A records (Address Records) and CNAME records (Canonical Name Records) are both types of DNS (Domain Name System) records used to map domain names to specific IP addresses or domain names.

A Record (Address Record):

An A record is used to map a domain name to an IPv4 address.

It is primarily used when you want to point a domain directly to an IP address.

Example:

Domain: example.com

IP Address: 192.0.2.1

In this example, the A record for "example.com" would point to the IPv4 address "192.0.2.1".

CNAME Record (Canonical Name Record):

A CNAME record is used to alias one domain name to another domain name.

It's useful when you want multiple domain names to resolve to the same IP address or when you want to point a subdomain to another domain.

Example:

Domain: [www.example.com](http://www.example.com/)

Alias: example.com

In this example, the CNAME record for "[www.example.com](http://www.example.com/)" would point to "example.com". Any requests for "[www.example.com](http://www.example.com/)" would be directed to the same location as "example.com".

Here's how to set up each record:

**Setting up an A Record:**

Log in to your domain registrar's website or DNS management panel.

Locate the DNS settings for your domain.

Add a new A record.

Enter the hostname (usually "@" for the root domain) and the IP address you want to point to.

Save your changes.

Setting up a CNAME Record:

Log in to your domain registrar's website or DNS management panel.

Locate the DNS settings for your domain.

Add a new CNAME record.

Enter the hostname (e.g., "www" for a subdomain) and the domain name you want to point to.

Save your changes.

It's important to note that CNAME records can't coexist with other records of the same name, whereas A records can. Additionally, using a CNAME record for the root domain (e.g., example.com) is not recommended due to DNS restrictions, but it's commonly used for subdomains (e.g., [www.example.com](http://www.example.com/)).