2022

Block DNS over HTTPS (DoH), using pfsense



https://github.com/jpgpi250 5-8-2022

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1. About this manual.

If you are reading this document, using Adobe Reader, you may click on a hyperlink to content in this document. Use the combination <Alt> <left arrow> to return to the previous location.

"Back" and "Forward" buttons can also be added to the toolbar. If you right-click on the tool bar, under "Page Navigation", they are referred to as "Previous View" and "Next View".

This document is hosted on GitHub, you can open the document (pdf), using this <u>link</u>.

2. DoH lists.

DNS over HTTPS (DoH) is a protocol for performing remote <u>Domain Name System</u> (DNS) resolution via the <u>HTTPS</u> protocol. You can find a lot of detail on <u>wikipedia</u>.

This document describes a method to prevent (block) clients on your network to use DoH.

In short, we will simply block all the IP's of DoH DNS servers on the firewall. Since DoH servers come and go all the time, it is hard to keep track of all DoH servers. Several contributers dedicate time to creating lists with known DoH servers, unfortunately, most of these lists are incomplete or not maintained.

I've searched and found several lists, containing references to DoH servers:

- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/bambenek/block-doh/master/doh-hosts.txt
- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Sekhan/TheGreatWall/master/TheGreatWall.txt
- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/oneoffdallas/dohservers/master/list.txt
- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/vysecurity/DoH-Servers/master/README.md
- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/tjay/DoH-List/master/hosts
- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/flo-wer/doh-list/master/domains.txt
- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/wiki/curl/curl/DNS-over-HTTPS.md
- https://download.dnscrypt.info/dnscrypt-resolvers/json/public-resolvers.json
- https://dtm.uk/dns-over-https-doh-servers
- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Jigsaw-Code/Intra/master/Android/app/src/main/res/values/servers.xml
- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/dibdot/DoH-IP-blocklists/master/doh-ipv4.txt
- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/dibdot/DoH-IP-blocklists/master/doh-ipv6.txt
- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/crypt0rr/public-doh-servers/main/dns.list
- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/xorguy/block-dot-doh/main/Lists/SDNS-Domains.list
- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/jbaggs/doh-intel/master/doh.intel
- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/mili-tan/ArashiDNS.Dekunua/main/DoH.list

Feel free to report any other list you find.

The above lists are used to build new lists, containing IP adresses, that can be used on a firewall. This process runs daily, the resulting github files will be updated, as soon as a change is detected.

This document describes what you need to do to use the IP lists on pfsense. If your firewall doesn't support this, you might want to add the DoH <u>response policy zone</u> (unbound, bind, knot resolver, ...).

3. Pfsense configuration.

There are different ways to use the IP block lists and IP exceptions lists. Any solution will do, as long as the result is DoH being blocked, except for the <u>specific devices</u> in the <u>exception rules</u>.

I use floating rules for all LAN interfaces, except the interface I'm using in my test environment. I don't want to define additional rules on the WAN interface, to allow access to all DoH IPs on the test interface, hence targeting the LAN interface. This document describes the approach for a single LAN interface.

Defining the firewall aliases URLs.

The <u>Github repository</u> contains two relevant files, we need to create URL aliases for each list. The lists (how to use them will be explained later):

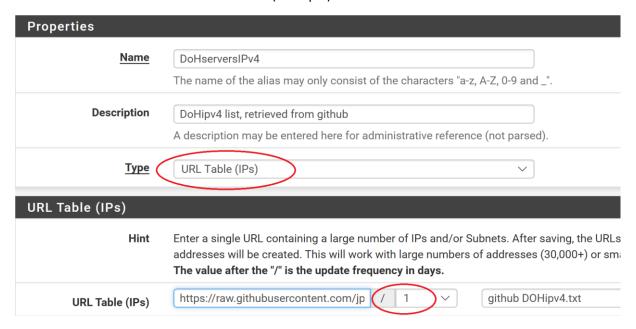
- DOHipv4.txt: This list contains the IPv4 addresses of al DoH servers found in the lists.
- DOHipv6.txt: This list contains the IPv6 addresses of al DoH servers found in the lists.

Goto 'Firewall / Aliases / URL's' and click 'Add'

Create all (two) the aliases (one if you're not using IPv6), using the data from the table, ensure type 'URL Table (IPs)' is selected, set the update frequency to '1'. Feel free to choose a name, description, the document will use the names from the table.

Name	URL		
DoHserversIPv4	https://raw.githubusercontent.com/jpgpi250/piholemanual/master/DOHipv4.txt		
DoHserversIPv6	https://raw.githubusercontent.com/jpgpi250/piholemanual/master/DOHipv6.txt		

The result should look like this (example):

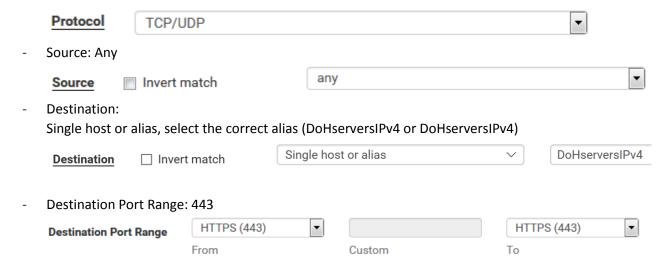


2. Defining the DoH block rules.

IPv4

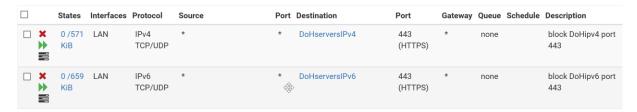
Goto 'Firewall / Rules / WAN' and click 'Add (rule to the top of the list) Action: Block Action Block Select Quick Quick Apply the action immediately on match. Interface: LAN Interface LAN • Address Family: Select the correct Address family (list IPv4 or IPv6) Address Family

Protocol: TCP/UDP



Optionally, enable logging and enter a comment.

You should now have 2 rules (if you're using IPv6), the result should look like this (I have logging enabled, hence the extra icon):



If you have a firewall with multiple LAN ports, you could choose to use floating rules, allowing a specific adapter to use DoH (for test purposes).

A floating rule has an additional field.

Direction: any



A floating rule configuration would look like this (the WAN and OPT2 adapter have been excluded from the rule, this allows me to test DoH on a specific network segment):



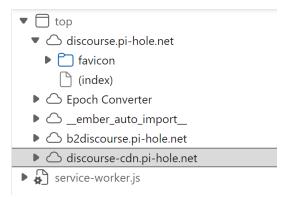
3. Defining the exception aliases.

The entries on the list are now blocked, using the above rules. Unfortunately the IP for the domain doh1.b-cdn.net (example) is the same as the IP for discourse-cdn.pi-hole.net. This will break the browsing experience. We need to ensure browsers can load pages that use content from this IP, whithout simply removing the entry from the list.

Examples of web pages that require an exception:

- discourse.pi-hole.net
- docs.pi-hole.net
- weboost.com

Looking at, for example discourse.pi-hole.net, it's clear the site uses content from discourse-cdn.pi-hole.net, which is behind the same IP as doh1.b-cdn.net.



After defining the above block rules, browsing to discourse.pi-hole.net (the pi-hole forum), the following firewall entries will show up in the log (if logging is enabled).

Last 100 Firewall Log Entries. (Maximum 100) Pause ■						
Action	Time	Interface	Source	Destination	Protocol	
×	Aug 5 10:18:46	LAN	192.168.2.228:2913	84.17.46.53:443	TCP:S	
×	Aug 5 10:18:46	LAN	192.168.2.228:2912	84.17.46.53:443	TCP:S	

The IP addresses for doh1.b-cdn.net needs to be included (user responibility) in the aliases DOHserverExceptionsIPv4 and DOHserverExceptionsIPv6.

The idea is to use these aliases (exceptions) to allow **specific devices** to bypass the DoH block rules, defined in the previous section. This disables DoH protection, using the firewall rules, for the specific devices only.

Previous versions of this manual used predefined exception lists, hosted on GitHub. This method has been **deprecated**, due to the excessive growth of these lists, as a result of <u>issues</u>.

Lager environments may be using URL aliases to achieve this, in small environments, the easiest way to maintain aliases with the IPs of specific devices and exceptions, is to create IP aliases:

Goto 'Firewall / Aliases / IP' and click 'Add'

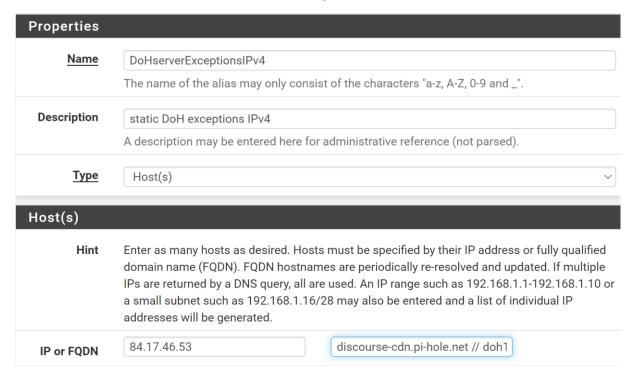
Create all (four) the aliases, using the data from the table, ensure type 'Host(s)' is selected. Feel free to choose a name, description, the document will use the names from the table.

Name	Description	
DoHserverExceptionsIPv4	static DoH exceptions IPv4	
DoHserverExceptionsIPv6	static DoH exceptions Ipv6	
DoHclientExceptionsIPv4	IPv4 hosts, allowed to bypass specific DoH IPv4 entries	
DoHclientExceptionsIPv6	IPv6 hosts, allowed to bypass specific DoH IPv6 entries	

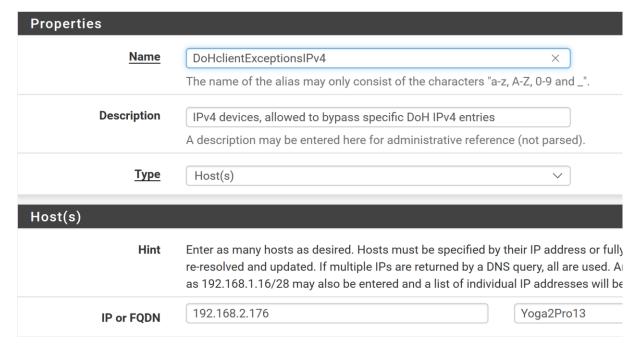
Add IP addresses and descriptions as needed.

Examples of the result:

- IPv4 address of DoH server that should be unblocked for specific clients (evidently, you need to add additional IP's that need unblocking – maintain the list)



- IPv4 address of client that should be allowed to use the exception alias (add clients as required).



- Example of an IPv4 range
- If you will be using IP host(s) and IP network(s), you'll need to create **separate** aliases and rules, pfsense aliases don't allow mixing hosts and networks in the same alias!

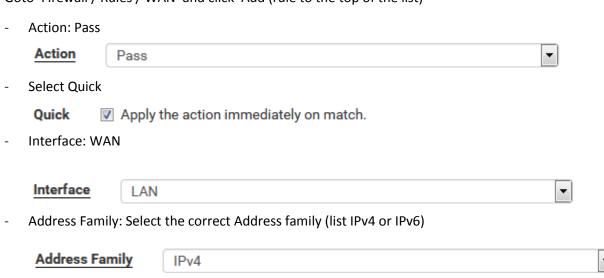
Properties Name DoHcidrExceptionsIPv4 The name of the alias may only consist of the characters "a-z, A-Z, 0-9 and _". Description static DoH exceptions IPv4 (CIDR) A description may be entered here for administrative reference (not parsed). Type Network(s) Network(s) Hint Networks are specified in CIDR format. Select the CIDR mask that pertains to each entry. /128 specifies a single IPv6 host, /24 specifies 255.255.25.0, /64 specifies a normal IPv (FQDNs) may also be specified, using a /32 mask for IPv4 or /128 for IPv6. An IP range s may also be entered and a list of CIDR networks will be derived to fill the range. 103.21.244.0 https://www.cloudflare.com/ips/ **Network or FQDN**

<u>poisonsnak</u> pointed out <u>here</u> he has defined all the <u>cloudflare address ranges</u> as an exception, not recommended, but I understand the idea (peace of mind) behind the decision.

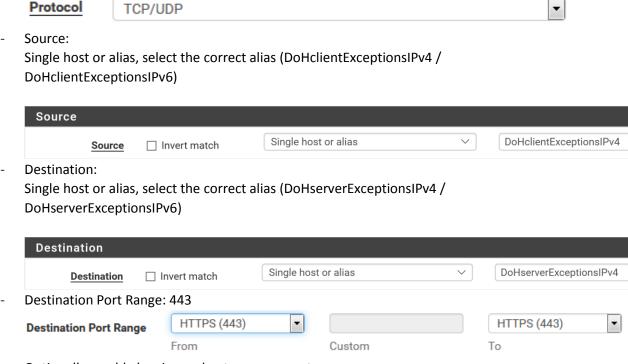
4. Defining the exception rules.

Create the firewall rules to allow specific devices to connect to specific IP's, port 443 (example dns.cloudflare.com, see above).

Goto 'Firewall / Rules / WAN' and click 'Add (rule to the top of the list)

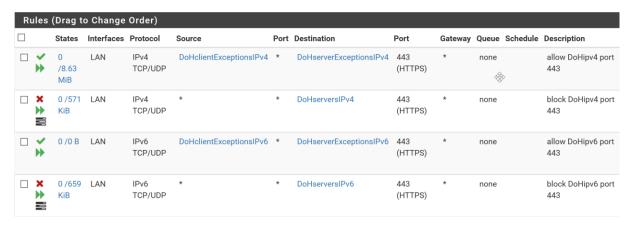


Protocol: TCP/UDP



Optionally, enable logging and enter a comment.

You should now have 4 rules, 2 allow rules, 2 block rules (if you're using IPv6). You can change the order of the rules, by dragging the rule to the desired position (don't forget to save, after changing the order). The result should look like this:



Again, if you have a firewall with multiple LAN ports, you could choose to use floating rules.

4. List Updates.

The lists are generated and pushed to GitHub (if there are changes) daily at 04:30 UTC, pfsense refreshes the content of URL Table IPs aliases, using a cron job.

I have modified this cron job, this to ensure pfsense will be using the updated lists at the beginning of the workday.



Optionally, install the cron package (System / Package Manager) to change the cron job.

It's also possible to create a script to force update the lists.

Create a script /root/updatelists.sh and make it executable, content:

```
/usr/bin/nice -n20 /etc/rc.update_urltables now forceupdate
```

Selecting option 8 (Shell) on the pfsense console will allow you to execute:

```
./updatelists.sh
```

You can verify the successful execution, using the web interface (Status / System Logs / System / General), you will see something like this (using local copy of the lists).

Jun 16 10:06:47	php-cgi	rc.update_urltables: /etc/rc.update_urltables: Updated DOHipv6 content from http://192.168.2.57/DOHservers/DOHipv6.txt: no changes.
Jun 16 10:06:47	php-cgi	rc.update_urltables: /etc/rc.update_urltables: Updated DOHipv4 content from http://192.168.2.57/DOHservers/DOHipv4.txt: no changes.

5. Sqlite3 database.

The lists are generated, using dig replies in my region (Lat.Long 51.2211097,4.3997081). Unfortunately, some domains (example dns.nextdns.io) resolve into a region dependent IP address. The IP(s) for nextdns.io, retrieved in my region are thus blocked, but these addresses may not block DOH in your region. To overcome this problem, and allow users to generate localized DOH block lists, I have created a <u>database</u>, containing the information, used to generate the IP lists.

You might want to read section 6 (Network control, using DNS entries). It also contains information regarding localized replies for the domains mask.apple-dns.net and mask-t.appledns.net. The files in the GitHub repository (DOHipv4.txt and DOHipv6.txt only contain relay entries for my region (Lat.Long 51.2211097,4.3997081).

The database can be accessed, using *sqlite3* commands (OR *pihole-FTL sqlite3*), to make life easier, take a look at my <u>pi-hole manual</u>, section 26/3 (Browsing the FTL database). You'll need to make some changes in /var/www/html/phpliteadmin.config.php, this to include the new database. A script to install this on <u>Raspberry Pi OS Lite</u> can be found <u>here</u>.

1. Tables

- info:

- version: If you're going to write a script to build your own lists, ensure to verify the database version. The version may change, as I'm still trying to improve the quality of the resulting lists.
- latest_timestamp: used to identify entries that are added or updated during the last run (daily).
- **urllist**: contains the url of the source lists, see <u>DOH lists</u>. Every list has an id, used to identify the list. The timestamp indicates when the last change to the list was detected. A 'null' value indicates there has been no change since the list was added.

- **domainlist**: contains all of the domains found in all of the lists, which implies there are duplicates. Example: the domain "dns.adguard.com" is found in 11 lists, thus has 11 domainlists entries. See guery examples to retrieve this info.
- 1 https://raw.githubusercontent.com/Sekhan/TheGreatWall/master/TheGreatWall.txt|dns.adguard.com
- https://raw.qithubusercontent.com/oneoffdallas/dohservers/master/list.txt|dns.adquard.com
 - https://raw.githubusercontent.com/flo-wer/doh-list/master/domains.txt|dns.adguard.com
- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/wiki/curl/curl/DNS-over-HTTPS.md|dns.adguard.com
- https://download.dnscrypt.info/dnscrypt-resolvers/json/public-resolvers.json|dns.adquard.com
- https://raw.githubusercontent.com/dibdot/DoH-IP-blocklists/master/doh-ipv4.txt|dns.adguard.com
- https://raw.qithubusercontent.com/dibdot/DoH-IP-blocklists/master/doh-ipv6.txt|dns.adquard.com

However, the unique id will be equal for all entries.

Every entry also has a timestamp, which is updated, whenever the lists are processed (daily). If a domain is no longer on a source list, the timestamp will NOT be updated.

Several methods are used to extract the domains from the source lists (different format such as plain text, csv, html, json, ...). As a result, some domains need to be excluded from the list. Example: "github.com" is mentioned on several html pages, this domain will thus be excluded (not added to the database). Another example: "meganerd.nl" is a valid domain, the DOH server ("chewbacca.meganerd.nl", according to the lists) has a different IP address. Thus, "meganerd.nl" is excluded (not added to the database), "chewbacca.meganerd.nl" is included.

- cnameinfo: every unique domain entry is processed (dig), this to retrieve IP addresses. Some of the list entries are actually CNAMEs. Example: the lists contain an entry "adblock.lux1.dns.nixnet.xyz". This is actually a cname for "lux1.nixnet.xyz". This information is stored in the cnameinfo table. Be aware the cnameinfo table does NOT contain the CNAME(s), only the relevant info, as a result from the DNS query.

The domainlist_id points to the entry in the domainlist table.

The timestamp is updated every time the lists are processed (daily). If a DNS query no longer returns this info, the timestamp will NOT be updated.

2. Query examples

I'm NOT a database expert, so there may be room for improvement... Some examples, I use, to get relevant information from the database. The examples are formatted to be used in a bash script (#!/bin/bash).

You need to change the location of the database to reflect the actual location.

Get last detected list change date ('null' implies no change since the list was first added)

Get list(s) that contain specific domain:

```
sqlite3 /home/pi/DOH/sqlite3/DOH.db \
"SELECT address, domain FROM 'domainlist' \
```

```
INNER JOIN 'urllist' ON urllist.id = domainlist.urllist_id \
WHERE domainlist.domain = 'dns.adguard.com';"
```

Get domains for a specific CNAMEinfo entry

```
sqlite3 /home/pi/DOH/sqlite3/DOH.db \
    "SELECT domain, urllist_id, cname_domain, unique_id FROM 'cnameinfo' \
    JOIN 'domainlist' ON domainlist_id = domainlist.unique_id \
    WHERE cnameinfo.cname_domain = 'lux1.nixnet.xyz.';"
```

- Get unique domains

```
sqlite3 /home/pi/DOH/sqlite3/DOH.db \
"SELECT DISTINCT domain FROM 'domainlist';"
```

OR, using the 'latest_timestamp' value (only list the domains detected in the last version of the source lists):

```
sudo sqlite3 /home/pi/DOH/sqlite3/DOH.db \
"SELECT DISTINCT domain FROM 'domainlist' \
WHERE domainlist.timestamp = \
(SELECT value FROM info \
WHERE property = 'latest timestamp');"
```

This query result can be used to generate a custom pi-hole list. Redirect the output to a file, a new local pi-hole blocklist, thus:

```
sudo sqlite3 /home/pi/DOH/sqlite3/DOH.db \
"SELECT DISTINCT domain FROM 'domainlist' \
WHERE domainlist.timestamp = \
(SELECT value FROM info \
WHERE property = 'latest_timestamp');" \
| sudo tee /var/www/html /DOHdomains.txt
```

Add a local pi-hole list (Group Management / Adlists), do NOT include the quotes:

```
- "http://localhost/DOHdomains.txt"
OR
```

- "file:///var/www/html/DOHdomains.txt"

Pi-hole users can check if any of their clients has submitted a DNS query to pi-hole by executing the following query, **you don't have to use the proposed blocklist to run this query**:

```
sqlite3 "/home/pi/DOH/sqlite3/DOH.db" \
    "ATTACH database '/etc/pihole/pihole-FTL.db' as 'FTLdb'; \
    SELECT DISTINCT domainlist.domain, queries.client \
    FROM domainlist \
```

JOIN FTLdb.queries ON domainlist.domain = queries.domain;"

Ideally, this would return an empty result. I've been testing a lot on both my pi and workstation, my (partial) result looks like this:

adblock.lux1.dns.nixnet.xyz|127.0.0.1 adblock.lux1.dns.nixnet.xyz|192.168.2.228 chewbacca.meganerd.nl|127.0.0.1 chewbacca.meganerd.nl|192.168.2.227 doh.captnemo.in|127.0.0.1 doh.captnemo.in|192.168.2.228 lux1.nixnet.xyz|127.0.0.1

- Get unique domains, display all fields

```
sqlite3 /home/pi/DOH/sqlite3/DOH.db \
"SELECT * FROM 'domainlist' group by domain;"
```

- Get unique domains, display all fields, order by specific field

```
sqlite3 /home/pi/DOH/sqlite3/DOH.db \
"SELECT * FROM 'domainlist' \
    GROUP BY domain \
    ORDER BY unique_id;"
```

6. Network control, using DNS entries.

Unfortunately, some lists already contain entries for domains that should NOT be blocked. These domains are used for controlling the use of DoH on a network level. If the DNS queries are not answered correctly (NXDOMAIN), blocking them will cause delays.

1. Firefox canary domain.

Firefox has provided a method to prevent the browser from using DoH.

In order to ensure the browser doesn't use DoH, you should ensure the DNS query for the domain *use-application-dns.net* is answered with NXDOMAIN.

In the latest pi-hole version, the reply for this domain is hardcoded, so no additional action is needed.

If you don't use pi-hole and the DNS reply for this domain (dig use-application-dns.net) isn't NXDOMAIN, you can:

- Use <u>dnsmasq</u> to ensure the query is answered correctly, by adding a dnsmasq configuration line:

 Use <u>unbound</u> to ensure the query is answered correctly, by adding unbound configuration lines:

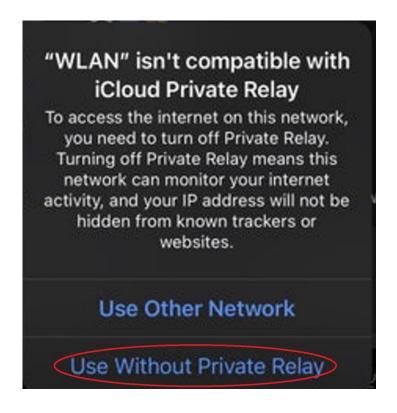
server:

local-zone: "use-application-dns.net." always_nxdomain

2. iCloud Private Relay.

Apple uses an implementation of oDOH (<u>oblivious DoH</u>), this to increase privacy. When enabled (default), the system no longer uses the configured DNS server(s), provided by DHCP. Apple has provided a <u>method</u> to ensure users get a warning. The user than needs to disable the use of iCloud Private Network for the network he is connected to.

Example, warning for WLAN (NXDOMAIN reply for the domain(s) received), the user needs to select "Use without Private Relay", this to avoid using oDoH (icloud Private Relay).



In order to ensure the system does warn the user about iCloud Private Relay(s) (oDoH), you should ensure the DNS queries for the domains *mask.apple-dns.net* and *mask-t.appledns.net* are answered with NXDOMAIN.

In the latest pi-hole version, the reply for these domains is hardcoded, so no additional action is needed.

If you don't use pi-hole and the DNS reply for these domains isn't NXDOMAIN, you can:

- Use <u>dnsmasq</u> to ensure the queries are answered correctly, by adding dnsmasq configuration lines:

```
server=/mask.icloud.com/
server=/mask-h2.icloud.com/
```

- Use <u>unbound</u> to ensure the queries are answered correctly, by adding unbound configuration lines:

server:

local-zone: " mask.icloud.com." always_nxdomain

local-zone: " mask-h2.icloud.com." always_nxdomain

The normal response (not yet changed to NXDOMAIN) for the above domains is localized, the response contains the addresses of the local available relays, the system will use, different for each region. If you want to ensure the relays in your region are blocked, using the firewall rules, you need to generate the IP lists yourself, using the <u>database</u>, see section 5 (Sqlite3 database). A list of all relays can be found here.

7. DoH response policy zone.

Not all firewalls are capable of implementing this. To provide protection for (o)DoH, the domains are added to the <u>rpz file</u>, can be used to ensure unbound (bind and knot resolver also support this – not tested) returns an appropriate response for these domains. More on this in this <u>document</u>.

It may be wise to implement the RPZ feature, even if your firewall is configured as described in this document. You probably already have created the exception aliases and rules, this to ensure the websites, using resources from the same IP as a known DoH server, are accessible. A client / app may be attempting to use DoH, due to the exceptions this may work. The domain entry in the RPZ provides protection, if the client uses your DNS server to get the IP for the DoH server.

The unbound documentation for response policy zones can be found here.

8. Change Log.

16-06-2020

- Initial release.

11-07-2020

- Added list from Alphabet's Intra app, ref GitHub issue 4.

17-01-2021

- Entries from the existing (previous version) lists are only kept if the IP can be resolved, using the OpenDNS resolvers.

09-02-2021

- Removed list from heuristicsecurity.com (https://heuristicsecurity.com/dohservers.txt),
 this URL is redericted to a non-DoH related page.
- Added Lists from https://github.com/dibdot/DoH-IP-blocklists, ref GitHub issue 8.

28-02-2021

- Added the database to the GitHub repository.

01-03-2021

- Added the 'latest_timestamp' property (info table).
- Added query example to use the 'latest_timestamp' value.
- Additional info for pi-hole users.

29-03-2021

- Added 'timestamp' field to 'urllist' table, this to identify unmaintained lists. A 'null' value indicates the list hasn't changed, since the list was added.
- Added query example to show human readable list change date.
- Increased database version (new field).

10-04-2021

Increased database version (3).

20-09-2021

- Added List https://raw.githubusercontent.com/crypt0rr/public-doh-servers/main/dns.list.

01-10-2021

- Added section Network control, using DNS entries.

21-12-2021

- Removed 0.0.0.0 and :: entries (return value for dns.dnsoverhttps.net).
- Added automatic cleanup of database cnameinfo entries.

02-01-2022

- Added section <u>DoH response policy zone</u>.
- Daily updated <u>DOH.rpz</u> on <u>Github</u>.

02-08-2022

- Added new lists:
 - https://raw.githubusercontent.com/xorguy/block-dot-doh/main/Lists/SDNS-Domains.list
 - https://raw.githubusercontent.com/jbaggs/doh-intel/master/doh.intel
 - https://raw.githubusercontent.com/mili-tan/ArashiDNS.Dekunua/main/DoH.list

05-08-2022

- Database version 4, the exceptions table has been removed.

- The exceptions files will no longer be updated, it is the users responsibility to maintain the exception aliases. This is due to the ever growing list of exceptions, as a result of issues. The exception files are considered **decrepated**, but will remain on GitHub, to prevent problems with older implementations.
- Added instructions and examples to add and maintain user exception aliases.