NAME

nslookup – query Internet name servers interactively

SYNOPSIS

nslookup [−option] [name | −] [server]

DESCRIPTION

nslookup is a program to query Internet domain name servers. **nslookup** has two modes: interactive and non−interactive. Interactive mode allows the user to query name servers for information about various hosts and domains or to print a list of hosts in a domain. Non−interactive mode prints just the name and requested information for a host or domain.

ARGUMENTS

Interactive mode is entered in the following cases:

a. when no arguments are given (the default name server is used);

b. when the first argument is a hyphen (−) and the second argument is the host name or Internet address of a name server.

Non−interactive mode is used when the name or Internet address of the host to be looked up is given as the first argument. The optional second argument specifies the host name or address of a name server.

Options can also be specified on the command line if they precede the arguments and are prefixed with a hyphen. For example, to change the default query type to host information, with an initial timeout of 10 seconds, type:

```
nslookup -query=hinfo  -timeout=10
```

The −**version** option causes **nslookup** to print the version number and immediately exit.

INTERACTIVE COMMANDS

host [server]

This command looks up information for **host** using the current default server or using **server**, if specified. If **host** is an Internet address and the query type is A or PTR, the name of the host is returned. If **host** is a name and does not have a trailing period (**.**), the search list is used to qualify the name.

To look up a host not in the current domain, append a period to the name.

server domain | lserver domain

These commands change the default server to **domain**; **lserver** uses the initial server to look up information about **domain**, while **server** uses the current default server. If an authoritative answer cannot be found, the names of servers that might have the answer are returned.

root   This command is not implemented.

finger   This command is not implemented.

ls   This command is not implemented.

view   This command is not implemented.

help   This command is not implemented.

?   This command is not implemented.

exit   This command exits the program.

set keyword[=value]

This command is used to change state information that affects the lookups. Valid keywords are:

all   This keyword prints the current values of the frequently used options to **set**. Information about the current default server and host is also printed.

class=value

This keyword changes the query class to one of:

IN   the Internet class

CH   the Chaos class

HS   the Hesiod class

ANY   wildcard

The class specifies the protocol group of the information. The default is **IN**; the abbreviation for this keyword is **cl**.

nodebug

This keyword turns on or off the display of the full response packet, and any intermediate response packets, when searching. The default for this keyword is **nodebug**; the abbreviation for this keyword is **[no]deb**.

nod2   This keyword turns debugging mode on or off. This displays more about what nslookup is doing. The default is **nod2**.

domain=name

This keyword sets the search list to **name**.

nosearch

If the lookup request contains at least one period, but does not end with a trailing period, this keyword appends the domain names in the domain search list to the request until an answer is received. The default is **search**.

port=value

This keyword changes the default TCP/UDP name server port to **value** from its default, port 53. The abbreviation for this keyword is **po**.

querytype=value | type=value

This keyword changes the type of the information query to **value**. The defaults are A and then AAAA; the abbreviations for these keywords are **q** and **ty**.

Please note that it is only possible to specify one query type. Only the default behavior looks up both when an alternative is not specified.

norecurse

This keyword tells the name server to query other servers if it does not have the information. The default is **recurse**; the abbreviation for this keyword is **[no]rec**.

ndots=number

This keyword sets the number of dots (label separators) in a domain that disables searching. Absolute names always stop searching.

retry=number

This keyword sets the number of retries to **number**.

timeout=number

This keyword changes the initial timeout interval to wait for a reply to **number**, in seconds.

novc   This keyword indicates that a virtual circuit should always be used when sending requests to the server. **novc** is the default.

nofail   This keyword tries the next nameserver if a nameserver responds with SERVFAIL or a referral (nofail), or terminates the query (fail) on such a response. The default is **nofail**.

RETURN VALUES

nslookup returns with an exit status of 1 if any query failed, and 0 otherwise.

IDN SUPPORT

If **nslookup** has been built with IDN (internationalized domain name) support, it can accept and display non−ASCII domain names. **nslookup** appropriately converts character encoding of a domain name before sending a request to a DNS server or displaying a reply from the server. To turn off IDN support, define the **IDN_DISABLE** environment variable. IDN support is disabled if the variable is set when **nslookup** runs, or when the standard output is not a tty.

FILES

/etc/resolv.conf

SEE ALSO

dig(1), **host(1)**, **named(8)**.

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