

Using Sysinternals WHOIS Client on Windows for AFRINIC RIR Database

Overview [🔗](#)

This document provides a step-by-step guide for installing and using the WHOIS client tool from Sysinternals on a Windows operating system using **Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL)**. The tool enables querying IP prefixes, ASNs, IPv6 addresses, and related objects via the **AFRINIC WHOIS server**.

What is WSL? [🔗](#)

Windows Subsystem for Linux (WSL) is a Windows feature that allows users to run a Linux distribution natively alongside their Windows installation. It is useful for running Linux-based command-line tools, such as `whois`, without the need for a virtual machine or a dual-boot setup.

Prerequisites [🔗](#)

- Windows 10 or later with WSL support
- Internet connection
- Administrator access on your system

Step 1: Install WSL with Ubuntu [🔗](#)

1. Open Command Prompt as Administrator:
 - Click Start, type `cmd`, right-click on Command Prompt, and select Run as administrator.
2. Install WSL and Ubuntu by running:

```
1 wsl --install
```

This command installs WSL and downloads Ubuntu automatically.

3. Restart your computer if prompted.

Step 2: Set Up Ubuntu [🔗](#)

After reboot:

1. Open Windows CMD again and type:

```
1 ubuntu
```

2. The Ubuntu terminal will launch and ask you to create a new UNIX username and password:
 - Enter a username when prompted.
 - Enter and confirm a new password.

Once completed, you'll be logged in to the Ubuntu terminal and ready to proceed.

Step 3: Install the WHOIS Tool [🔗](#)

Once the Ubuntu terminal is ready, run the following commands to update the package list and install the WHOIS tool:

```
1 sudo apt update
2 sudo apt install whois -y
```

Step 4: Run WHOIS Queries [↗](#)

You can now query AFRINIC WHOIS for resource information.

Examples: [↗](#)

Query IPv4 block [↗](#)

```
1 whois -h whois.afrinic.net 196.192.114.0/23
```

Query ASN [↗](#)

```
1 whois -h whois.afrinic.net AS37708
```

Query IPv6 block [↗](#)

```
1 whois -h whois.afrinic.net 2001:43f8:d00::/48
```

Note: Always include `-h whois.afrinic.net` to target AFRINIC's WHOIS server directly.

Notes [↗](#)

- **WHOIS for domain names** (e.g., afrinic.net) works without specifying the host.
- AFRINIC's WHOIS server supports IP prefixes, ASNs, and related queries.

Troubleshooting [↗](#)

- If the WHOIS query returns domain results only: Ensure you specify `-h whois.afrinic.net`.
- If WHOIS is not recognised: Make sure you are inside the Ubuntu terminal (WSL), not Windows CMD.