



2019

# PRACTICAL GUIDE

Fight against  
**IDENTITY  
THEFT**

*afnic*



## Identity theft, a crime widespread on the web!

Since 2017, Afnic has identified 102 complaints of identity theft and has already received 14 complaints since the beginning of 2019.

Identity theft is punishable as a criminal offence.

Article 226-4-1 of the French Criminal Code of Law provides that "Appropriating the identity of a third party or using one or more data of any kind serving to identify that party in order to disturb their quiet enjoyment or that of others, belittle their honour or reputation, is punishable by one year's imprisonment and a fine of € 15,000.

The offense is subject to the same penalties when committed on an online public communication network"

In other words, when a person registers a domain name under the identity of an individual third party in order to carry out illegal online activities.

# 1 HOW TO KNOW WHETHER YOUR IDENTITY HAS BEEN ILLEGALLY APPROPRIATED ("SPOOFED") ?

Unfortunately, the information sometimes comes as a shock. For example, victims may receive:

- A complaint, or a summons, served by bailiff;
- A registered letter from a law firm;
- A notification to open a SYRELI or EXPERT ADR case file.

# 2 SOME EXAMPLES OF IDENTITY THEFT:

Most often the perpetrators of this kind of crime use a domain name for illegal business via a website:

- By reproducing an E-commerce website to deceive the consumer (counterfeiting);
- By selling illegal products (medicines, cigarettes etc.);
- By collecting internet users' personal data (bank details, contact details) using techniques of the "phishing" type;
- By offering services contrary to public order.

The perpetrators of these crimes hide behind illegally appropriated identities in order to do so.

# 3 WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU REALIZE YOUR IDENTITY HAS BEEN ILLEGALLY APPROPRIATED?

**If a domain name has been registered in your name without your knowledge to commit illegal acts**

or

**an ill-intentioned person has used your contact information to register a domain name**

Afnic has set up a two-step procedure to combat personal identity theft:



**Step #1 « Request to access your information in the Whois database » (optional step but recommended): it allows you to know which domain name(s) has/have been registered using your personal information.**

This request is made via the specific form available on our website under « Actions and procedures ».

Upon receipt of this request, Afnic provides you as soon as possible with the list of domain names registered under identifiers (called NIC-HANDLE) using your personal data.

This allows you to lodge a complaint with the nearest police station or gendarmerie, taking care to cite all the concerned domain names, with the associated NIC-HANDLES.



**TIP!**

When filing a complaint, remember to submit the list of domain names and identifiers provided by Afnic.

Directly download the form by clicking hereunder:



**Step #2 « Request to delete illegally appropriated information in the Whois database »:** this step allows you to remove the domain name(s) registered under identifiers (called NIC HANDLES) containing your illegally appropriated data.

This request is made via the specific form available on our website under "Action and procedures".

Your request must be accompanied by a complaint for identity theft.

Upon receipt of this request, Afnic will act as soon as possible so that the Registrar in charge of the concerned domain name(s) deletes your personal data.



Directly download the form by clicking hereunder:



# 4

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### Contact Afnic



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### Read our collection

- [Practical Guide for domain name holders](#)
- [Practical Guide for rights holders](#)

### About Afnic:

Afnic (the French Network Information Centre) is the Registry for the .fr (France), .re (Reunion Island), .yt (Mayotte), .wf (Wallis and Futuna), .tf (French Southern Territories), .pm (Saint-Pierre and Miquelon).

Afnic comprises public and private stakeholders, including government authorities, users, and Internet service providers (Registrars). It is a non-profit organisation. Afnic is also positioned as a provider of technical solutions and services for registries and registrars.