How to Point to DigitalOcean Nameservers From Common Domain Registrars

112

An earlier version of this tutorial was written by Josh Barnett.

Introduction

DNS (Domain Name System) is a naming system that maps a server's domain name, like `example.com`, to an IP address, like `203.0.113.1`. This is what allows you to direct a domain name to the web server hosting that domain's content, for example.

To set up a domain name, you need to purchase a domain name from a domain name registrar and then set up DNS records for it. *Registrars* are organizations that have completed an accreditation process that allows them to sell domain names. Registrars typically offer services to manage DNS records as well, but once you have purchases a domain, most registrars will allow you to manage your DNS records with other providers.

DigitalOcean is not a domain name registrar, but you *can* manage your DNS records from the DigitalOcean Control Panel. This can make record management easier because DigitalOcean DNS integrates with Droplets and Load Balancers.

To use DigitalOcean DNS, you'll need to update the nameservers used by your domain registrar to DigitalOcean's nameservers instead. In this article, we'll show you how to look up the registrar for your domain, then provide step-by-step guidance on how to update the nameserver settings for the following registrars:

- GoDaddy

- HostGator

- Namecheap

- 1&1

- Name.com

- Network Solutions

- eNom

- Gandi

- Register.com

- A Small Orange

- iwantmyname

- Google Domains beta

Prerequisites

To follow along with this tutorial, you will need a domain name that you own or control.

If you need to look up your domain's registrar, you can use the ICANN WHOIS website or use the `whois` command from a Linux or macOS terminal:

```
$ whois example.com
```

The registrar's website is located on the **Registrar URL** line:

```
Excerpt of whois output
    Domain Name: EXAMPLE.COM
    Registry Domain ID: 2336799_DOMAIN_COM-VRSN
    Registrar WHOIS Server: whois.iana.org
    Registrar URL: http://res-dom.iana.org
    Updated Date: 2017-08-14T07:04:03Z
    Creation Date: 1995-08-14T04:00:00Z
. . .
```

To change the nameservers, you'll need to log into the domain registrar's account management section. Once you're logged in, follow the directions for your registrar below. If your registrar is

not included, check their documentation for changing nameservers.

Registrar: GoDaddy

This section of the guide was last updated on February 16, 2018

1. Sign in to your GoDaddy account.

2. On your account homepage, click the **DNS** tab on the right-hand side of the **Domains** main page. It will be located in between the **Add Privacy** and **Manage** tabs.
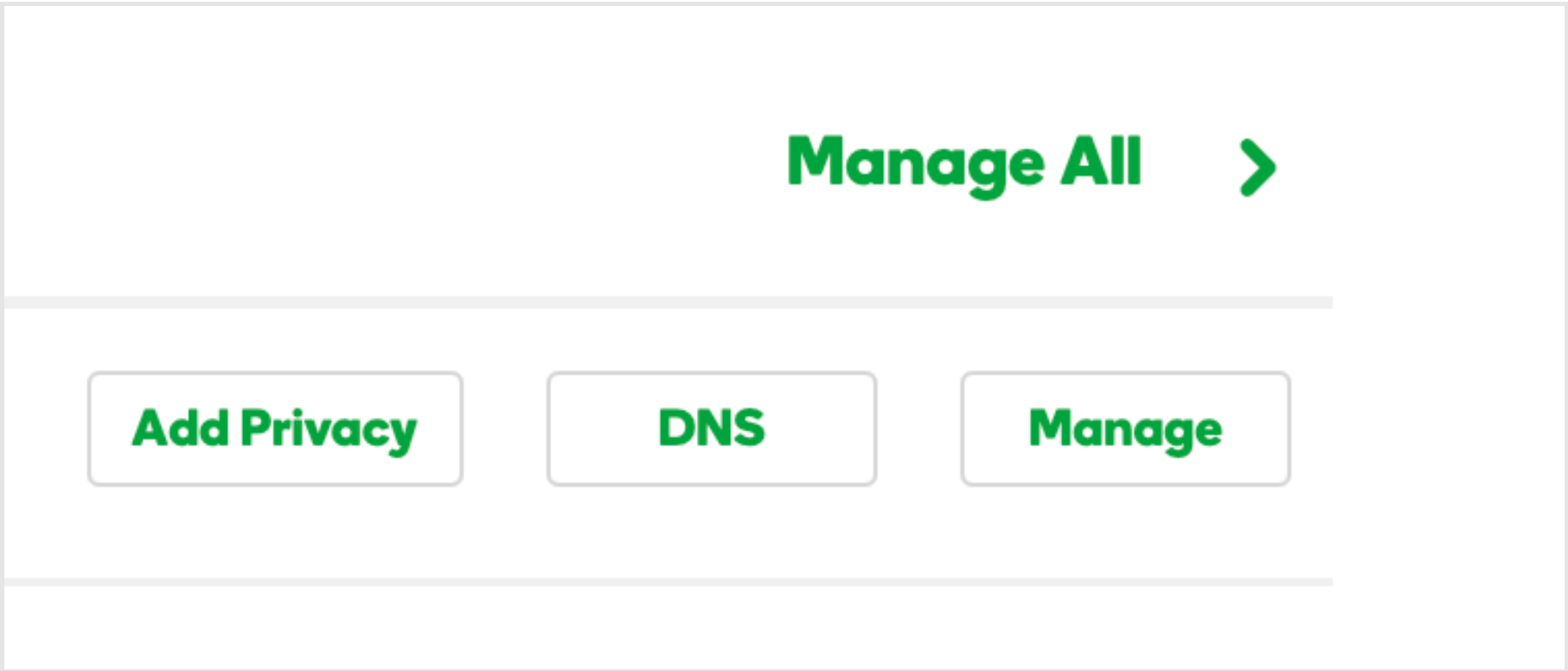
3. On the next screen, navigate to the section of the page that reads **Nameservers.** Click **Change.**

4. When prompted, select **Custom** from the drop-down menu, and enter the following nameservers:

- ns1.digitalocean.com

- ns2.digitalocean.com

- ns3.digitalocean.com

Nameservers

Choose your new nameserver type

Custom	⬍

Nameserver

ns1.digitalocean.com

ns2.digitalocean.com

ns3.digitalocean.com   ...

Save   **Cancel**   **Add Nameserver**

Note that you will have to click **Add Nameserver** to add the last entry. Click **Save** to apply your changes.

5. Now you are ready to move on to connecting the domain with your Droplet in the DigitalOcean control panel. Check out the Conclusion section at the end of this article to find out about what to do next.

Registrar: HostGator

This section of the guide was last updated on February 16, 2018

1. Sign into your HostGator account.

2. Click on the domain name that you want to use with your Droplet.

3. You will then be presented with a **Domain Overview**. Click on **Change** under **Name Servers**.

Name Servers: NS1.HOSTGATOR.COM
NS2.HOSTGATOR.COM
Change

4. Select **Manually set my name servers** and enter the following:

- ns1.digitalocean.com

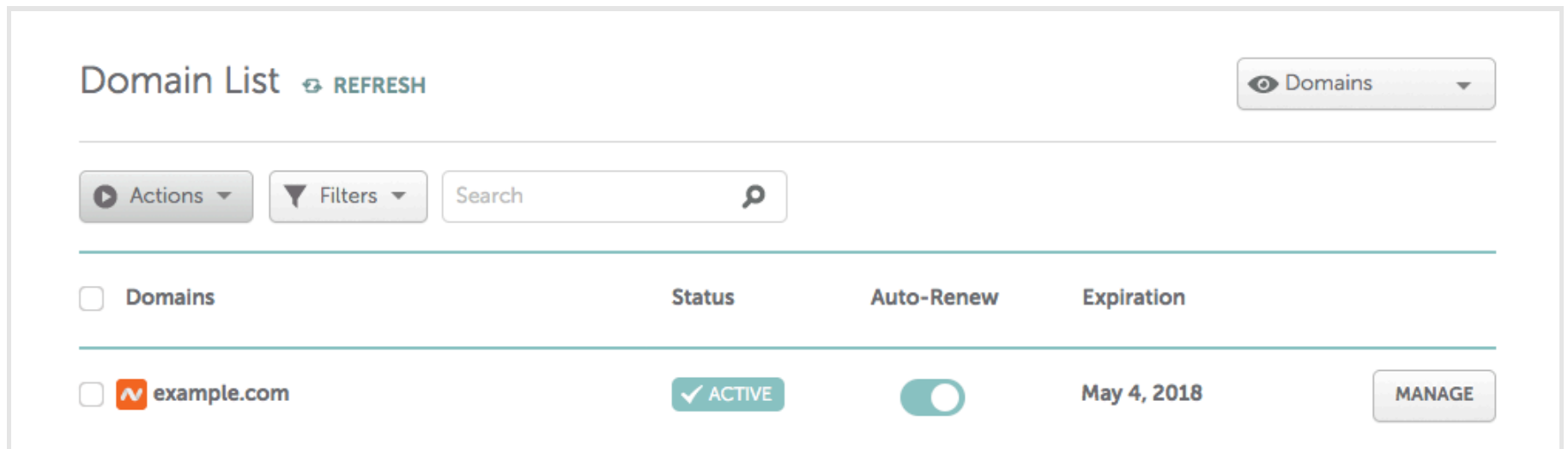- ns2.digitalocean.com

- ns3.digitalocean.com

Note that you will have to click the green + symbol to add the third name server.

5. Click **Save Name Servers** to apply your changes. Now you are ready to move on to connecting the domain with your Droplet in the DigitalOcean control panel. Check out the Conclusion section at the end of this article to read about what to do next.

Registrar: Namecheap

This section of the guide was last updated on October 10, 2017

1. Sign in to your Namecheap account, then click **Domain List** in the left-hand column. You will be presented with a dashboard listing all of your domains. Click the **Manage** button of the domain you'd like to update.

2. In the **Nameservers** section of the resulting screen, select **Custom DNS** from the dropdown menu and enter the following nameservers:

- ns1.digitalocean.com

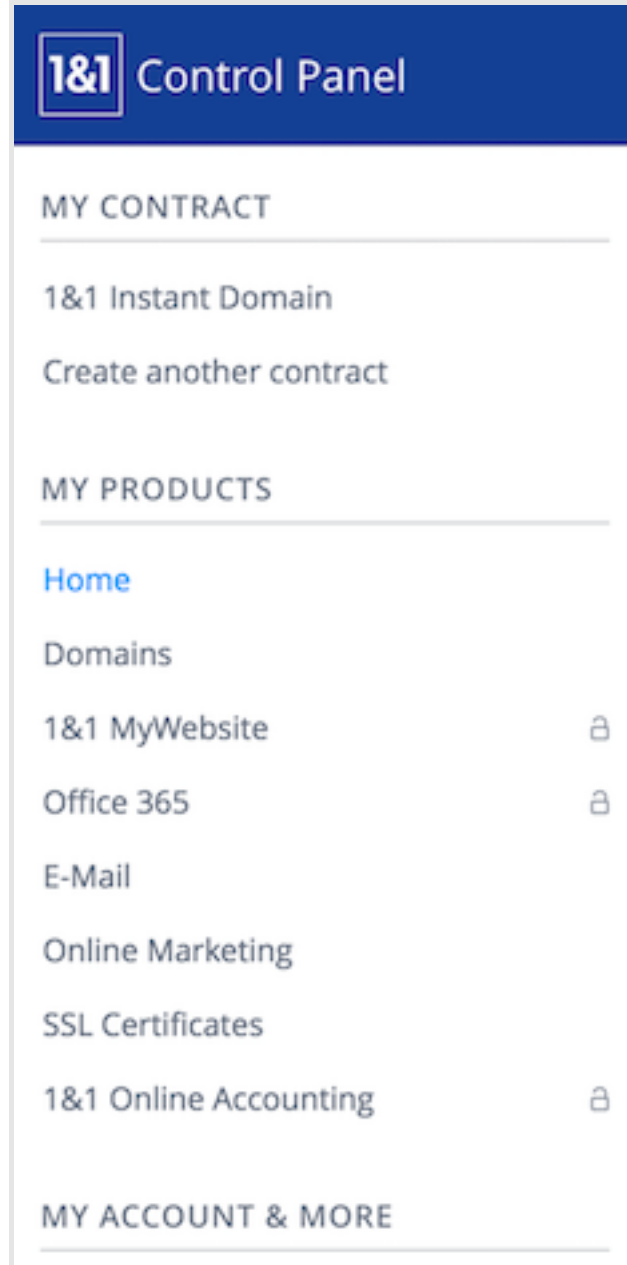- ns2.digitalocean.com

- ns3.digitalocean.com
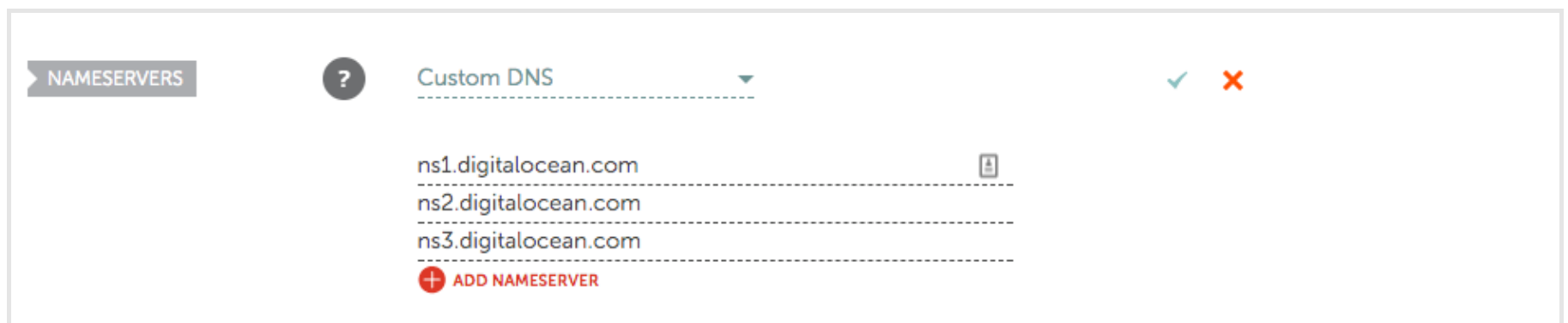
3. Click the green checkmark to apply your changes. Now you are ready to move on to connecting the domain with your Droplet in the DigitalOcean control panel. Check out the Conclusion section at the end of this article to read on what to do next.

Registrar: 1&1

This section of the guide was last updated on February 16, 2018

1. Sign in to your 1&1 account and go to **Domains** tab on the left side of your homepage.

2. Once on the **Domains** landing page, click on your domain name.

3. On the next page, click on **Modify DNS Settings**.

4. Under **Name Server Settings**, select **Other name servers**. Enter the following nameservers:

- ns1.digitalocean.com

- ns2.digitalocean.com

- ns3.digitalocean.com

Name Server Settings ⑦

Name servers: ○ 1&1 name servers

● Other name servers

Name server 1   ns1.digitalocean.com

Name server 2   ns2.digitalocean.com

Name server 3   ns3.digitalocean.com

Name server 4

5. Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click **Save** to apply your changes. Now you are ready to move on to connecting the domain with your Droplet in the DigitalOcean control panel. Check out the Conclusion section at the end of this article to read about what to do next.

Registrar: Name.com

This section of the guide was last updated on February 16, 2018

1. Sign in to your Name.com account.

2. Click on the **My Account** icon, and select **My Dashboard** from the dropdown menu.

name.com

◎ EN - $ USD ▾   🛒 Cart (0):

🏷 Domains ▾   ☁ Hosting & SSL ▾   💻 Websites ▾   ✉ Email   ⓘ Support ▾   👤 My Account ▲

My Domains »   **My Products »**   **My Dashboard »**

Transfers in Progress   Web Hosting   Account Settings
Renew My Domains   SSL Certificates   Billing and Renewal Settings   **n**   **Refer your friends**
Sync Expiration Dates   Name.com Email   Account Contacts
Deleting Domains Management   Website Builder   Rewards Dashboard
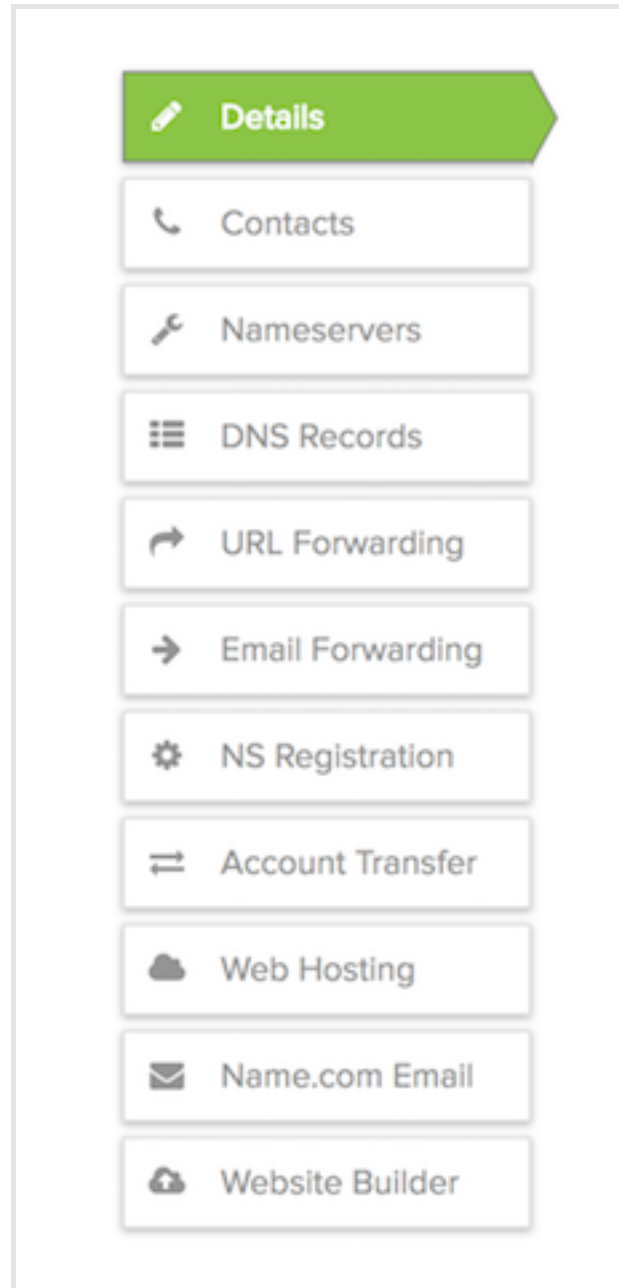Preorder Management   Name.com API
Forwarding Tools

3. On the **Dashboard** screen, click on your domain name.

4. On the your domain's home screen, click on **Nameservers**, on the left side of your screen.

5. You will be presented with the option to **Edit** each of your nameservers. You can replace the Name.com default nameservers with the following:

- ns1.digitalocean.com

- ns2.digitalocean.com

- ns3.digitalocean.com

You will be asked to update each change individually, and to **Apply Changes** once you are finished with your edits. Be sure to also delete the fourth default nameserver from the list.

Nameserver	Created	Actions	
ns1.digitalocean.com		Edit	Delete
ns2.digitalocean.com		Edit	Delete
ns3.digitalocean.com		Edit	Delete
ex. ns1.name.com	**+ Add Nameserver**		

6. Now you are ready to move on to connecting the domain with your Droplet in the DigitalOcean control panel. Check out the Conclusion section at the end of this article to read about what to do next.

Registrar: Network Solutions

This section of the guide was last updated on February 16, 2018

1. Sign in to your Network Solutions account.

2. Select **My Domain Names**.

My Domain Names

Update your DNS or set up Web Forwarding

> Edit DNS   > Edit WHOIS   > Register New
> Pre-Registered Domains   > Security Settings
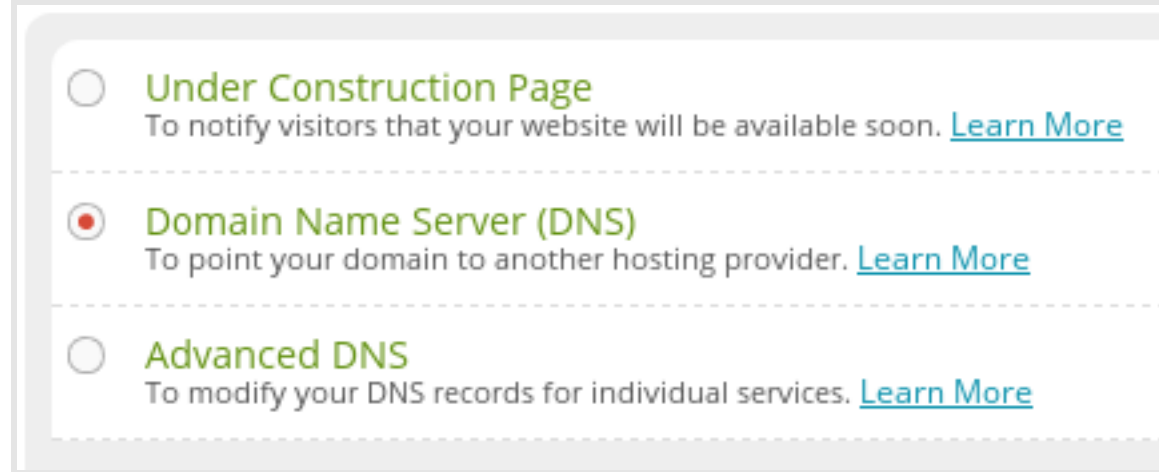
3. Find the domain name that you want to use with your Droplet, then select **Change Where Domain Points**.

Standard Under Construction Page (Edit)

Change Where Domain Points

4. Select **Domain Name Server (DNS)**, then select **Continue**.

5. Enter the following nameservers:

- ns1.digitalocean.com

- ns2.digitalocean.com

- ns3.digitalocean.com

6. Select **Continue**, then confirm your changes on the next page by selecting **Apply Changes**. Now you are ready to move on to connecting the domain with your Droplet in the DigitalOcean control panel. Check out the Conclusion section at the end of this article to read about what to do next.

Registrar: eNom

This section of the guide was last updated on February 16, 2018

1. Sign in to your eNom account.

2. Under **Domains**, select **Registered Domains**. If you have multiple domains registered with eNom, select the domain name that you want to use with your Droplet.

3. Select **DNS Server Settings**.

4. Under **User our Name Servers?**, select **Custom**.

5. Enter the following nameservers:

- ns1.digitalocean.com

- ns2.digitalocean.com

- ns3.digitalocean.com

Edit DNS Servers   HELP

Use our Name Servers?	○ Our Servers ● Custom
Name Server 1	ns1.digitalocean.com
Name Server 2	ns2.digitalocean.com
Name Server 3	ns3.digitalocean.com
Name Server 4	
Name Server 5	

➕ new row

park domain   reset   save

6. Select **save**, then confirm your changes in the popup by selecting **OK**. Now you are ready to move on to connecting the domain with your Droplet in the DigitalOcean control panel. Check out the Conclusion section at the end of this article to read about what to do next.

Registrar: Gandi

This section of the guide was last updated on February 16, 2018

1. Sign in to your Gandi account.

2. Navigate to **Domains** on the left side of your dashboard.
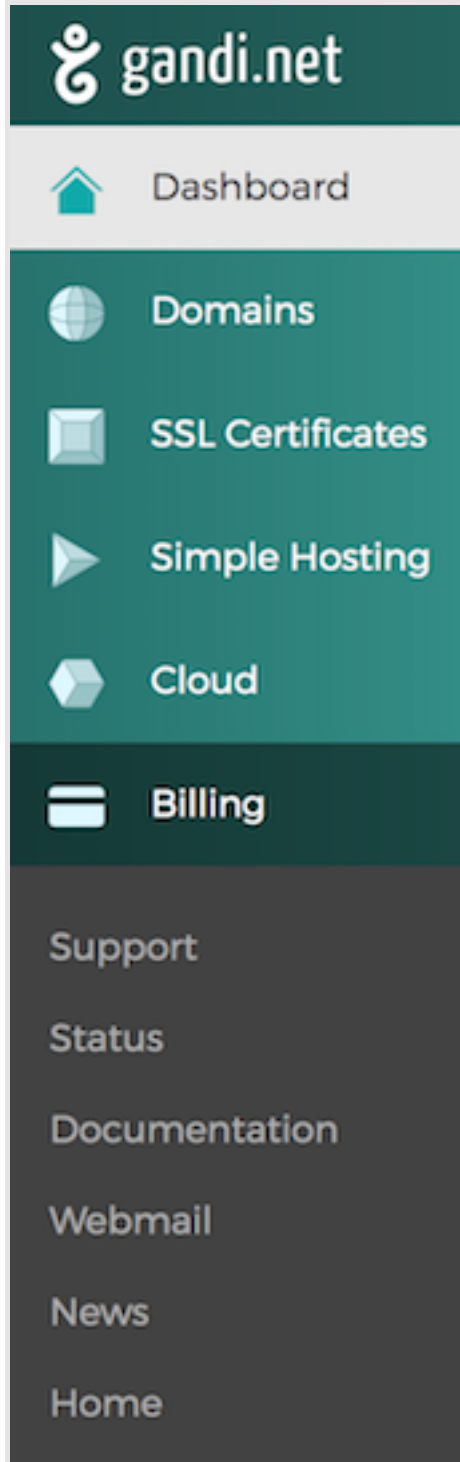
3. Click on the domain you would like to use with your Droplet.

4. Select **Nameservers** from the menu on the left of your screen.

5. Click on the pen icon under the **Change** heading at the bottom of the **Nameservers** screen.

Nameservers

DNS 1	ns-248-a.gandi.net
DNS 2	ns-71-b.gandi.net
DNS 3	ns-247-c.gandi.net
Change	✎

6. Fill in the nameserver fields with the following:

- ns1.digitalocean.com

- ns2.digitalocean.com

- ns3.digitalocean.com

Nameservers

Indicate the nameservers that you want to apply to this domain name.
Nameservers are what are responsible for directing your visitors to the correct website, and direct email to the correct email servers.

You are currently using Gandi's LiveDNS nameservers

* Required fields

DNS 1: *

> ns1.digitalocean.com

DNS 2:

> ns2.digitalocean.com

DNS 3:

> ns3.digitalocean.com

7. Click **Save**. Now you are ready to move on to connecting the domain with your Droplet in the DigitalOcean control panel. Check out the Conclusion section at the end of this article to read about what to do next.

Registrar: Register.com

This section of the guide was last updated on February 16, 2018

1. Sign in to your Register.com account.

2. Under the **Account Dashboard**, select **Domains** and then **Manage** from the list of available options.

Account Dashboard

Domains

MANAGE
GET MORE DOMAINS
RENEW
PRE-REGISTRATIONS

Pro Email
ACTIVATE

Facebook Boost
ACTIVATE

3. Click **Manage** under **Manage Product** for the domain name you want to associate with your Droplet.

Home

Manage Product
Manage
Manage

4. Under **DOMAIN NAME SYSTEM SERVERS (DNS SERVERS)**, enter the following nameservers into the **New DNS Server** fields:

- ns1.digitalocean.com

- ns2.digitalocean.com

- ns3.digitalocean.com

DOMAIN NAME SYSTEM SERVERS (DNS SERVERS) ?

Existing DNS Server		New DNS Server
dns010.d.register.com	changes to	ns1.digitalocean.com
dns036.b.register.com	changes to	ns2.digitalocean.com
dns147.c.register.com	changes to	ns3.digitalocean.com
dns209.a.register.com	changes to	

Bulk DNS Changes ▶

Continue

5. Select **Continue**, then confirm your changes on the next page by selecting **Continue**. Now you are ready to move on to connecting the domain with your Droplet in the DigitalOcean control panel. Check out the Conclusion section at the end of this article to read about what to do next.

Registrar: A Small Orange

This section of the guide was last updated on October 27, 2014

1. Sign in to your A Small Orange account and select **My Domains**.

Your Services

Your Services 0 / 0
Manage your hosting packages

My Domains 1 / 1
Manage your domain names

Order
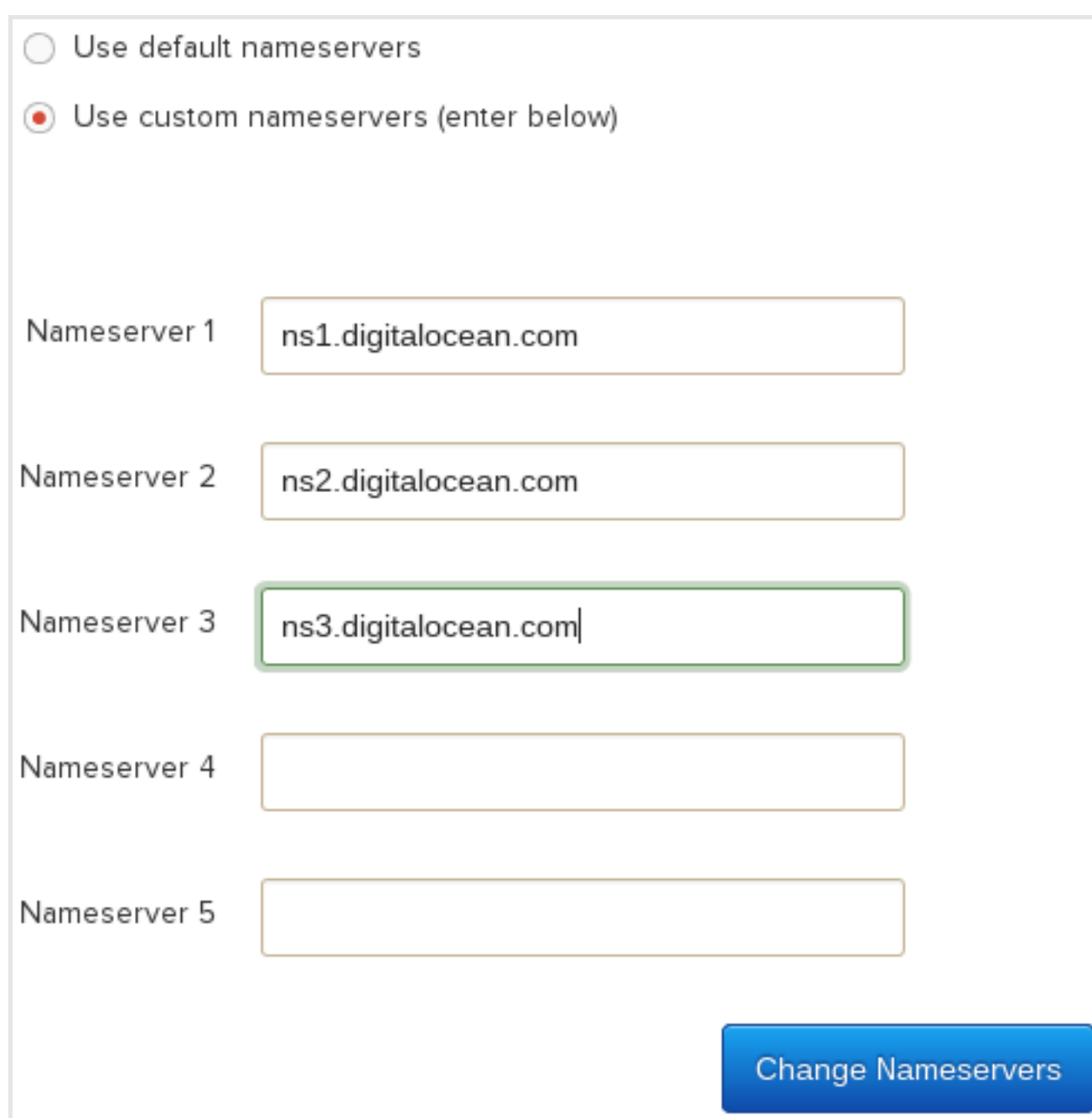Place a new order with us

2. Find the domain name that you want to use with your Droplet, then select **Manage Domain** to the right of that domain name.

3. By default, A Small Orange locks your domain to prevent it from being transferred away without your authorization. This means that before we can change the nameservers, we'll need to disable this lock. Select the **Registrar Lock** tab, then select **Disable Registrar Lock**.

4. Select the **Nameservers** tab.

5. Enter the following nameservers:

- ns1.digitalocean.com

- ns2.digitalocean.com

- ns3.digitalocean.com

6. Select **Change Nameservers** to apply your changes. Now you are ready to move on to connecting the domain with your Droplet in the DigitalOcean control panel. Check out the Conclusion section at the end of this article to read on what to do next.

Registrar: iwantmyname

This section of the guide was last updated on February 16, 2018

1. Sign in to your iwantmyname account and select the **Domains** tab.

2. Select the domain name that you want to use with your Droplet.

3. Under **Nameservers**, select **update nameservers**.

4. Unlike many other domain registrars, iwantmyname features a menu of popular web hosts with preconfigured DNS settings.

Some hosting services require that you configure your domain to use their nameservers and DNS services. If your hosting nameservers, you can ent[...]ct "iwantmynam[...]advantage of our one-clic[...]

Please note: Your DNS [...]gs, please conta[...]
our DNS services, simp[...]

	Choose your DNS hosting provider...
	Internal
	iwantmyname (DNS manager and one-click marketplace)
	External
	I have my own nameservers...
	A Small Orange (ns1-2.asoshared.com)
	Bluehost (ns1-2.bluehost.com)
	Cargo (ns1-2.cargocollective.com)
✓	DigitalOcean (ns1-3.digitalocean.com)
	DNSimple (ns1-4.dnsimple.com)
	DNSMadeEasy (ns0-4.dnsmadeeasy.com)
	DreamHost (ns1-3.dreamhost.com)
	FatCow (ns1-2.fatcow.com)
	FireHost (ns1-4.firehost.com)
	Hostmonster (ns1-2.hostmonster.com)
	iPage (ns1-2.ipage.com)
	Just Host (ns1-3.pipedns.com)
	Linode (ns1-5.linode.com)
	Media Temple (ns1-2.mediatemple.net)
	Rackspace Cloud (dns1-2.stabletransit.com)
	Sedo (ns1-2.sedoparking.com)
	Site5 Hosting (dns/dns2.site5.com)
	WebFaction (ns1-4.webfaction.com)
	WordPress.com (ns1-3.wordpress.com)

Popular settings

* Nameserver 1

* Nameserver 2

Nameserver 3

Nameserver 4

Nameserver 5

Update nameservers

5. Choose **DigitalOcean (ns1-3.digitalocean.com)** from the dropdown menu, and the fields below will be automatically filled in with the correct settings.

6. Select **Update nameservers** to apply your changes. Now you are ready to move on to connecting the domain with your Droplet in the DigitalOcean control panel. Check out the Conclusion section at the end of this article to read about what to do next.

Registrar: Google Domains beta

This section of the guide was last updated on February 16, 2018

1. Sign in to your Google Domains account.

2. Select the domain name that you want to use with your Droplet.

3. At the top of the screen, click on the icon that represents **Configure DNS**.
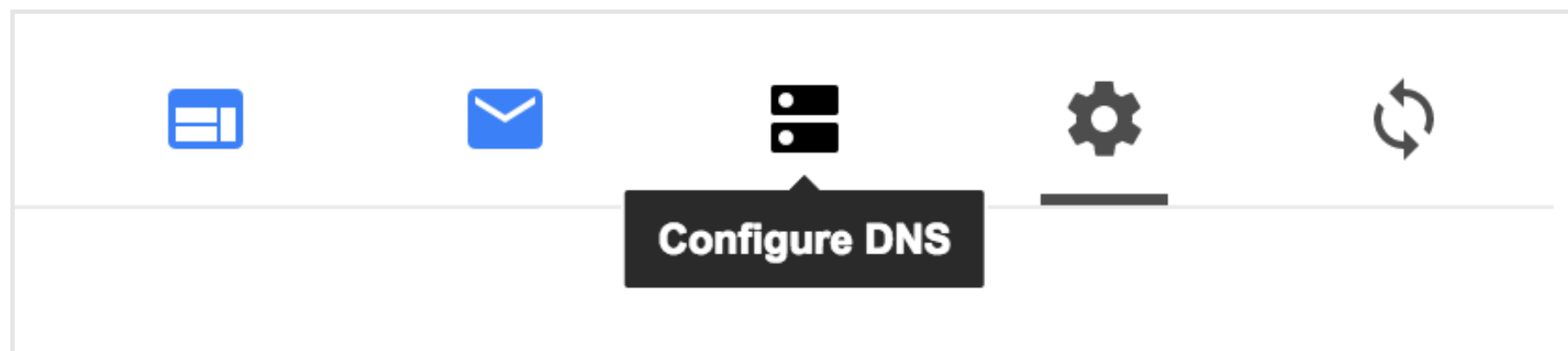
4. Click on **Use custom name servers**.

5. Enter the following nameservers:

- ns1.digitalocean.com

- ns2.digitalocean.com

- ns3.digitalocean.com

Note: You'll need to hit the + to the right of the nameserver field to make more fields visible.

6. Select **Save** to apply your changes. Now you are ready to move on to connecting the domain with your Droplet in the DigitalOcean control panel. Check out the Conclusion section below to read about what to do next.

Additional Registrars

There are additional domain registrars that you can use to link your domain to DigitalOcean's nameservers. The following list of registrars includes links to documentation on how to transfer domains to custom nameservers. DigitalOcean's nameservers are:

- ns1.digitalocean.com

- ns2.digitalocean.com

- ns3.digitalocean.com

You can enter these nameservers into the appropriate fields when prompted, following the examples outlined in the previous sections.

- Bluehost.

- BigRock.

- Joker.com.

- DreamHost.

- OVH.

- 123 Reg.

- Media Temple.

- Hover.

Conclusion

It will take some time for the name server changes to propagate after you've saved them. During this time, the domain registrar communicates the changes you've made with your ISP (Internet Service Provider). In turn, your ISP caches the new nameservers to ensure quick site connections. This process usually takes about 30 minutes, but could take up to a few hours depending on your registrar and your ISP's communication methods.

Once your domain is pointed to DigitalOcean's nameservers, you can begin managing its DNS records from the Control Panel. See An Introduction to DigitalOcean DNS to get started. You can also learn more about how DNS works in An Introduction to DNS Terminology, Components, and

By: Kathleen Howard

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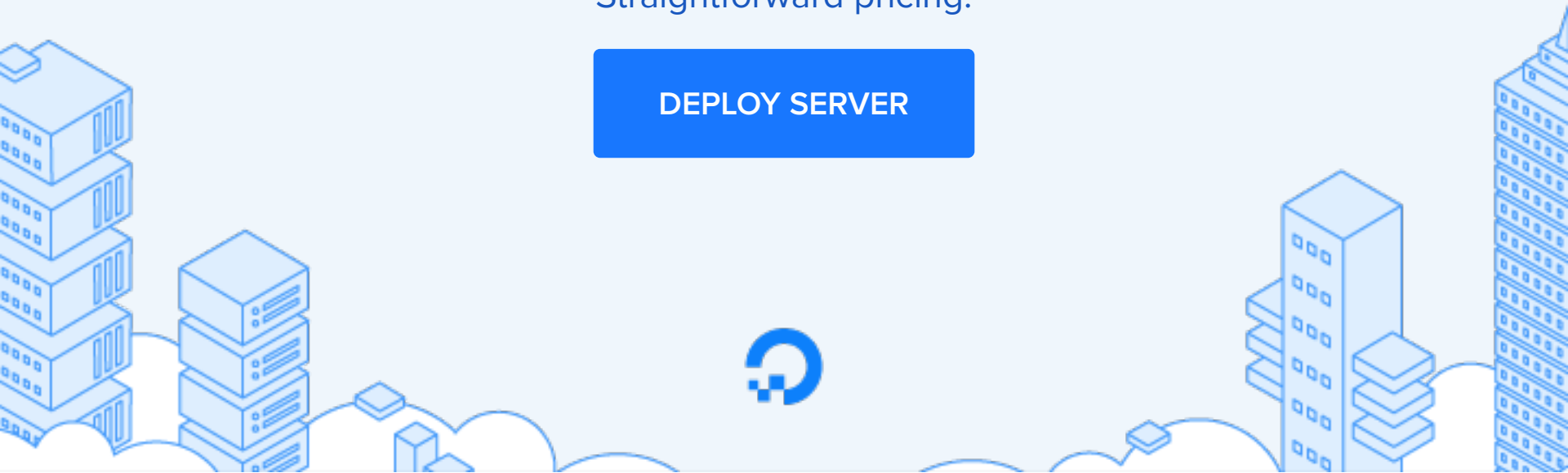
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
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B *I* ☰ ☰ 🔗 </> 🖌 ▦   👁

B *I* ☰ ☷ 🔗 </> 🖌 ▦ 👁

Leave a comment...

Logged in as:
agiansante00

Notify me of replies
☑ to my comment

Comment

˄ **Redd** *November 5, 2014*
♡
₂ Hi, is it possible to add instructions for BlueHost in this guide? The url is:
http://www.bluehost.com/

Thank you! And, Best regards

Reply · **Report**

˄ **buntingj** *November 13, 2014*
♡
₁₇ Hover would be a great inclusion to this guide as well,
https://www.hover.com/

Reply · **Report**

gregruth151 *June 16, 2015*

4 Agreed!

Reply · Report

atorscho *January 12, 2017*

1 Agree!

Reply · Report

gbt *February 5, 2017*

1 also agree!

Reply · Report

compusolver *March 22, 2017*

1 Yeah! Gotta add Hover - the best registrar in the biz!

Reply · Report

robkellington *June 24, 2017*

0 Agree. Hover!!

Reply · Report

haritjahjo *November 14, 2014*

0 After change Name servers, do we need also change some kind of A records to droplet's IP in Manage DNS?

I usually also change A record to web hosting IP, but not sure is it still necessary right now? Regards.

Reply · Report

jbarnett *November 14, 2014*

0 Once you change the nameservers with your domain registrar, you'll need to set up the domain with DigitalOcean's DNS. To learn how to do that, follow the steps in this guide: How To Set Up a Host Name with DigitalOcean

Reply · Report

chendrix *December 15, 2014*

0 Uhh are there any instructions that **don't** require me to transfer my DNS to DigitalOcean's nameservers?

kamaln7 MOD *December 15, 2014*

You can just point an A record at your current DNS host to your droplet's IP address.

hchamp *December 21, 2014*

1 Could you add a tutorial for Joker?
https://joker.com/

elkarrde *August 9, 2015*

That would be great!

yugten *January 16, 2015*

0 Please include www.netfirms.com
Thank you!

brandonwolfgang *January 19, 2016*

0
1. Log into Netfirms using the Control Panel link on the top right.

2. Click on DomainCentral under the Domain heading.

3. Click the domain you wish to modify.

4. Click Nameservers.

5. Select the 'Use different name servers' radio button.

6. In the 'Nameserver 1' input box, enter 'ns1.digitalocean.com' without quotes.

7. In the 'Nameserver 2' input box, enter 'ns2.digitalocean.com' without quotes.

8. Click the 'Add More' button.

9. In the 'Nameserver 3' input box, enter 'ns3.digitalocean.com' without quotes.

10. Click the 'Save' button to save your changes.

katjams *January 23, 2015*

Hi, is it possible to add instructions for Fasthosts pls?

http://www.fasthosts.co.uk/

Many thanks

Reply · Report

> **JohnJohnstone** *November 4, 2015*
>
> 1 Hi redkath, I was too looking for instruction for fasthosts, I found a guide on their website.
>
> Changing a domains namerservers
>
> Reply · Report

gammx1 *February 5, 2015*

Having added here a 'howto' for domains already hosted at amazon.com | AWS | Route53 to be pointed to DO could be a big help, too
Thanks in advance,
Rgrds,

Reply · Report

it678600 *March 10, 2015*

We are currently using Enom dns hosting for many of our domains, with A records pointing to DO. Since another glitch with Enom dns yesterday, we've decided to use DO for all our DNS hosting.

However, we experience a lot of downtime when we changed nameservers on a domain today. It seems that as soon as you point to nameservers which are not enom, all of the host records held by enom are no longer active. I can't figure out any way to change the nameservers without sites going down for long periods while the nameserver change propagates.

This is a problem with the Enom system, but would you have any advice for how to transfer DNS away from them without downtime?

Reply · Report

IraIngram *March 10, 2015*

Thank You Josh for elaborating this common issue in such well efficient manner. Binding a domain name to Droplets by changing DNS system with domain's registrar is very complicated and rarely discussed issue. The step by step guide you have portrayed is very useful for me and lots of other web owners who were facing the same issue.

Reply · Report

dc79 *March 18, 2015*

1 Hello, would it be possible to add instructions for domain.com please. Thanks

Reply · Report

> **andsien** *March 19, 2018*
>
> 0 Its under domain central. Find name servers. Click ok.
>
> Reply · Report

rcailloux *April 10, 2015*

3 hover.com please

Reply · Report

heraclitus *April 15, 2015*

0 For gandi.net, I had to disable the Transfer Lock before attempting to change the Name Servers.

Reply · Report

Spin *April 17, 2015*

0 strato.de please

Reply · Report

> **mc388** *June 29, 2015*
>
> 0 +1
>
> Reply · Report

ddreier *May 5, 2015*

0 domains.si

Reply · Report

ddreier *May 5, 2015*

1 I am having a problem with Domains.si because they will not delegate DNS if the name server rejects UDP queries on port 53. Any ideas?

Reply · Report

icon *June 30, 2015*

0 Please add WhoIs to your list of registrars.

Reply · Report

46939 *July 24, 2015*

Please, add registrar: REGRU-RU. I registered lgdo.ru there.

Reply · Report

leotometerra *September 10, 2015*

Hi.

Please, add FreeDNS: https://freedns.afraid.org/

Thank you

Regards

Reply · Report

coreybruyere *September 24, 2015*

Media Temple please

Reply · Report

thib *November 22, 2016*

Yes please!

Reply · Report

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