

How the FTC Uses Whois Data

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Topics

- Background re FTC
- How we use Whois data
- FTC's position on Whois data



Background about the FTC



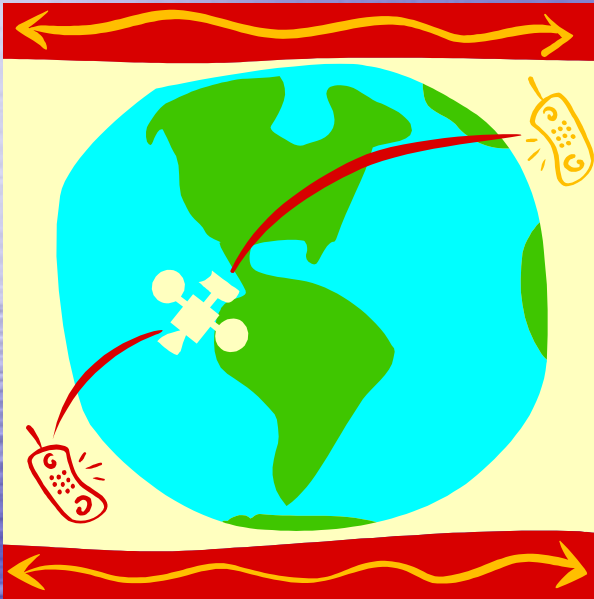
- Only agency with jurisdiction over competition and consumer protection.
- On the consumer protection side, we are charged with protecting consumers from unfair, fraudulent, and deceptive practices.
- This includes Internet fraud.
- We are a civil agency.
 - We obtain injunctions.
 - We seek consumer redress.

Overview of Internet fraud efforts

- Fighting fraud is important
 - To address consumer injury
 - To build consumer confidence
- Since 1994, we have brought over 250 law enforcement actions involving Internet fraud against over 700 defendants, stopping over \$2.1 billion in consumer injury.
- Internet fraud harms consumers.



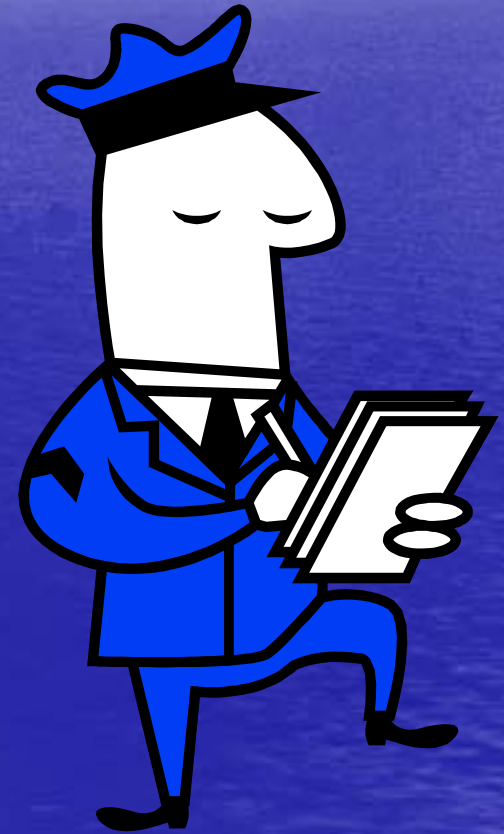
How we use Whois data



- To identify where a perpetrator is located
 - TLD case

How we use Whois data

- To serve process
 - BTV case



How we use Whois data

- To get investigative leads
 - Premier Escrow case
 - We found registrar, web-hosting company, and asked for more info



How we use Whois data



- To conduct surfs
 - We find e-mail addresses is through the Whois database.

FTC Testimony



- We summarized ways we use Whois data, concerns about inaccuracies, gave examples
- 3 conclusions:
 - Law enforcement agencies should have access to all Whois data
 - Public should have access to Whois data about commercial sites
 - For noncommercial sites, we recognize privacy concerns with public availability, and want to continue to work with stakeholders on this issue.
- Searchability