Sample Question: Using public DNS servers not always a good thing ? (Please Discuss)

You will often find recommendations on the Internet to use openly available DNS servers such as Google DNS (8.8.8.8, 8.8.4.4) or OpenDNS instead of your local ISP's DNS servers. This is because these servers are typically able to resolve queries much faster than your local ISP DNS servers. Can you explain why using such openly available DNS servers may actually lead to poor download speeds and increased latency, e.g. when downloading a large movie from iTunes (as compared to using your local ISP's DNS servers)?

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Michael Yoo (/users/z5165635) 13 days ago (Thu Aug 09 2018 20:14:24 GMT+1000 (Australian Eastern Standard Time)), last modified 13 days ago (Thu Aug 09 2018 20:17:26 GMT+1000 (Australian Eastern Standard Time))

Another similar case might be that the local ISP or institution may return fast, internal LAN servers for local queries, whereas the public DNS service can only return the publicly-accessible server.

For example, the UNSW DNS service may return a fast LAN-based cache for Echo365, but the public DNS resolver will return a data-centre hosted server which may be further away.

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Daniel Hocking (/users/z5184128) 13 days ago (Thu Aug 09 2018 15:12:01 GMT+1000 (Australian Eastern Standard Time))

The local ISP DNS server may be able to provide a geographically closer server from which to download files from or stream videos from. This will reduce latency and also mean a higher bandwidth connection between you and the server.

However this may not actually be true in the case of the Google DNS server, see: https://developers.google.com/speed/public-dns/faq... (https://developers.google.com/speed/public-dns/faq#cdn)

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