

Table Of Contents

Table Of Contents 1

Install dnstop under FreeBSD 2

How do I monitor DNS server stats in real time? 2

[Home](#) > [Faq](#) > [FreeBSD](#)

FreeBSD dnstop: Monitor and Display DNS Server Traffic On Your Network

Posted by [Vivek Gite](#) <vivek@nixcraft.com>**Q.** How do I monitor my BIND dns server traffic on my network under FreeBSD operating systems?

A. You can display various tables of DNS traffic on your network using dnstop. dnstop is a small tool to listen on device or to parse the file savefile and collect and print statistics on the local network's DNS traffic. You must have read access to /dev/bpf*.

Install dnstop under FreeBSD

Type the following commands

```
# portsnap fetch update
# cd /usr/ports/dns/dnstop/
# make install clean
```

How do I monitor DNS server stats in real time?

Simply type the dnstop as follows:

```
# dnstop {interface-name}
# dnstop em0
# dnstop fxp0
```

```
0 new queries, 1008 total queries

Sources                count      %
-----
67.210.12.157          193       19.1
67.210.12.148           41         4.1
67.210.12.145           34         3.4
67.210.12.112           21         2.1
67.210.4.130            21         2.1
67.210.12.106           20         2.0
67.210.12.115           20         2.0
67.210.12.110           20         2.0
67.210.12.103           20         2.0
131.176.107.4            6          0.6
85.223.100.2             6          0.6
168.95.1.70             6          0.6
87.194.0.66             5          0.5
85.37.17.43             5          0.5
193.95.67.19            4          0.4
130.234.5.30            4          0.4
200.201.166.166         4          0.4
```

(Fig.01: dnstop in action)

To exit the program press ^X (CTRL + X). To reset the counters hit CTRL+R. You can try following keys to view different data while running dnstop:

- **s** : display the source address table
- **d** : display the destination address table
- **t** : display the breakdown of query types seen
- **o** : display the breakdown of opcodes seen

For further information read dnstop man page:

```
$ man dnstop
```

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