

## Miscellaneous flags

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

Flag	Argument	Objects returned by query
<b>-s</b>	Source(s)	Specifies source database(s) and in which order to look up when performing a query.
<b>-K</b>		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 <b>person</b> , <b>role</b> and <b>organisation</b> objects.
<b>-h</b>	Server address	Specifies a query of another server.
<b>-k</b>	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 <b>-k</b> without an argument (after the first one).
<b>-B</b>		Switches off default email filtering behaviour. Shows entire object including all email addresses.
<b>-G</b>		Turns off logical grouping of objects in query results and lists objects according to type.
<b>-b</b>		Brief output mode. Only shows primary key (address range) and abuse mailboxes.
<b>-F</b>		Produce output using shorthand notation for attribute names.

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## Commonly used flags

Inverse Lookups

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

Narrowing Down or Broadening Search

Flag	Argument	Effect
<b>-r</b>		Disables recursive search for contact information after retrieving the objects that match the lookup key.
<b>-T</b>	Object type(s)	Restricts the type of objects to look up in the query.
<b>--resource</b>		Specifies that the server should perform lookups in all available source database(s). See also " <b>-q sources</b> " query.

## Database help

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

Flag	Argument	Returns
<b>-t</b>	Object type	Template for the specified object type.
<b>-v</b>	Object type	Verbose template for the specified object type.
	"help"	List of query options available in the database.
<b>-q</b>	"sources"	Current set of sources along with the information required for mirroring.
<b>-q</b>	"version"	Current version of the server.
<b>-q</b>	"types"	A list of all available object types.
<b>-V</b>	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 email addresses are hidden in the whois query results. Use the **-B** flag to change this 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.db.ripe.net/whois>

The command line client is available to download at:

<http://www.ripe.net/data-tools/db/tools>

For more documentation, see:

<http://www.ripe.net/data-tools/support/documentation>

The RIPE Database contains contact and registration information for networks in the RIPE NCC service region.

For more information about the RIPE Database, see:

[www.ripe.net/db](http://www.ripe.net/db)

This RIPE Database Queries Reference Card can also be found online at:  
[www.ripe.net/data-tools/support/documentation/queries-quick-ref](http://www.ripe.net/data-tools/support/documentation/queries-quick-ref)

## Queries using primary and lookup keys

Example: **whois -h whois.ripe.net 193.0.1.17**  
 These often return referenced contact objects  
 (**person/role/irt/organisation**) where appropriate.

Lookup key	Objects returned by query
Address prefix or range	IPv4 – Most specific <b>inetnum</b> and/or <b>route</b> . IPv6 – Most specific <b>inet6num</b> and/or <b>route6</b> .
Single address	IPv4 – Most specific <b>inetnum</b> and/or <b>route</b> and <b>inet-rtr</b> containing the address. IPv6 – Most specific <b>inet6num</b> and/or <b>route6</b> and <b>inet-rtr</b> containing the address.
Network name	All <b>inetnum</b> and <b>inet6num</b> objects with a <i>netname</i> containing the name specified in the query.
Person or role name	All <b>person</b> and <b>role</b> objects with a <i>person</i> or <i>role</i> attribute containing the name specified in the query.
NIC handle	<b>person</b> or <b>role</b> with a matching <i>nic-hdl</i> .
Organisation name	All <b>organisation</b> objects with an <i>org-name</i> containing the name specified in the query.
Organisation ID	<b>organisation</b> with a matching primary key.
Maintainer name	<b>mntner</b> with a matching primary key.
IRT name	<b>irt</b> with a matching primary key.
AS Number	<b>aut-num</b> object with a matching <i>aut-num</i> and associated <b>as-block</b> .
AS Number – AS Number	<b>as-block</b> whose primary key matches or fully contains the query range.
Set name	<b>as-set</b> , <b>filter-set</b> , <b>peering-set</b> , <b>route-set</b> or <b>rtr-set</b> with a matching primary key.
Domain/reverse domain	<b>domain</b> or <b>inet-rtr</b> with a matching primary key.
Route/route6	Exact match or less specific <b>route/route6</b> object and exact match or less specific <b>inetnum/inetnum6</b> object.
Email	<b>person</b> , <b>role</b> and <b>organisation</b> objects with a matching <i>email</i> .
Key-cert	<b>key-cert</b> with a matching primary key.
Router interface address	<b>inet-rtr</b> with an <i>ifaddr</i> 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
<b>-i ac</b>	<b>-i admin-c</b>	NIC handle	Objects with a matching <i>admin-c</i> .
<b>-i tc</b>	<b>-i tech-c</b>	NIC handle	Objects with a matching <i>tech-c</i> .
<b>-i zc</b>	<b>-i zone-c</b>	NIC handle	Objects with a matching <i>zone-c</i> .
<b>-i pc</b>	<b>-i ping-hdl</b>	NIC handle	Objects with matching <i>ping-hdl</i>
<b>-i ah</b>	<b>-i author</b>	NIC handle	Objects with matching <i>author</i>
<b>-i pn</b>	<b>-i person</b>	NIC handle	Objects with a matching <i>admin-c</i> , <i>tech-c</i> , <i>zone-c</i> , <i>ping-hdl</i> or <i>author</i> .
<b>-i mb</b>	<b>-i mnt-by</b>	Maintainer name	Objects with a matching <i>mnt-by</i> .
<b>-i ml</b>	<b>-i mnt-lower</b>	Maintainer name	Objects with a matching <i>mnt-lower</i> .
<b>-i mu</b>	<b>-i mnt-routes</b>	Maintainer name	Objects with a matching <i>mnt-routes</i> .
<b>-i mz</b>	<b>-i mnt-ref</b>	Maintainer name	Objects with a matching <i>mnt-ref</i> .
<b>-i md</b>	<b>-i mnt-domains</b>	Maintainer name	Objects with a matching <i>mnt-domains</i> .
<b>-i mr</b>	<b>-i mbrs-by-ref</b>	Maintainer name	Set objects ( <b>as-set</b> , <b>route-set</b> and <b>rtr-set</b> ) with a matching <i>mbrs-by-ref</i> .
<b>-i dt</b>	<b>-i upd-to</b>	Email	<b>mntner</b> objects with a matching <i>upd-to</i> .
<b>-i mn</b>	<b>-i mnt-nfy</b>	Email	<b>mntner</b> objects with a matching <i>mnt-nfy</i> .
<b>-i ny</b>	<b>-i notify</b>	Email	Organisation objects with a matching <i>ref-nfy</i> .
<b>-i rn</b>	<b>-i ref-nfy</b>	Email	Objects with a matching <i>notify</i> .
<b>-i mi</b>	<b>-i mnt-irt</b>	IRT name	<b>inetnum</b> and <b>inet6num</b> objects with a matching <i>mnt-irt</i> .
<b>am</b>	<b>-i abuse-mailbox</b>	Email	Objects with a matching <i>abusemailbox</i> .

Flag	Alt. flag	Lookup key	Objects returned by query
<b>-i ns</b>	<b>-i nserver</b>	Domain name or single address	<b>domain</b> objects with a matching <i>nserver host name part</i> .
<b>-i at</b>	<b>-i auth</b>	PGP key	<b>mntner</b> objects where the <i>auth</i> matches the specified <b>key-cert</b> object.
<b>-i fp</b>	<b>-i fingerpr</b>	Fingerprint	<b>key-cert</b> objects with a matching <i>fingerpr</i> .
<b>-i og</b>	<b>-i org</b>	Organisation ID	Objects with a matching <i>org</i> .
<b>-i iy</b>	<b>-i irt-nfy</b>	Email	<b>irt</b> objects with a matching <i>irt-nfy</i> .
<b>-i la</b>	<b>-i local-as</b>	AS Number	<b>inet-rtr</b> objects with a matching <i>local-as</i> .
<b>-i mo</b>	<b>-i member-of</b>	Set name	Objects with a matching <i>member-of</i> , if their membership claim is validated by the <i>mbrs-by-ref</i> of the set.
<b>-i or</b>	<b>-i origin</b>	AS Number	<b>route</b> and <b>route6</b> objects with a matching <i>origin</i> .

## IP address lookups

Example: **whois -h whois.ripe.net -L 193.0.1.133**  
 Referenced contact objects may also be returned.  
 For the **-x**, **-M**, **-m**, **-L**, **-I** flags below, if an IP address is supplied, **address** and **route** objects are returned. If a reverse DNS zone is supplied, **domain** objects are returned.

Flag	Objects returned by query
<b>-x</b>	All <b>inetnum</b> , <b>inet6num</b> , <b>route</b> , <b>route6</b> or <b>domain</b> objects with an exactly matching prefix or range will be returned.
<b>-M</b>	All more specific <b>inetnum</b> , <b>inet6num</b> , <b>route</b> , <b>route6</b> or <b>domain</b> objects, excluding exact matches.
<b>-m</b>	First level more specific <b>inetnum</b> , <b>inet6num</b> , <b>route</b> , <b>route6</b> or <b>domain</b> objects, excluding exact matches.
<b>-L</b>	All less specific <b>inetnum</b> , <b>inet6num</b> , <b>route</b> , <b>route6</b> or <b>domain</b> objects, including exact matches.
<b>-I</b>	First level less specific <b>inetnum</b> , <b>inet6num</b> , <b>route</b> , <b>route6</b> or <b>domain</b> objects, excluding exact matches.
<b>-d</b>	When <b>-d</b> is used with with the flags above, both <b>address</b> and <b>route</b> object types and <b>domain</b> objects types are returned.
<b>-C</b>	Disables the default return of IRT objects.