i person	Nic-handle	Objects with matching <i>admin-c</i> , <i>tech-c</i> , <i>zone-c</i> or <i>author</i> .
-i mnt-by	Maintainer name	Objects with a matching <i>mnt-by</i> .

Narrowing Down or Broadening Search:

Flag	Argument	Effect
-r		Switches off recursion for contact information after retrieving the objects that match the lookup key.
-T	Object type(s)	Restricts the type of objects to lookup in the query.
-a		Specifies that the server should perform lookups in all available source database(s). See also -q sources query.

Database help

Example: `whois -h whois.ripe.net -t person`

Flag	Argument	Returns
-t	Object type	Template for the specified object type.
-v	Object type	Verbose template for the specified object type.
	"help"	List of query options available in the database.
-q	"sources"	Current set of sources along with the information required for mirroring.
-q	"version"	Current version of the server.
-q	"types"	A list of all available object types.
-V <client tag>		Sends information about the client to the server.

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RIPE Database Queries

Reference Card

This reference card lists query options (flags) available for the RIPE Database:

- Queries using primary and lookup keys
- Inverse queries
- IP address lookups
- Miscellaneous queries
- Database help
- List of commonly used flags

Note: most e-mail addresses are hidden in the whois query results unless **-B** flag is used when making a query

The flags in this reference card work on both the RIPE Database web interface and the command line client. The web interface is available at:

<http://www.ripe.net/whois>

For more documentation, see:

<http://www.ripe.net/ripe/docs/database.html>

The RIPE Database contains contact and registration information for networks in the RIPE NCC Service Region.

For more information about the RIPE Database, see: <http://www.ripe.net/db/>

Queries using primary and lookup keys

Example: **whois -h whois.ripe.net 193.0.1.17**
This always returns referenced contact objects (person/role)

Lookup key	Objects returned by query
Address prefix or range	IPv4 - Most specific inetnum and/or route . IPv6 - Most specific inet6num and/or route6 .
Single address	IPv4 - Most specific inetnum and/or route and inet-rtr containing the address. IPv6 - Most specific inet6num and/or route6 and inet-rtr containing the address.
Network name	All inetnum and inet6num objects with a netname containing the name specified in the query.
Person	All person and role objects with a person or role attribute containing the name specified in the query.
Nic-handle	person or role with a matching nic-hdl .
Organisation name	All organisation objects with an org-name containing the name specified in the query.
Organisation ID	organisation with a matching primary key.
Maintainer name	mntner with a matching primary key.
IRT name	irt with a matching primary key.
AS Number	aut-num object with a matching aut-num and associated as-block .
AS Number - AS Number	as-block whose primary key matches or fully contains the query range.
Set name	as-set , filter-set , peering-set , route-set or rtr-set with a matching primary key.
Domain	domain or inet-rtr with a matching primary key.
Route	Exact match or less specific route and exact match or less specific inetnum .
Route6	Exact match or less specific route6 and exact match or less specific inet6num .
E-mail	person , role and organisation objects with a matching e-mail .
Key-cert	key-cert with a matching primary key.
Router interface address	inet-rtr with an ifaddr containing the IPv4 or IPv6 address specified in the query.

Inverse queries

Example: **whois -h whois.ripe.net -i person RD132-RIPE**

Flag	Alt. flag	Lookup key	Objects returned by query
-i ac	-i admin-c	Nic-handle or person name	Objects with a matching admin-c .
-i tc	-i tech-c	Nic-handle or person name	Objects with a matching tech-c .
-i zc	-i zone-c	Nic-handle or person name	Objects with a matching zone-c .
-i pn	-i person	Nic-handle or person name	Objects with a matching admin-c , tech-c , zone-c or author .
-i mb	-i mnt-by	Maintainer name	Objects with a matching mnt-by .
-i ml	-i mnt-lower	Maintainer name	Objects with a matching mnt-lower .
-i mu	-i mnt-routes	Maintainer name	Objects with a matching mnt-routes .
-i mz	-i mnt-ref	Maintainer name	Objects with a matching mnt-ref .
-i md	-i mnt-domains	Maintainer name	Objects with a matching mnt-domains .
-i dt	-i upd-to	e-mail	mntner objects with a matching upd-to .
-i mn	-i mnt-nfy	e-mail	mntner objects with a matching mnt-nfy .
-i ny	-i notify	e-mail	Objects with a matching notify .
-i ns	-i nserver	Domain name or single address	domain objects with a matching nserver .
-i at	-i auth	Key-cert ID	mntner objects where the auth matches the specified key-cert object.
-i fp	-i fingerpr	Fingerprint	key-cert objects with a matching fingerpr .
-i rn	-i ref-nfy	e-mail	Objects with a matching ref-nfy .
-i og	-i org	Organisation name	Objects with a matching org .

Flag	Alt. flag	Lookup key	Objects returned by query
-i iy	-i irt-nfy	e-mail	irt objects with a matching irt-nfy .
-i mi	-i mnt-irt	IRT name	inetnum and inet6num objects with a matching mnt-irt .
-i la	-i local-as	AS Number	inet-rtr and inet6num objects with a matching local-as .
-i mr	-i mbrs-by-ref	Maintainer name	Set objects (as-set , route-set and rtr-set) with a matching mbrs-by-ref .
-i mo	-i member-of	Set name	Objects with a matching member-of , if their membership claim is validated by the mbrs-by-ref of the set.
-i or	-i origin	AS Number	route and route6 objects with a matching origin .
-i am	-i abuse-mailbox	e-mail	Objects with a matching abuse-mailbox .
-i sd	Sub-dom	Domain name	domain object with matching sub-dom attribute.

IP address lookups

Example: **whois -h whois.ripe.net -L 193.0.1.17**

Flag	Objects returned by query
-x	Only an exact match on a prefix will be performed. If no exact match is found, no objects are returned.
-M	All more specific inetnum , inet6num , route or route6 objects, excluding exact matches.
-m	First level more specific inetnum , inet6num , route or route6 objects, excluding exact matches.
-L	All less specific inetnum , inet6num , route or route6 objects, including exact matches.
-l	First level less specific inetnum , inet6num , route or route6 objects, excluding matches.
-d	Enables use of the -m , -M , -l and -L flags for lookups on reverse delegation domain objects.
-c	The most specific inetnum , inet6num object and any related irt and/or route objects from this or the closest less specific object.