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Eric Brunner-Williams
Wampumpeag
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Request to Move RFC 954 to Historic Status

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Abstract

This memo requests a change of the status of RFC 954, "NICNAME/WHOIS" to Historic.

1. Introduction

The NICNAME/WHOIS [1] protocol, a TCP transaction based query/response protocol, and server [2], ran on a host located at SRI International. It was one of a series of internet services maintained by the DDN Network Information Center (NIC) at SRI International on behalf of the Defense Communications Agency (DCA).

This service provided DDN-network-wide directory service to internet users, via user programs running on local hosts, and delivered the full name, U.S. mailing address, telephone number, and network mailbox for DDN users who were registered in the NIC database.

2. Action

Since the Defense Communications Agency (DCA) no longer contracts to SRI International to operate the DDN Network Information Center (NIC) at SRI International on its behalf, and the ARPANET was retired in 1990, and all DDN services terminated in 1995, MILNET included, the IESG is moving RFC 954 to Historic status.

3. Security Considerations

Moving RFC 954 to historic ends the application of DCA user data disclosure practices (unrestricted) to non-DCA Network Information Centers. Unrestricted access to NIC user registration data is a significant cause of limited user trust in network security, hence in a trustable network. Unrestricted access to NIC user registration data gives rise to excessive load on NIC user registration data services, excessive load on mail relays via unsolicited bulk email, and related abuses.

4. References

[1] Harrenstein K., Stahl M., and E. Feinler, "NICNAME/WHOIS", RFC-954, Network Information Center, SRI International, October 1985.

[2] MILNET address: 26.0.0.73, ARPANET address: 10.0.0.51

Author's Addresses

Eric Brunner-Williams
Wampumpeag, LLC
1415 Forest Ave.,
Portland, ME 04103
Email: brunner@nic-naa.net

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