

Table Of Contents

Table Of Contents	1
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[Home](#) > [Faq](#) > [Bind dns](#)

How do I setup round robin DNS?

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[Round robin DNS](#) ^[2] is a technique in which load balancing is performed by a DNS server instead of a strictly dedicated machine. A DNS record has more than one value IP address.

When a request is made to the DNS server which serves this record, the answer it gives alternates for each request. For instance, if you had a three webserver that you wished to distribute requests between, you could setup your DNS zone as follows:



[1]

Open your zone file using vi text editor and add/modify www entry as follows:

```
# vi zone.cyberciti.biz
```

Append/modify www entry:

```
www    IN    A      68.142.234.44
        IN    A      68.142.234.45
        IN    A      68.142.234.46
        IN    A      68.142.234.47
```

Save and restart BIND9. If you run nslookup for cyberciti.biz:

```
# nslookup cyberciti.biz
```

Output:

```
Address: 68.142.234.47
Name:    cyberciti.biz
Address: 68.142.234.44
Name:    cyberciti.biz
Address: 68.142.234.45
Name:    cyberciti.biz
Address: 68.142.234.46
```

One more time:

```
# nslookup cyberciti.biz
```

Output:

```
Name:    cyberciti.biz
Address: 68.142.234.46
Name:    cyberciti.biz
Address: 68.142.234.45
Name:    cyberciti.biz
Address: 68.142.234.44
Name:    cyberciti.biz
Address: 68.142.234.47
```

When a query is made to the DNS server it will first give the IP of 68.142.234.44 for the www host. The next time a request is made for the IP of www, it will serve 68.142.234.45 and so on.

The order in which IP addresses from the list are returned is the basis of the round robin name. While this is a form of load balancing, it should be noted that if one of the hosts becomes unavailable, the DNS server does not know this, and will still continue to give out the IP of the downed server.

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[1] Image: <http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/unix/>

[2] Round robin DNS: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Round_robin_DNS

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