Installing BIND 9 DNS Server on CentOS 7

This guide assumes the use of BIND v9.10.4-P2 (the most current version at the time of writing) and CentOS 7 minimal install. Any other versions of software or distributions may have different dependencies, options, or commands.

Caveats

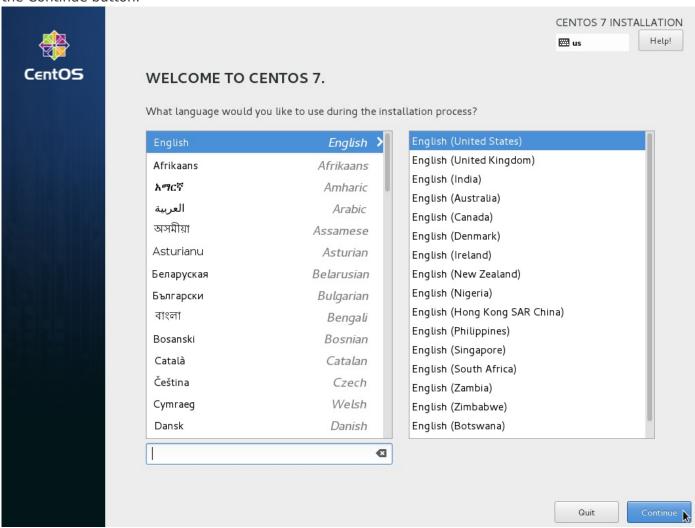
- If a forward zone is to be configured on the BIND DNS server, not just any zone can be used, except for the purposes of experimentation or local use.
- If a zone such as google.com were configured on the server, it would not be usable by anyone in the world except those users of the particular DNS server.
- Although it is possible to "over-ride" a zone in this way, it is not recommended.
- Instead, a real domain name may be purchases from a domain registrar and set to use the BIND DNS server as its authoratative DNS server.
- Then and only then will the zone be valid world-wide.
- This guide assumes some basic familiarity with the Linux command line and the RedHat/CentOS/Fedora family of distributions.

Install CentOS 7

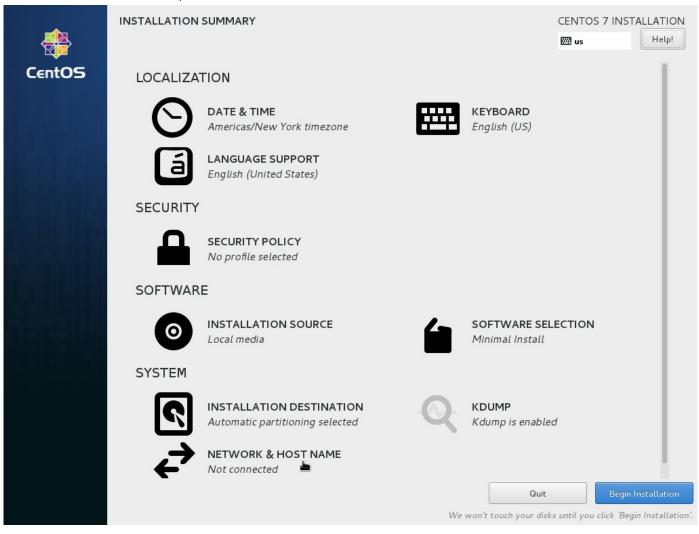
- 1. Start the machine with a CentOS install DVD inserted. Select the CD drive as the boot device if necessary.
- 2. When the CentOS install DVD boots, select "Install CentOS 7" from the menu using the arrow keys and hit the Enter key.



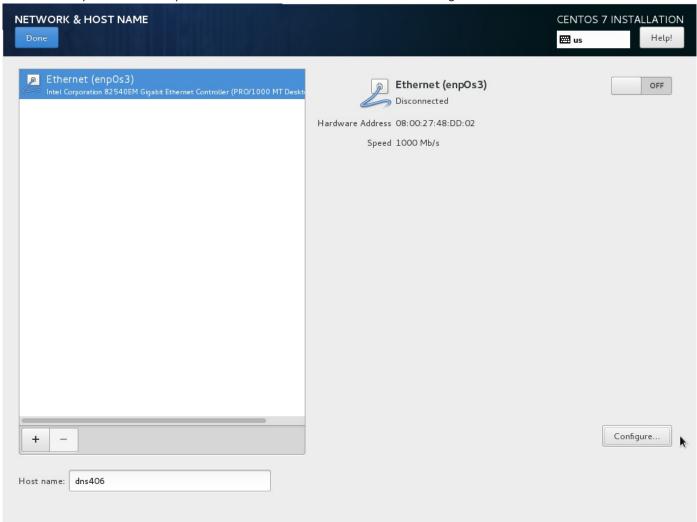
3. After the installer loads, make sure that "English (United States)" is selected as the language and click the Continue button.



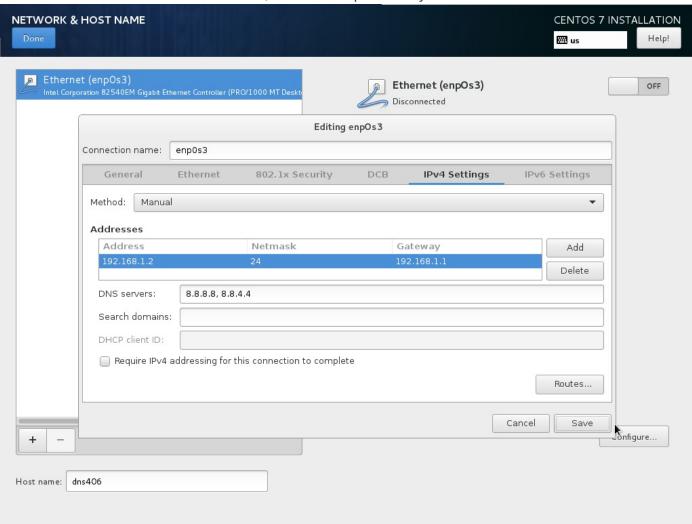
4. On the main install screen, click "Network & Host Name"



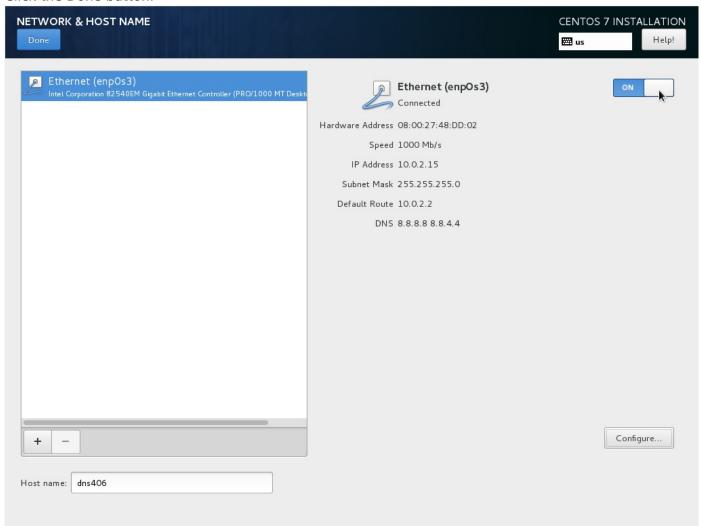
5. Enter the desired hostname in the "Host name" box. If the computer should use DHCP instead of a static IP, skip the next step. If a static IP is needed, click the "Configure" button.



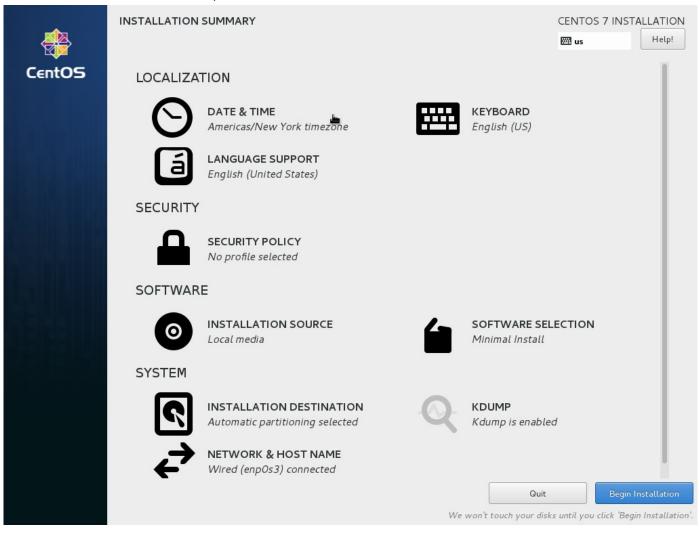
6. To configure the static IP, select the "IPv4 Settings" tab, select "Manual" from the drop-down menu, and click the Add button. Enter the desired IP address, netmask (or CIDR mask), and gateway. List the DNS servers to use in the "DNS Servers" box, each one separated by commas. Click the Save button.



7. Click the On/Off toggle to turn the network interface on. If no static IP was entered, DHCP will be used. Click the Done button.



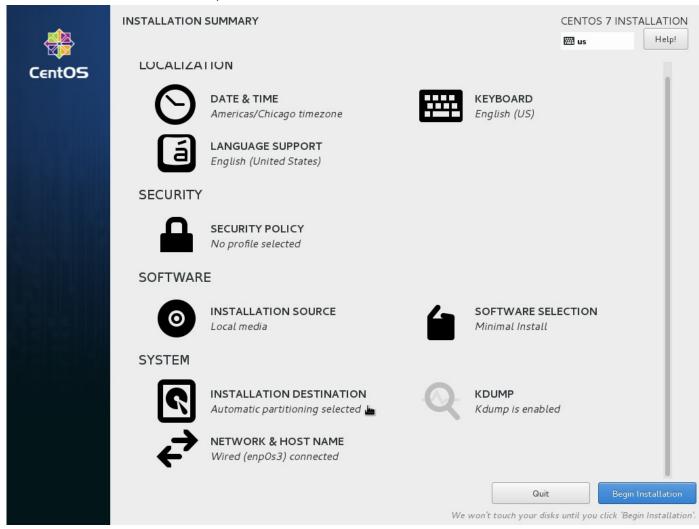
8. Back on the main install screen, click "Date & Time".



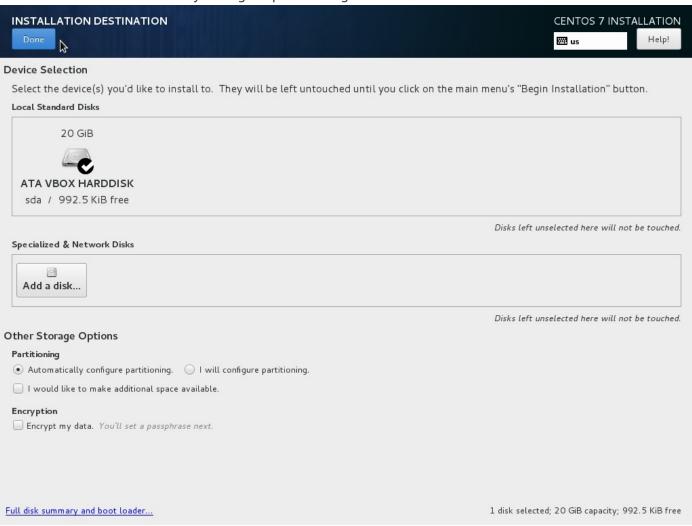
9. Select the appropriate time zone. For US Central time, select "Americas/Chicago". Make sure the the "Network Time" in the upper right is set to "On". Click the Done button.



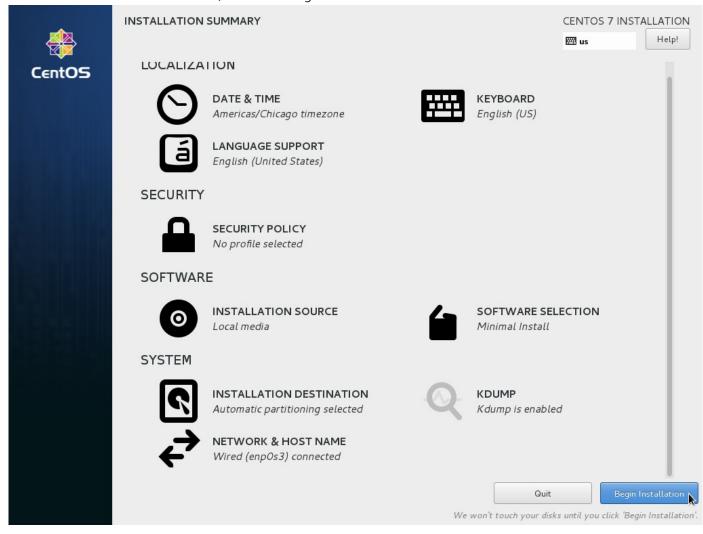
10. Back on the main install screen, click "Installation Destination".



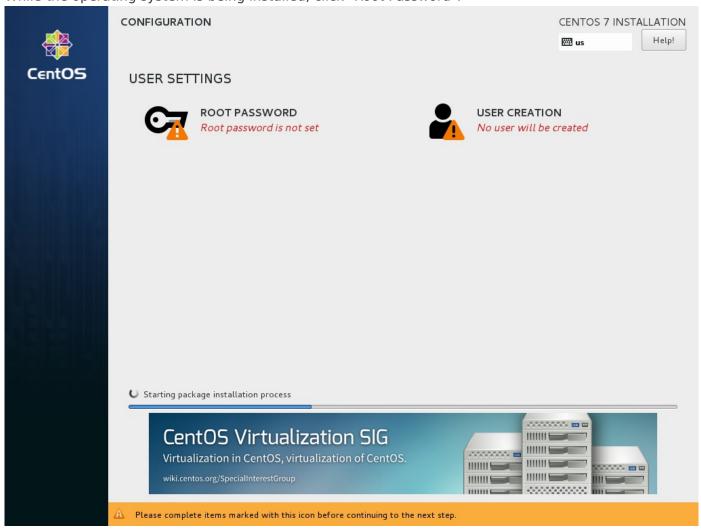
11. Make sure that "Automatically configure partitioning" is selected. Click the Done button.



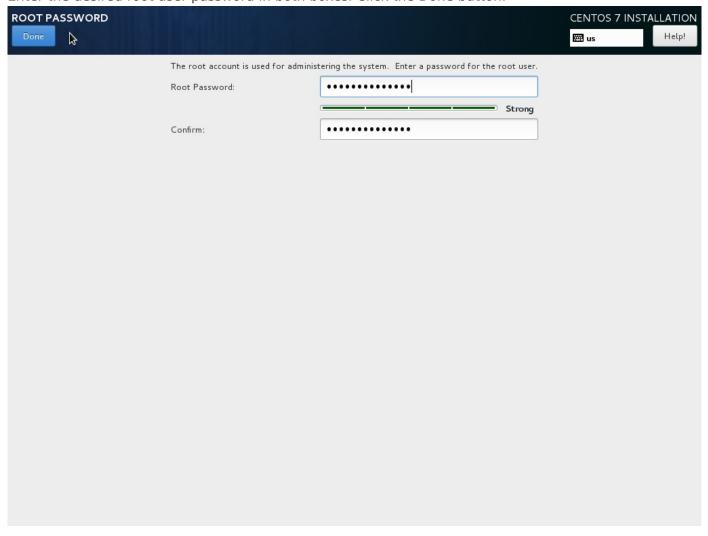
12. Back on the main install screen, click the Begin Installation button.



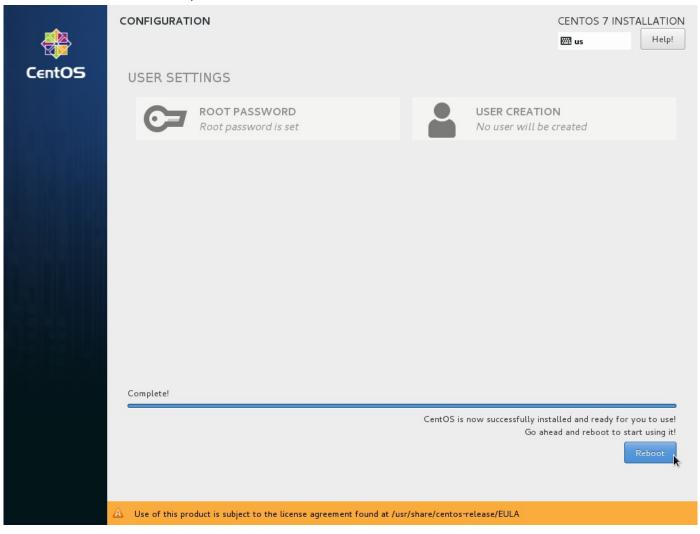
13. While the operating system is being installed, click "Root Password".



14. Enter the desired root user password in both boxes. Click the Done button.



15. After the install has finished, click the Reboot button.



16. Make sure to remove the install disk from the CD drive

Prerequisites

Note that some of these dependencies are for the BIND application and others are useful utilities to aid in setup and not strictly dependencies.

- 1. Once the system has restarted to the login prompt, login with the username **root** and the password that was set during the install.
- 2. Install dependencies.

```
yum install screen vim bind-utils wget openssl-devel gcc automake net-tools checkpolicy policycoreutils-python perl-Net-DNS-Nameserver perl-IO-Socket-INET6
```

3. Update the system

```
yum update
```

4. After the system is updated, reboot the system.

```
reboot
```

- 5. When the system has finished restarting, log back in as the root user.
- 6. Create the named user that BIND will run as. This is important to ensure that BIND does not run with root privileges.

```
useradd -r -M -d /var/named/chroot -s /sbin/nologin named
```

7. Allow DNS queries through the host firewall.

```
firewall-cmd --permanent --add-service=dns
firewall-cmd --reload
```

8. Create the file for an SELinux policy. Press the 'i' key to enter insert mode.

```
vim -c 'set paste' /tmp/named-custom.te
```

9. Copy and paste the following into the file. Return to normal mode by pressing Esc. Save and close the

file by typing :x.

10. Build and load the policy into SELinux.

```
checkmodule -M -m -o /tmp/named-custom.mod /tmp/named-custom.te && semodule_package -
o /tmp/named-custom.pp -m /tmp/named-custom.mod && semodule -i /tmp/named-custom.pp
```

11. Add a non-root user, set the password, and allow the user to run commands via sudo. Replace username with the desired username.

```
useradd username
passwd username
echo "username ALL=(ALL) ALL" >> /etc/sudoers
```

12. Log into the non-root user account. Replace **username** with the chosen username. Enter the previously set password when prompted. After logging in, change into the non-root user's home directory.

```
su username -
cd
```

Install BIND

All remaining steps should be done with the non-root user account. See Prerequisites section for logging into the non-root account.

Download and Verify

1. Go to the Internet Systems Consortium website in the downloads section: https://www.isc.org/downloads/. Click on the 'BIND' option under 'Downloads' to expand the available downloads. Click on the Download button for the 'Current-Stable' release.

Downloads



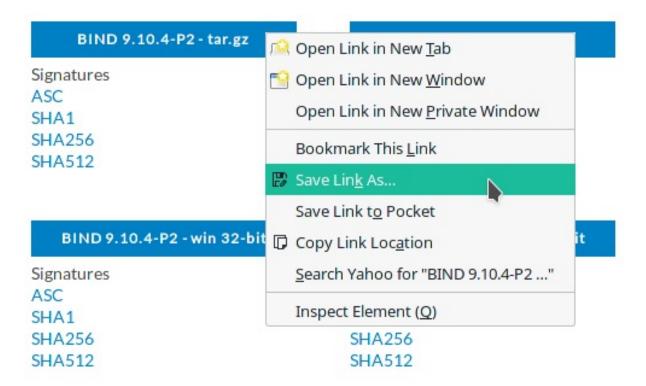
2. In the popup box, right click on the tar.gz download box and click 'Save Link As' to copy the file URL to the clipboard.

Thank you for Downloading ISC Software



Get BIND Support Subscription

Thank you for downloading ISC's Open Source Software!



3. On the command line of the CentOS 7 server, use wget to download the file. Paste the file URL previously copied where **file-url** is in the command below.

```
wget file-url -0 bind.tar.gz
```

4. In the same popup box where the tar.gz file URL was copied on the ISC website, also copy the URL of the 'SHA512' file listed under the tar.gz box.

5. On the command line of the CentOS 7 server, use wget to download the 'SHA512' file. Paste the file URL previously copied where **file-url** is in the command below.

```
wget file-url -0 bind.sha512.asc
```

6. Import the ISC GPG key to verify the downloaded file.

```
gpg --keyserver pgp.mit.edu --search-keys codesign@isc.org
```

Select the current signing key (the one that is not expired) by typing the number and hitting Enter.

```
gpg: directory `/home/username/.gnupg' created
gpg: new configuration file `/home/username/.gnupg/gpg.conf' created
gpg: WARNING: options in `/home/username/.gnupg/gpg.conf' are not yet active during
this run
gpg: keyring `/home/username/.gnupg/secring.gpg' created
gpg: keyring `/home/username/.gnupg/pubring.gpg' created
gpg: searching for "codesign@isc.org" from hkp server pgp.mit.edu
(1)    Internet Systems Consortium, Inc. (Signing key, 2015-2016) <codesign@i</pre>
          2048 bit RSA key 911A4C02, created: 2014-12-02, expires: 2017-01-31
(2)
        Internet Systems Consortium, Inc. (Signing key, 2013) <codesign@isc.or
          2048 bit RSA key 189CDBC5, created: 2013-01-31, expires: 2015-01-31
(expired)
(3)
        Internet Systems Consortium, Inc. (Signing key, 2012) (http://www.isc.
          2048 bit RSA key C96B350A, created: 2011-10-27, expires: 2013-02-01
(expired)
Keys 1-3 of 3 for "codesign@isc.org". Enter number(s), N)ext, or Q)uit > 1
gpg: requesting key 911A4C02 from hkp server pgp.mit.edu
gpg: /home/username/.gnupg/trustdb.gpg: trustdb created
gpg: key 911A4C02: public key "Internet Systems Consortium, Inc. (Signing key, 2015-
2016) <codesign@isc.org>" imported
gpg: no ultimately trusted keys found
gpg: Total number processed: 1
                    imported: 1 (RSA: 1)
gpg:
```

7. Verify the downloaded BIND software with the downloaded SHA512 hash.

```
gpg --verify bind.sha512.asc bind.tar.gz
```

If the output shows Good signature, then the download is verified. Ignore the warning message about the key not being certified with a trusted signature.

```
gpg: Signature made Mon 18 Jul 2016 05:59:45 PM CDT using RSA key ID 911A4C02 gpg: checking the trustdb gpg: no ultimately trusted keys found
```

gpg: Good signature from "Internet Systems Consortium, Inc. (Signing key, 2015-2016) <codesign@isc.org>"

gpg: WARNING: This key is not certified with a trusted signature!
gpg: There is no indication that the signature belongs to the owner. Primary key fingerprint: ADBE 9446 286C 7949 05F1 E075 6FA6 EBC9 911A 4C02

Compile

1. Make a new empty directory to extract the BIND source code.

mkdir bind

2. Untar the downloaded BIND source code.

```
tar -xvf bind.tar.gz -C bind --strip 1
```

3. Change into the new directory.

cd bind

4. Run the script to configure the compilation options.

```
./configure --prefix=/usr --sysconfdir=/etc --enable-threads --enable-static --localstatedir=/var \,
```

5. Compile BIND.

make

Test

1. Enable the test environment.

```
sudo bin/tests/system/ifconfig.sh up
```

2. Check the built software, saving the output to a log file.

```
make check | tee check.log
```

Note: This checking process will take a very long time, usually more than 15 minutes.

Note: It is helpful to save the output to a log file because it is extremely long and it may be necessary to search through it to find any problems with the checks.

3. **None of the tests should have the result** FAIL . Any results that have SKIPPED or UNTESTED are fine.

```
I:System test result summary:
I: 69 PASS
I: 7 SKIPPED
I: 2 UNTESTED
```

4. If any tests have the result **FAIL**, clean the current build and start from the beginning of the Compile section. Otherwise, skip this step and continue.

```
make clean
```

5. Disable the test environment.

sudo bin/tests/system/ifconfig.sh down

Install

1. Install BIND.

```
sudo make install
```

2. Create the necessary directories for the BIND chroot environment.

```
sudo mkdir -p /var/named/chroot/dev /var/named/chroot/etc /var/named/chroot/proc/var/named/chroot/usr /var/named/chroot/var/named/data/var/named/chroot/var/run/named /var/named/chroot/run/named/chroot/var/named/chroot/var/named/slaves
```

3. Create a new file for the chroot setup script. Press the 'i' key to enter insert mode.

```
sudo vim -c "set paste" /usr/libexec/setup-named-chroot.sh
```

4. Copy the following code and paste it into the file. Return to normal mode by pressing Esc. Save and close the file by typing :x.

```
#!/bin/bash
usage() {
  echo 'This script setups chroot environment for BIND'
  echo 'Usage: setup-named-chroot.sh ROOTDIR [on|off]'
if ! [ "$#" -eq 2 ]; then
  echo 'Wrong number of arguments'
  usage
  exit 1
ROOTDIR="$1"
# Exit if ROOTDIR doesn't exist
if ! [ -d "$ROOTDIR" ]; then
  echo "Root directory $ROOTDIR doesn't exist"
  usage
  exit 1
fi
mount_chroot_conf() {
if [ -s /etc/localtime ]; then
        cp -fp /etc/localtime ${ROOTDIR}/etc/localtime
fi;
if [ ! -d ${ROOTDIR}/proc ]; then
        mkdir -p ${ROOTDIR}/proc
fi
if ! egrep -q '^/proc[[:space:]]+'${ROOTDIR}'/proc' /proc/mounts; then
        mount --bind -n /proc ${ROOTDIR}/proc >/dev/null 2>&1
```

5. Create the pseudo-devices for the chroot environment.

```
sudo mknod /var/named/chroot/dev/null c 1 3 sudo mknod /var/named/chroot/dev/random c 1 8
```

6. Set the appropriate file and directory permissions.

```
sudo chmod 740 /usr/libexec/setup-named-chroot.sh
sudo chown -R root.named /var/named/chroot/etc /var/named/chroot/var/run/named
/var/named/chroot/var/run
sudo chown -R named.named /var/named/chroot/var/named
sudo restorecon -R /var/named/chroot/*
sudo setsebool -P named_write_master_zones on
```

7. Create a file for the systemd startup of the chroot environment. Press the 'i' key to enter insert mode.

```
sudo vim -c "set paste" /usr/lib/systemd/system/named-chroot-setup.service
```

8. Copy and paste the following into the file. Return to normal mode by pressing Esc. Save and close the file by typing :x.

```
[Unit]
Description=Set-up/destroy chroot environment for named (DNS)
BindsTo=named.service
[Service]
Type=oneshot
RemainAfterExit=yes
```

ExecStart=/usr/libexec/setup-named-chroot.sh /var/named/chroot on
ExecStop=/usr/libexec/setup-named-chroot.sh /var/named/chroot off

9. Create a file for the systemd startup of BIND. Press the 'i' key to enter insert mode.

```
sudo vim -c "set paste" /usr/lib/systemd/system/named.service
```

10. Copy and paste the following into the file. Return to normal mode by pressing Esc. Save and close the file by typing :x.

```
[Unit]
Description=Berkeley Internet Name Domain (DNS)
Wants=nss-lookup.target
Requires=named-chroot-setup.service
Before=nss-lookup.target
After=network.target
After=named-chroot-setup.service
[Service]
Type=forking
EnvironmentFile=-/etc/sysconfig/named
Environment=KRB5_KTNAME=/etc/named.keytab
ExecStartPre=/usr/sbin/named-checkconf -t /var/named/chroot -z /etc/named.conf
ExecStart=/usr/sbin/named -u named -t /var/named/chroot $OPTIONS
ExecReload=/bin/sh -c '/usr/sbin/rndc reload > /dev/null 2>&1 || /bin/kill -HUP
$MAINPID'
ExecStop=/bin/sh -c '/usr/sbin/rndc stop > /dev/null 2>&1 || /bin/kill -TERM
$MAINPID'
PrivateTmp=false
[Install]
WantedBy=multi-user.target
```

11. Restart the systemd daemon to load the new startup files.

sudo systemctl daemon-reload

Configure BIND

Basic Configuration

This is the minimum configuration needed for the BIND server to start and run as a basic caching DNS server. Additional configuration and security settings can be found in later sections.

1. Create the new config file. Press the 'i' key to enter insert mode.

```
sudo vim -c 'set paste' /var/named/chroot/etc/named.conf
```

2. Copy and paste the following into the file. Return to normal mode by pressing Esc. Save and close the file by typing :x.

```
options {
      directory "/var/named";
      pid-file "/var/run/named/named.pid";
      statistics-file "/var/run/named/named.stats";
};
zone "." {
      type hint;
      file "root.hints";
};
zone "0.0.127.in-addr.arpa" {
      type master;
      file "0.0.127.in-addr.arpa";
};
logging {
      category default { default_syslog; default_debug; };
      category unmatched { null; };
      channel default_syslog { syslog daemon; severity info; };
      channel default_debug { file "named.run"; severity dynamic; };
      channel default_stderr { stderr; severity info; };
      channel null { null; };
};
```

3. Create the rndc configuration.

```
sudo su -c 'rndc-confgen -r /dev/urandom -b 512 > /var/named/chroot/etc/rndc.conf'
```

4. Add the necessary configuration to the named.conf for rndc .

```
sed '/conf/d;/^#/!d;s:^# ::' /var/named/chroot/etc/rndc.conf | sudo tee -a
/var/named/chroot/etc/named.conf >/dev/null
```

5. Create the localhost reverse zone file. Press the 'i' key to enter insert mode.

```
sudo vim -c 'set paste' /var/named/chroot/var/named/0.0.127.in-addr.arpa
```

6. Copy and paste the following into the file. Return to normal mode by pressing Esc. Save and close the file by typing :x.

```
$TTL 3D
        IN SOA ns.local.domain. hostmaster.local.domain. (
       2016010100
                       ; Serial
                        ; Refresh
       2H
                        ; Retry
       4W
                        ; Expire
       1D
                        ; Minimum TTL
               ns.local.domain.
       NS
                localhost.
1
        PTR
```

7. Create the root hints file.

```
sudo su -c 'dig +nocmd +noall +answer +additional @a.root-servers.net . NS >
/var/named/chroot/var/named/root.hints'
```

8. Start the BIND service.

```
sudo systemctl start named
```

9. Enable BIND to run on startup.

```
sudo systemctl enable named
```

Forward Zone Configuration

If desired, a forward zone can be configured on the DNS server. We will be using the example.com zone. A forward zone is one that translates names such as example.com into IP addresses such as 192.168.1.2.

1. Create the zone file. Press the 'i' key to enter insert mode.

```
sudo vim -c 'set paste' /var/named/chroot/var/named/example.com
```

2. Copy and paste the following into the file. Return to normal mode by pressing Esc. Save and close the file by typing :x.

```
$TTL 3D
       IN SOA ns.example.com. hostmaster.example.com. (
      2016010100
                    ; serial
      8H
                       ; refresh, seconds
      2H
                       ; retry, seconds
                       ; expire, seconds
      4W
      1D )
                       ; minimum, seconds
              192.168.1.2
      NS
ns
      Α
              192.168.1.1
       CNAME
10/10/10/
```

The basic components of the file are as follows. The values may be changed to fit the zone

- \$TTL 3D The default time to live for the records in this zone. This is the amount of time that a caching name server will keep the record before letting it expire.
- @ IN SOA ns.example.com. hostmaster.example.com. The start of authority record for this zone. The @ is automatically substituted with the zone name example.com is the primary name server for this zone. It must have an A record, as seen later in the file. hostmaster.example.com is the administrator of the zone. Note the dot at the ends of both names. They are very important.
- 2016010100 The serial number, usually in the format YYYYMMDDNN, where the last two digits NN are a revision number for the date. This is used by slave servers to determine when there has been a change to the zone and they need to get an updated copy from the master server.
- 8H The length of time before a slave server should be try to refresh the zone from the master.
- 2H The time between retries if the slave fails to contact the master for the zone.
- 4w The time until the zone is no longer authoratative. This value only applies to slave servers.
- 1D The amount of time a caching name server should wait before retrying when an NXDOMAIN result is returned for the zone.
- A 192.168.1.2 The A record for the zone. This means that example.com will resolve to 192.168.1.2
- NS ns The NS record for the zone that identifies the primary name server. It points to the name ns, which in turn has an A record that points to the IP address 192.168.1.1.

- www CNAME @ A CNAME or alias record for the zone. This is effectively the same as
 www CNAME example.com. because the @ is substituted with the zone name. The alias record means that www.example.com will alias to example.com which will resolve to 192.168.1.2.
- 3. Edit the named.conf file. Press the 'i' key to enter insert mode.

```
sudo vim -c 'set paste' /var/named/chroot/etc/named.conf
```

4. Copy and paste the following into the file. Return to normal mode by pressing Esc. Save and close the file by typing :x.

```
zone "example.com" {
    type master;
    notify no;
    file "example.com";
};
```

The basic components of the entry are as follows.

- zone "example.com" The zone definition. This gives the name to the zone.
- type master The zone is a master zone, meaning this server is authoratative for the zone.
- notify no; Do not send notifies to any other DNS servers. Sending notifies is unnecessary unless there are slave servers for the zone.
- file "example.com Defines the file that contains the zone records. This is a relative path based on the directory option earlier in the file.
- 5. Restart the BIND service.

```
sudo systemctl restart named
```

6. Test the new zone with some lookups. The results should show the server answering correctly for the zone.

```
dig @localhost +noall +answer example.com
example.com.
                                            192.168.1.2
                     259200 IN
                                    Α
dig @localhost +noall +answer www.example.com
www.example.com. 259200 IN CNAME
                                            example.com.
example.com.
                     259200 IN
                                            192.168.1.2
                                    Α
dig @localhost +noall +answer +additional example.com NS
example.com.
                    259200 IN
                                   NS
                                            ns.example.com.
ns.example.com.
                     259200 IN
                                    Α
                                            192.168.1.1
```

7. If any changes are made to the zone file, the serial number must be incremented by at least one.

However, it is recommended to keep with the YYYYMMDDNN format that follows the date. After the changes to the file are saved, the rndc command can be used to reload the zones without restarting the BIND service.

rndc reload

Reverse Zone Configuration

If desired, a reverse zone can be configured. The reverse zone resolves IP addresses such as 192.168.1.2 to names such as example.com. The reverse zone, unlike the forward zone, is tied to a classful subnet. This means that the IP address 192.168.1.2 would be in a different zone than 192.168.2.2. The reverse zones are always named with the reversed octets of the network portion of the IP address followed by in-addr.arpa. For this example, the zone will be 1.168.192.in-addr.arpa.

1. Create the zone file. Press the 'i' key to enter insert mode.

```
sudo vim -c 'set paste' /var/named/chroot/var/named/1.168.192.in-addr.arpa
```

2. Copy and paste the following into the file. Return to normal mode by pressing Esc. Save and close the file by typing :x.

```
$TTL 3D
      IN SOA ns.example.com. hostmaster.example.com. (
     2016010103
                ; serial
     8H
                     ; refresh, seconds
     2H
                     ; retry, seconds
     4W
                     ; expire, seconds
     1D )
                     ; minimum, seconds
     NS
           ns.example.com.
1
      PTR ns.example.com.
2
       PTR
             example.com.
2
       PTR
             www.example.com.
```

The TTL, SOA, and NS records are the same as in the forward zone. However, the other records are different.

The type of record for the reverse zone is PTR. Instead of the name on the left and the IP on the right as in an A record, they are reversed. On the left side, the reversed octects of the host portion of the IP address are listed. On the right side, the fully qualified domain name (FQDN) including the ... at the end are listed. It is important to have the ... at the end of the name to absolutely globally identify the name.

3. Restart the BIND service.

```
sudo systemctl restart named
```

4. Test the new zone with some lookups. The results should show the server answering correctly for the zone.

```
dig @localhost +noall +answer -x 192.168.1.1
1.1.168.192.in-addr.arpa. 259200 IN PTR ns.example.com.
dig @localhost +noall +answer -x 192.168.1.2
```

```
2.1.168.192.in-addr.arpa. 259200 IN PTR example.com.
2.1.168.192.in-addr.arpa. 259200 IN PTR www.example.com.
```

5. If any changes are made to the zone, follow the same procedure as the forward zone. Update the serial number in the zone file and use the rndc utility to reload the zone without restarting the BIND service.

rndc reload

Security

There are several things to take into account when setting up a secure BIND DNS server. There are steps to be taken to protect the whole server by making changes to the operating system, and there are configurations and best practices for the BIND software. Together, these will provide a defense-in-depth strategy to secure the BIND server.

Server Security

- 1. Host firewall settings.
- CentOS uses the firewalld application to manage the underlying iptables Linux firewall system.
 The configuration utility is firewall-cmd.
- Although this application is easy to use, it limits the available options when configuring rules. It can be worthwhile to learn to configure iptables rules directly and disable the firewalld service.
- When constructing firewall rules, consider what users or subnets need to be able to acces each service
 on the server. While everyone on the local network may need to access the BIND service to perform
 DNS lookups, not everyone needs to be allowed to the SSH service, only system administrators.
- 2. Local user accounts and passwords.
- Each system administrator should have a separate user account. No users should share accounts or passwords.
- Each account should have a sufficiently strong password. While it is very difficult to define what a 'strong password' is, length and diverse types of characters (uppercase, lowercase, digits, punctuation) are certainly helpful.
- no password reuse
- 3. SSH security.
- 4. Backups.
- Talk about crypto-locker malware
- 5. Other.

BIND Security

- 1. Restrict zone transfers.
- 2. Limit recursive lookups to internal networks only.
- 3. Run the named application as a non-root user.
- 4. Run the named application in a chroot environment.