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How do I find out my DHCP server address?

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Q. In Windows XP / 2000 / Vista ipconfig /all [2] command will show me DNS server and
DHCP server ip address. But, how to know DHCP server address in Linux?

A. The DHCP protocol allows a host to contact a central server which maintains a list of IP
addresses which may be assigned on one or more subnets. A DHCP client may request an
address from this pool, and then use it on a temporary basis for communication on network.

dhclient.leases file

[1]

Under Linux you use command dhclient to obtain and managing dhcp tasks. In order to keep track of leases across
system reboots and server restarts, dhclient keeps a list of leases it has been assigned in the dhclient.leases file. On
startup, after reading the dhclient.conf file, dhclient reads the dhclient.leases file to refresh its memory about what
leases it has been assigned.

When a new lease is acquired, it is appended to the end of the dhclient.leases file. In order to prevent the file from
becoming arbitrarily large, from time to time dhclient creates a new dhclient.leases file from its in-core lease database.
The old version of the dhclient.leases file is retained under the name dhclient.leases~ until the next time dhclient
rewrites the database.

Find out DHCP server address

Usually dhclient.leases file is located at /var/lib/dhcp3/dhclient.leases, type the following command:

```
less /var/lib/dhcp3/dhclient.leases
```

OR

```
cat /var/lib/dhcp3/dhclient.leases
```

Alternatively, you can just use grep command to get DHCP server address, enter:

```
grep dhcp-server-identifier /var/lib/dhcp3/dhclient.leases
```

Output:

```
lease {
  interface "ra0";
  fixed-address 192.168.1.106;
  option subnet-mask 255.255.255.0;
  option dhcp-lease-time 86400;
  option routers 192.168.1.1;
  option dhcp-message-type 5;
  option dhcp-server-identifier 192.168.1.1;
  option domain-name-servers 208.67.222.222,208.67.220.220;
  option dhcp-renewal-time 43200;
  option dhcp-rebinding-time 75600;
  option host-name "vivek-desktop";
  renew 0 2007/12/9 05:17:36;
  rebind 0 2007/12/9 15:06:37;
  expire 0 2007/12/9 18:06:37;
}
lease {
  interface "ra0";
  fixed-address 192.168.1.106;
  option subnet-mask 255.255.255.0;
  option routers 192.168.1.1;
```

```
    option dhcp-lease-time 86400;
    option dhcp-message-type 5;
    option domain-name-servers 208.67.222.222,208.67.220.220;
    option dhcp-server-identifier 192.168.1.1;
    option dhcp-renewal-time 43200;
    option dhcp-rebinding-time 75600;
    option host-name "vivek-desktop";
    renew 0 2007/12/9 06:11:22;
    rebind 0 2007/12/9 16:13:50;
    expire 0 2007/12/9 19:13:50;
}
```

A note about RHEL / CentOS / Fedora Linux user

Redhat and friends uses /var/lib/dhcp/dhclient.leases file:

```
less /var/lib/dhcp/dhclient.leases
```

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[1] Image: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/faq/category/linux/**
[2] Windows XP / 2000 / Vista ipconfig /all: **http://www.cyberciti.biz/faq/how-to-find-out-what-my-dns-servers-address-is/**