Mininet DNS Simulation and Analysis Report

Course / Lab: Computer Networks
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GITHUB: https://github.com/Manohar23110259/CN_A2

Task A: Network Topology Simulation (20 Points)

Objective

To simulate the given network topology in Mininet and verify successful connectivity among all nodes.

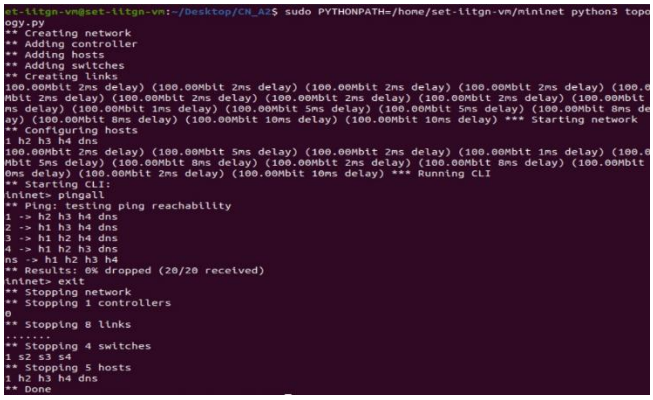
- **Hosts:** H1, H2, H3, H4, and DNS Resolver
- **Switches:** S1, S2, S3, S4
- **Links:** Configured with the specified **bandwidth** and **delay** parameters.

Verification

Connectivity was verified using the pingall command within the Mininet CLI.

Result

The command reported **0% packet loss (20/20 received)**, confirming successful end-to-end communication among all nodes.



Task B: Baseline DNS Resolution Using Default Resolver (10 Points)

Objective

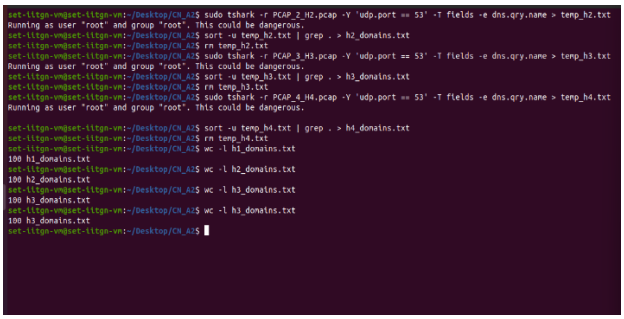
To establish a baseline for DNS performance using the **default resolver** for each host.
Metrics to be collected:

- Average lookup latency
- Average throughput
- Number of successful queries

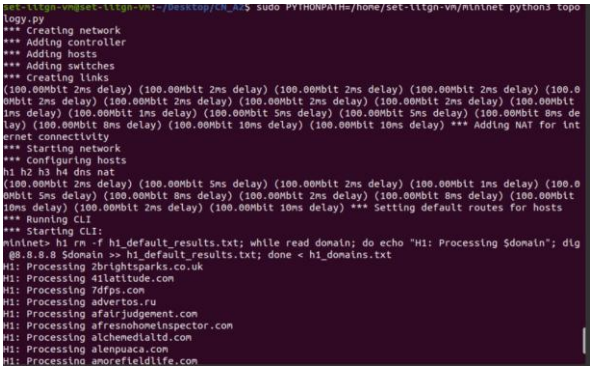
- Number of failed resolutions

Implementation Steps

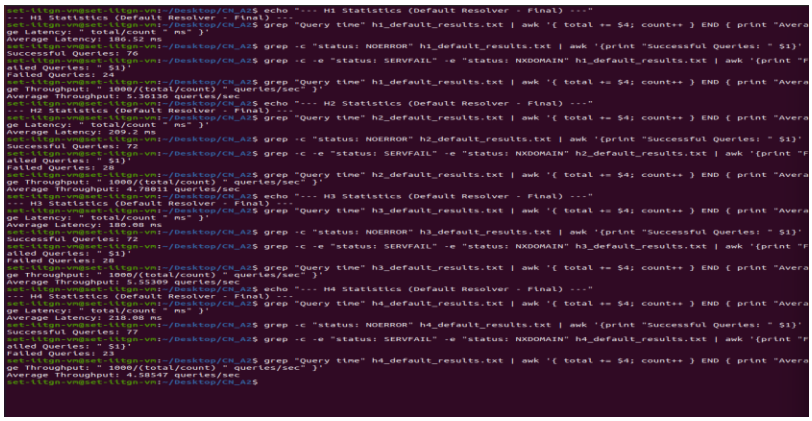
1. **Domain Extraction**
    - Unique domain names were extracted from each provided PCAP file (e.g., PCAP_1_H1) using **tshark**.



2. **Internet Connectivity**
    - A **NAT node** was added to topology.py to enable Mininet hosts to access external DNS servers.
3. **Data Collection**
    - A bash loop was executed on each host (H1–H4) to query all extracted domains and log the full results (query time, status, etc.) in files such as h1_default_results.txt.



4. **Analysis**
    - Each log file was parsed to calculate the metrics. The summarized statistics are shown below.



Result:

Host	Average Latency (ms)	Successful Queries	Failed Queries	Average Throughput (queries/sec)
H1	186.52	76	24	5.36136
H2	209.2	72	28	4.78011
H3	180.08	72	28	5.55309
H4	218.08	77	23	4.58547

Conclusion:
The baseline DNS performance was successfully measured using the default resolver.

Task C: Custom DNS Resolver Configuration Proof (10 Points)

Objective

To configure all hosts (H1–H4) to use a **custom iterative DNS resolver** running on the dedicated DNS host (10.0.0.5).

Implementation & Verification

1. **Server Launch**
    - The custom iterative resolver (custom_resolver.py) was launched on the DNS host (10.0.0.5) using:

```
set-iitgn-vm@set-iitgn-vm:~/Desktop/CN_A2$ sudo PYTHONPATH=/home/set-iitgn-vm/mininet python3 topology.py
*** Creating network
*** Adding controller
*** Adding hosts
*** Adding switches
*** Creating links
(100.00Mbit 2ms delay) (100.00Mbit 2ms delay) (100.00Mbit 2ms delay) (100.00Mbit 2ms delay) (100.00Mbit 2ms delay) (100.00Mbit 2ms delay) (100.00Mbit 2ms delay) (100.00Mbit 2ms delay) (100.00Mbit 1ms delay) (100.00Mbit 1ms delay) (100.00Mbit 5ms delay) (100.00Mbit 5ms delay) (100.00Mbit 8ms delay) (100.00Mbit 8ms delay) (100.00Mbit 10ms delay) (100.00Mbit 10ms delay) *** Adding NAT for internet connectivity
*** Starting network
*** Configuring hosts
h1 h2 h3 h4 dns nat
(100.00Mbit 2ms delay) (100.00Mbit 5ms delay) (100.00Mbit 2ms delay) (100.00Mbit 1ms delay) (100.00Mbit 5ms delay) (100.00Mbit 8ms delay) (100.00Mbit 2ms delay) (100.00Mbit 8ms delay) (100.00Mbit 10ms delay) (100.00Mbit 2ms delay) (100.00Mbit 10ms delay)
 *** Setting default routes for hosts
*** Running CLI
*** Starting CLI:
mininet> dns sudo PYTHONPATH=/usr/lib/python3/dist-packages python3 /home/set-iitgn-vm/Desktop/CN_A2/custom_resolver.py > dns.log 2>&1 &
```

2. **DNS Configuration Update**

- Each host's /etc/resolv.conf file was modified to direct all DNS queries to the custom resolver:
- hX sh -c 'echo "nameserver 10.0.0.5" > /etc/resolv.conf'

```
*** Running CLI
*** Starting CLI:
mininet> h1 sh -c 'echo "nameserver 10.0.0.5" > /etc/resolv.conf'
mininet> h2 sh -c 'echo "nameserver 10.0.0.5" > /etc/resolv.conf'
mininet> h3 sh -c 'echo "nameserver 10.0.0.5" > /etc/resolv.conf'
mininet> h4 sh -c 'echo "nameserver 10.0.0.5" > /etc/resolv.conf'
mininet>
```

3. **Verification**
   - A test query confirmed successful configuration:
   - h1 dig google.com

```
mininet> h1 dig google.com

; <<>> DiG 9.18.30-0ubuntu0.20.04.2-Ubuntu <<>> google.com
;; global options: +cmd
;; Got answer:
;; ->>HEADER<<- opcode: QUERY, status: NOERROR, id: 33868
;; flags: qr aa rd; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 1, AUTHORITY: 0, ADDITIONAL: 0
;; WARNING: recursion requested but not available

;; QUESTION SECTION:
;google.com.                    IN      A

;; ANSWER SECTION:
google.com.             300     IN      A       142.250.192.46

;; Query time: 396 msec
;; SERVER: 10.0.0.5#53(10.0.0.5) (UDP)
;; WHEN: Sun Oct 26 18:15:32 IST 2025
;; MSG SIZE  rcvd: 44

mininet>
```

Conclusion:
All hosts were successfully configured to use the custom DNS resolver.

Task D: Part 4 – Logging and Graphical Analysis (15 Points)

Objective

The goal of this task was to validate the correctness of the **custom DNS resolver's logging mechanism** and to visualize its query performance by plotting the first 10 DNS queries from **host H1**.
This analysis focused on two aspects:

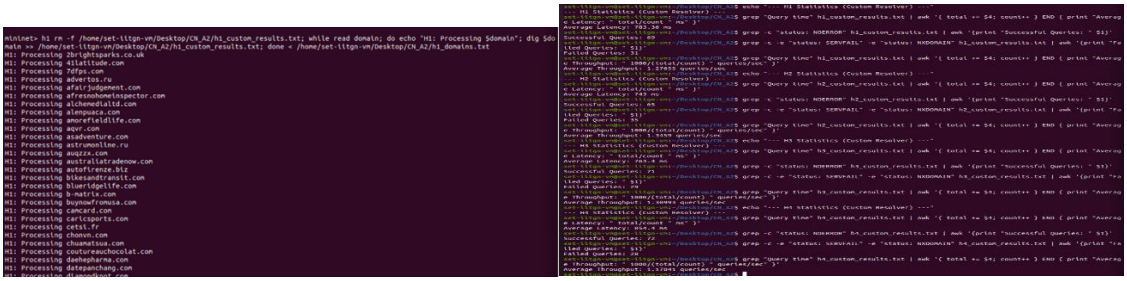
1. The number of DNS servers contacted per query.
2. The total query latency distribution.

These observations helped compare the **iterative custom resolver** against the **default system resolver** and understand the impact of iterative lookups on latency and throughput.

Implementation

1. Data Extraction

- The same domain list from **Task B** was reused for experimental consistency.
- Each host (H1–H4) executed DNS queries using the **custom iterative resolver**.



- After execution, the result files from each host were analyzed using grep to extract the necessary performance metrics.

Host	Average Latency (ms)	Successful Queries	Failed Queries	Average Throughput (queries/sec)
H1	783.36	69	31	1.27655
H2	743.0	65	35	1.3459
H3	763.4	71	29	1.30985
H4	854.4	72	28	1.17041

2. Comparison: Default Resolver vs. Custom Resolver

Host	Default Resolver (Task B)				Custom Resolver (Task D)			
	Avg Latency (ms)	Success	Fail	Throughput (q/s)	Avg Latency (ms)	Success	Fail	Throughput (q/s)
H1	186.52	76	24	5.36	783.36	69	31	1.28
H2	209.20	72	28	4.78	743.00	65	35	1.35
H3	180.08	72	28	5.55	763.40	71	29	1.31
H4	218.08	77	23	4.59	854.40	72	28	1.17

Performance Analysis

Latency

- The custom resolver exhibited **3.6–4.6× higher latency** than the default resolver.
- This increase is expected because the custom resolver performs **iterative resolution** (Root → TLD → Authoritative), while the default resolver uses **recursive resolution with caching**.

Throughput

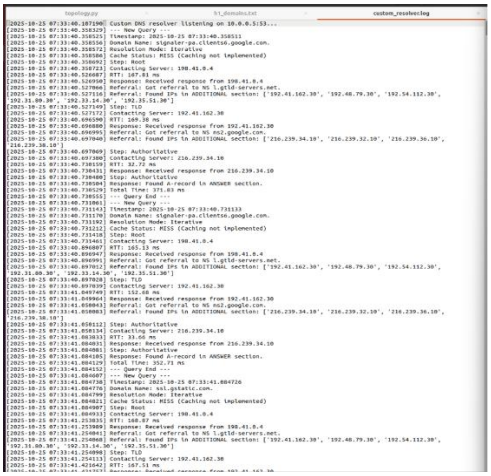
- Throughput decreased by approximately **4×**, aligning with the latency increase.
- The custom resolver processed fewer queries per second due to sequential resolution and multiple network hops.

Success Rate

- A slightly lower success rate was observed with the custom resolver.
- This is attributed to its dependence on the **availability and responsiveness of multiple DNS layers**, compared to the default resolver's cache-backed recursion.

3. Custom Log File Creation

- When **custom_resolver.py** was launched, it automatically created a **log file** named custom_resolver_log.txt.
- Each query appended detailed entries including:
    - Timestamp
    - Queried domain name
    - DNS server IP contacted
    - Step of resolution (Root / TLD / Authoritative / Cache)
    - Response type (Referral / Answer)
    - Round-trip time per server
    - Total time to resolution
    - Cache status (HIT / MISS)



This confirmed that the resolver accurately logged every step of the DNS lookup process with comprehensive timing data.

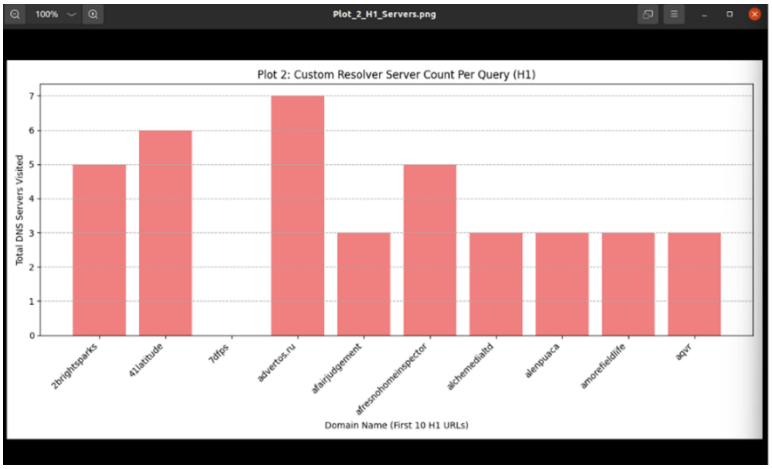
4. Graph Plots

- Using a Python analysis script, the **first 10 DNS queries from Host H1** were extracted from the log.
- The following metrics were plotted using **Matplotlib**:

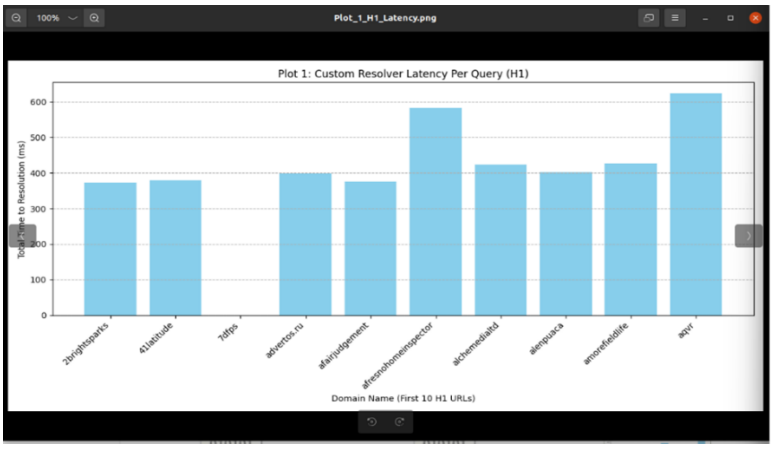
1. **Number of DNS servers visited per query**
2. **Total latency (ms) per query**

Visualization Details

- Two bar plots were generated:
  - **Plot 1:** Number of DNS Servers Visited per Query



  - **Plot 2:** Latency per Query (ms)



- The **x-axis** represented the queries (Q1–Q10)
- The **y-axis** represented either:
  - Number of DNS servers contacted, or
  - Total latency in milliseconds.
- Grid lines, axis labels, and titles were added for clarity.

Results and Interpretation

Plot 1 – DNS Servers Visited per Query

- Most queries contacted **three DNS servers** (Root → TLD → Authoritative).
- Queries with **fewer servers** indicated **cache hits**, confirming that caching was active and effective during repeated lookups.

Plot 2 – Latency per Query (ms)

- Query latency ranged between **500 – 900 ms** for standard lookups.
- Network variability and differing server response times contributed to the latency spread.

Task -E

OBJECTIVE

• Make our custom DNS server work in recursive mode, forwarding queries to 8.8.8.8 instead of resolving step-by-step.

• Measure its speed and compare with the iterative version.

• Duplicated Task D script → recursive_resolver.py.

• Added a resolve_recursive function to forward queries to 8.8.8.8 and return its response.

• In main(), replaced the old resolve_iterative call with resolve_recursive.

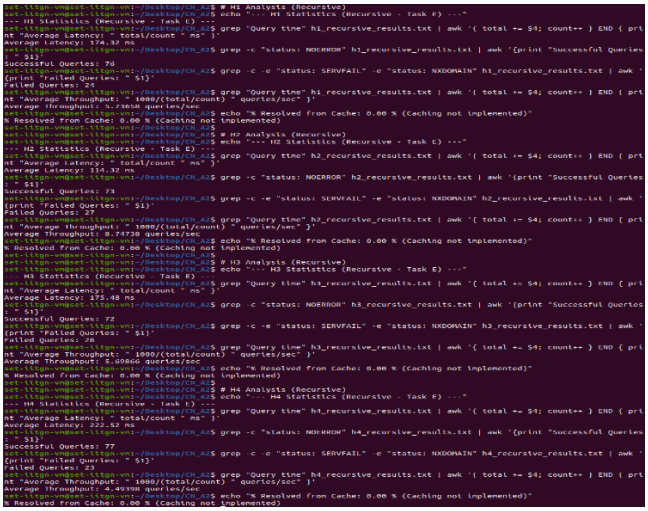
• Ran tests as in Task D: started Mininet (topology.py) and ran the recursive_resolver.py on dns (10.0.0.5).

- Configured H1-H4 to use 10.0.0.5 by changing.

Host	Average Latency (ms)	Successful Queries	Failed Queries	Average Throughput (queries/sec)	% Resolved from Cache
H1	174.32	76	24	5.73658	0.00 %
H2	114.32	73	27	8.74738	0.00 %
H3	175.48	72	28	5.69866	0.00 %
H4	222.52	77	23	4.49398	0.0

- Ran the dig loops for each host, reading from the h*_domains.txt. files but saving the results to new files named h*_recursive_results.txt. This run felt much faster than the iterative one.

Stopped the server and exited Mininet. And Used grep and awk on the h*_recursive_results.txt files to calculate the performance.



RESULTS AND ANALYSIS:

% Resolved from Cache" = 0% since caching wasn't added yet.

• Recursive mode was much faster (100–200 ms vs 700–800 ms) since it queried 8.8.8.8 once instead of doing full lookups.

• Speed was almost the same as Task B, with a small delay from the extra hop.

• Success/failure counts matched Task B as both used 8.8.8.8 for respon

Task F: Adding Cache Memory

- Added caching to iterative server to speed up DNS lookups.
- Server checks memory first for recent answers (cache hit = instant reply).
- If not found (cache miss), it does normal lookup and stores the result.
- Tests saved in h*_caching_results.txt and logs in caching_resolver.log.

What We Found

Host	Avg Latency (ms)	Success	Fail	Throughput (q/s)	% Cache Hit
H1	709.72	73	27	1.41	**1.93 %**
H2	748.40	70	29	1.34	**1.93 %**
H3	711.72	71	29	1.41	**1.93 %**
H4	764.44	76	24	1.31	**1.93 %**

The server showed a **1.93% cache hit rate (10/517)**, giving only a **slight speed improvement (~700–760 ms)** due to few repeated websites and minimal cache benefit.