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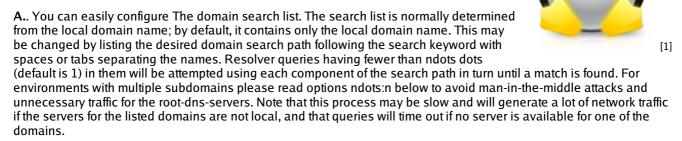
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Configure Linux / UNIX dns resolver to append domain search names / path (ndots options)

Posted by Vivek Gite <vivek@nixcraft.com>

 ${f Q}$. I'm using CentOS 5.0 server. How do I configure a system so that the DNS resolver will append search path extensions to hostnames that have dots in them? For example my domain name is test.com. When I quary for mail hostname it should append .test.com and return the IP address of mail.test.com



Task: SETUP DNS SEARCH LIST FOR HOST-NAME LOOKUP

Open /etc/resolv.conf file

vi /etc/resolv.conf

OR

\$ sudo vi /etc/resolv.conf

Now add search path:

search test.com

Save and close the file.

Optional ntdots configuration

Note you may also need to use ndots:n option to sets a threshold for the number of dots which must appear in a name given to query before an initial absolute query will be made. The default for n is "1", meaning that if there are any dots in a name, the name will be tried first as an absolute name before any search list elements are appended to it. For example set ndots to 2 as follows, to answer nslookup f1.mail query to get IP for f1.mail.in.test.com host:

options ndots:2
search test.com in.test.com

Limitations

• The search list is currently limited to six domains with a total of 256 characters.

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