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Find the DNS Authority Record for a DNS Domain (SOA)

Posted by [Vivek Gite](#) <vivek@nixcraft.com>

Q.How do I find out the DNS authority record (SOA) for any DNS domain under UNIX / Linux shell?

A. You can easily find out (SOA) start of authority record using command such as dig or host under UNIX and Linux like operating systems. SOA specifies authoritative information about a DNS zone, including the primary name server, the email of the domain administrator, the domain serial number, and several timers relating to refreshing the zone.



[1]

Display SOA using **host** command

```
$ host -t soa {domain.com}
$ host -t soa cyberciti.com
```

Sample output:

```
cyberciti.com has SOA record ns1.nixcraft.net. vivek.nixcraft.com. 2009012202 10800 3600 60
```

Display SOA using **dig** command

```
$ dig SOA {domain.com}
$ dig SOA cyberciti.com
```

Sample output:

```
; <<>> DiG 9.5.0-P2 <<>> SOA cyberciti.com
;; global options:  printcmd
;; Got answer:
;; ->>HEADER<<- opcode: QUERY, status: NOERROR, id: 52962
;; flags: qr rd ra; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 1, AUTHORITY: 3, ADDITIONAL: 3

;; QUESTION SECTION:
;cyberciti.com.      IN SOA

;; ANSWER SECTION:
cyberciti.com.  10518 IN SOA ns1.nixcraft.net. vivek.nixcraft.com. 2009012202 10800 3600 60

;; AUTHORITY SECTION:
cyberciti.com.  1088 IN NS ns2.nixcraft.net.
cyberciti.com.  1088 IN NS ns1.nixcraft.net.
cyberciti.com.  1088 IN NS ns3.nixcraft.net.

;; ADDITIONAL SECTION:
ns3.nixcraft.net. 63071 IN A 208.43.78.162
ns1.nixcraft.net. 156291 IN A 208.43.138.52
ns2.nixcraft.net. 156291 IN A 75.126.168.152

;; Query time: 226 msec
;; SERVER: 127.0.0.1#53(127.0.0.1)
;; WHEN: Thu Feb 5 11:44:40 2009
;; MSG SIZE rcvd: 196
```

Replace cyberciti.com with your actual domain name for which you are trying to locate the DNS Authority.

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