

How to run your Own / Personal Domain Web WHOIS service in a minute with SpeedyWHOIS

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I've been planning to **run my own domain WHOIS service**, for quite some time and I always postpone or forgot to do it.

If you wonder, why would I need a (personal) web whois service, well it is way easier to use and remember for future use reference if you run it on your own URL, than wasting time in search for a whois service in google and then using some other's service **to get just a simple DOMAIN WHOIS info.**

So back to my post topic, I postponed and postponed to run **my own web whois**, just until yesterday, whether I have remembered about my idea to have my own whois up and running and proceeded with it.

To achieve my goal I checked if there is free software or (open source) software that easily does this. I know I can write one for me from scratch, but since it would have cost me some at least a week of programming and testing and I didn't want to do this way.

To check if someone had already made an **easy to install web whois service**, I looked through in the "ultimate source for free software" **sourceforge.net**

Looking for the "whois web service" keywords, displayed few projects on top. But unfortunately many of the projects sources was not available anymore from <http://sf.net> and the project developers pages.. Thankfully in a while, I found a project called [SpeedyWhois](#), which PHP source was available for download.

With all prior said about project missing sources, Just in case if *SpeedyWhois source* disappears in the future (like it probably) happened with, some of the other *WHOIS web service projects*, I've made [SpeedyWhois mirror for download here](#)

Contrary to my idea that installing the *web whois service* might be a "*pain in the ass*", (like is the case with so many free software php scripts and apps) - the installation went quite smoothly.

To install it I took the following 4 steps:

1. Download the source (zip archive) with wget

```
# cd /var/www/whois-service;
```

```
/var/www/whois-service# wget -q http://www.pc-freak.net/files/speedywhois-0.1.4.zip
```

2. Unarchive it with unzip command

```
/var/www/whois-service# unzip speedywhois-0.1.4.zip
```

```
...
```

3. Set the proper DNS records

My NS are using Godaddy, so I set my desired subdomain record from their *domain name manager*.

4. Edit Apache httpd.conf to create VirtualHost

This step is not mandatory, but I thought it is nice if I put the whois service under a subdomain, so add a **VirtualHost** to my **httpd.conf**

The Virtualhost Apache directives, I used are:

```
ServerAdmin hipo_aT_pc-freak.net
```

```
DocumentRoot /var/www/whois-service
```

```
ServerName whois.pc-freak.net
```

```
<Directory /var/www/whois-service
```

```
AllowOverride All
```

```
Order Allow,Deny
```

```
Allow from All
```

Onwards to take effect of new *Webserver configs*, I did **Apache restart**

```
# /usr/local/etc/rc.d/apache2 restart
```

Further on You can test whois a domain using my new installed *SpeedyWHOIS* - **Web WHOIS service** on <http://whois.pc-freak.net>

Whenever I have some free time, maybe I will work on the code, to try to add support for logging of previous whois requests and posting links pointing to the previous whois done via the web WHOIS service on the main whois page.

One thing that I disliked about how SpeedyWHOIS is written is, if there is no WHOIS information returned for a domain request (e.g.) a:

```
# whois domainname.com
```

returns an empty information, the script doesn't warn with a message *there is no WHOIS data available for this domain* or something.

This is not so important as this kind of behaviour of 'error' handling can easily be changed with minimum changes in the php code.

If you wonder, why do I need the web whois service, the answer is it is way easier to use.

I don't have more time to research a bit further on the *alternative open source web whois services*, so I would be glad to hear from anyone who tested other **web whois service** that is free comes under a *FOSS license*.

In the mean time, I'm sure people with a small internet websites like mine who are looking to run their *OWN (personal) whois service* SpeedyWHOIS does a great job.