

WHOIS

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What is WHOIS?

Using WHOIS you can find out the name of a computer account owner at RIT by supplying an account name (username). You can also find out the username for an RIT person by supplying a last name. WHOIS provides information about a computer account including the status (student, faculty or staff) and department for the person.

Why use WHOIS?

Each person that uses the RIT computer system has an account identified by a username. A student's username is a combination of three initials and four digits. For faculty and staff, the username is three initials followed by a three-letter department code. You use WHOIS to determine the username of a student, faculty or staff member. WHOIS can also be used to determine the last name and department of a user.

How to get Help?

To learn more about WHOIS before you begin using it, type **HELP WHOIS** at a VMS (\$) prompt or from the login menu, select **HELP** and type **WHOIS** at the `Topic?` prompt. For personal help, see the HelpDesk information at the end of this document.

Using WHOIS to find a person's name from a username

WHOIS lets you find a person's last name from a username. To use WHOIS, select WHOIS from the menu. Supply the username for the account you wish to find out about. From the VMS (\$) prompt, type:

```
$ WHOIS USERNAME
```

For example, to find out who is associated with the account `stuacc`, type:

```
$ whois stuacc
```

The computer responds:

```
Username:      STUACC
UIC:          [030063,000004]
Owner:        ITS TEST
Group:        S755ACC
Type:         Student
Default Disk: USER34:
Department:   ITS
VMS Mail Name: Test Account
```

Using WHOIS to find a username from a person's name

To use WHOIS, select WHOIS from the menu. From the VMS prompt, you find the username for a person by using WHOIS with the qualifier /NAME and the last name and initial(s) if known:

\$ WHOIS/NAME LASTNAME FM

Example:

```
$ whois/name smith jj  
Username:      JJS9617  
UIC:          [026691,001424]  
Owner:        J.J. Smith  
Group:        S703IPK  
Type:         Student  
Default Disk: USER20  
Department:   CAST - Packaging Science  
VMS Mail Name:
```

Note: If the last name includes space, it must be enclosed in double quotes. For example: "O Reilly"

Contacting the ITS HelpDesk

Phone Support: (585) 475-HELP or 475-2810 (TTY)

Email: helpdesk@rit.edu

Web Address: <https://www.rit.edu/its/help/>

In Person: Gannett Building, Room 7B-1113

Contacting the Resnet (Residential Computing) HelpDesk

Phone Support: (585) 475-2600 or 475-4927 (TTY)

Email: resnet@rit.edu

Web Address: <https://www.rit.edu/its/services/resnet/>

In Person: Nathaniel Rochester Hall (Building 43), Room 1034

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Designed and produced by the Customer Support (CS) department of the Information & Technology Services (ITS) division at Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), 1 Lomb Memorial Drive, Rochester, NY 14623, <http://www.rit.edu>

Revision history:
Last Revised: 6/5/2003