

Contact Registration Lifecycle

The contact object lifecycle in the registry system provides a structured approach to managing registrant, administrative, technical, and billing contacts. This document outlines the complete contact lifecycle, its relationship to domain names and nameservers.

In this document, if a status is not clearly labeled as an EPP or RDAP status, it should be assumed the status is an EPP status, and the corresponding RDAP status also applies.

Contact Objects Overview

Contacts in the registry system are independent objects that can be referenced by multiple domain registrations. Each contact has:

1. **Unique Identifier:** A contact ID that serves as a stable reference point
2. **Contact Information:** Name, organization, address, phone, email
3. **Status Values:** EPP and RDAP status values indicating current state
4. **Privacy Settings:** Data disclosure preferences

Contact Lifecycle Phases

Creation Phase

When a contact object is created, it enters the **Creation Phase** with the following status values:

- **EPP Status Values:**
 - `ok` (if no other statuses apply)
 - `linked` (if associated with active domains)
- **RDAP Status Values:**
 - `active` (corresponding to EPP `ok`)
 - `associated` (corresponding to EPP `linked`)

Active Registration Phase

During the **Active Registration Phase**, contact objects may have various status values:

- **Standard Status Values:**
 1. EPP: `ok` (if no other statuses apply)
 2. RDAP: `active`
 3. EPP: `linked` (if referenced by active domains)

4. RDAP: associated
- **Restriction Status Values:**
 1. **Client-settable restrictions:**
 - EPP: clientDeleteProhibited / RDAP: client delete prohibited
 - EPP: clientTransferProhibited / RDAP: client transfer prohibited
 - EPP: clientUpdateProhibited / RDAP: client update prohibited
 2. **Server-settable restrictions:**
 - EPP: serverDeleteProhibited / RDAP: server delete prohibited
 - EPP: serverTransferProhibited / RDAP: server transfer prohibited
 - EPP: serverUpdateProhibited / RDAP: server update prohibited

Transfer Process

Unlike domains, contacts can be transferred independently:

1. **Transfer Request:**
 - Gaining registrar initiates transfer
 - Contact enters pendingTransfer status:
 - EPP: pendingTransfer
 - RDAP: pending transfer
2. **Transfer Resolution:**
 - **Approval:** Contact sponsorship changes to gaining registrar
 - **Rejection:** Contact remains with current registrar
 - **Auto-Approval:** Occurs after 5 days if no action taken
3. **Post-Transfer:**
 - Status returns to previous values minus pendingTransfer
 - lastTransferTime is updated

Deletion Process

Contact deletion follows a specific process:

1. **Deletion Request Check:**
 - **If Contact is Referenced by Domains:**
 - EPP: linked / RDAP: associated prevents deletion
 - Deletion is rejected with appropriate error message
 - **If Contact Has Prohibition Statuses:**

- Deletion is rejected if `clientDeleteProhibited` or `serverDeleteProhibited` is present
- **If Contact is Unreferenced and Has No Prohibitions:**
 - Deletion is permitted

Relationship with Domain Lifecycle

Contacts have a direct relationship with domains but no direct relationship with nameservers:

1. **Domain Creation Impact:**
 - Each domain requires at least a registrant contact
 - Administrative, technical, and billing contacts may be optional or required based on policy
 - Upon domain creation, all referenced contacts receive `linked` status
2. **Domain Transfer Impact:**
 - Domain transfers do not affect contact object sponsorship
 - Contacts remain with their original registrar even when domains transfer
 - New registrar gets authorization to use existing contacts or creates new ones
3. **Domain Deletion Impact:**
 - When a domain is deleted, references to contacts are removed
 - Contact `linked` status is removed if no other domains reference the contact

Implementation in RDAP and EPP

The registry system provides consistent access to contact information:

- **EPP:** Contacts are managed through standard EPP commands with full status tracking
- **RDAP:** Contact information is accessible through the domain endpoint with appropriate privacy filtering

The system ensures synchronization between EPP and RDAP status values, maintaining a consistent representation of contact state regardless of query protocol.

Privacy Considerations

The registry implements robust privacy protections for contact data:

1. **Data Disclosure Control:**
 - Contacts can specify which fields are publicly viewable
 - Registry policies may enforce minimum disclosure requirements
2. **RDAP Redaction:**
 - Sensitive data may be redacted in RDAP responses
 - Access to full data may require authentication

3. **Data Protection Compliance:**

- Contact lifecycle management complies with relevant privacy regulations
- Data retention policies are applied to deleted contacts