

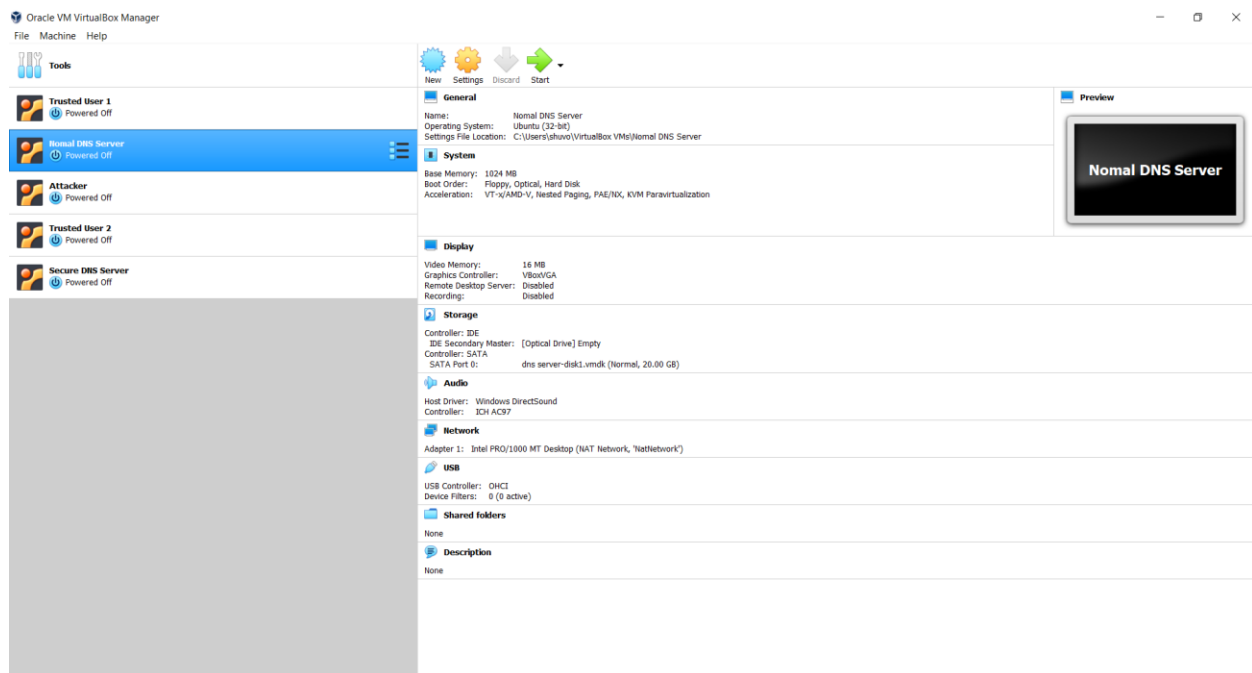
# DoS Attack to the DNS Server (Using Spoofed IP Address)

Final Report & Implementation Demo

**Source Code:** <https://github.com/shiroe41/DoS-Attack-to-the-DNS-Server.git>

**Attack Strategy:** We will execute the DoS attack with **DNS NXDOMAIN Flood attack** approach. With this approach, the DNS server is flooded with non-existent domain-name requests which makes the DNS cache overflow, and the server uses up all its resources to query these domain-names and thus becomes unable to answer DNS query to valid clients. We will also spoof the IP address of the attacker so that the attacker cannot be traced.

We will be using Oracle VM VirtualBox to simulate this attack and some prevention measures.

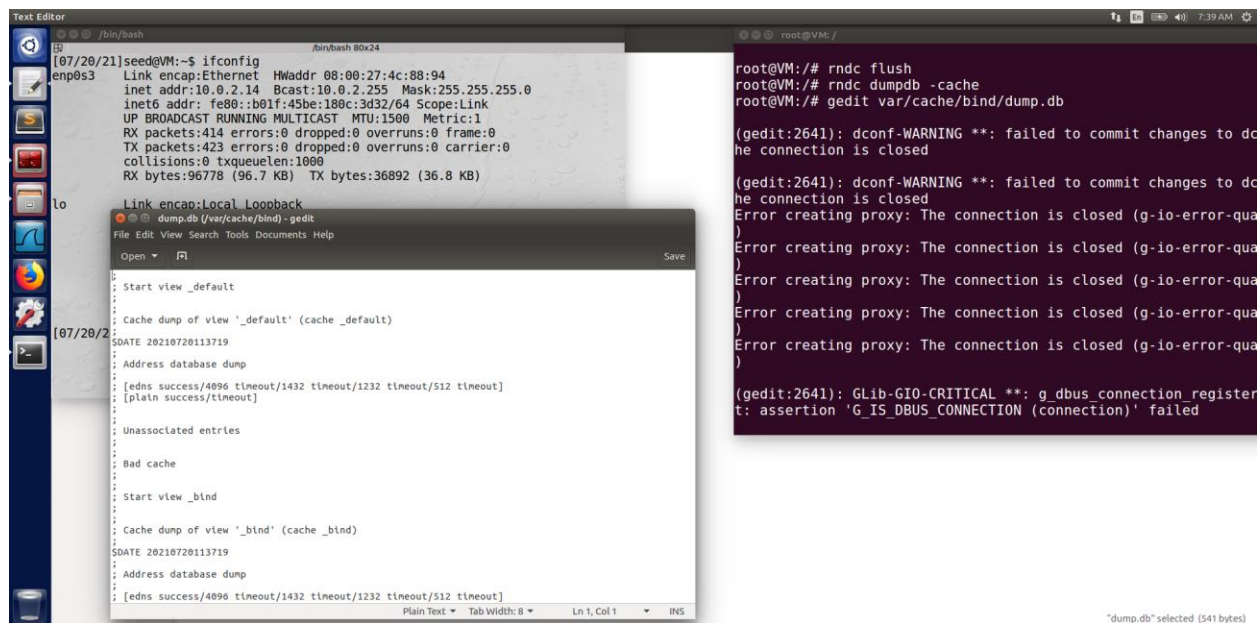


So, here we created 5 virtual machines. We will use the **Attacker**, **Trusted User 1** and **Normal DNS Server** to simulate the DoS attack. After that we will use the **Attacker**, **Trusted User 2** and **Secure DNS Server** to simulate some prevention measures.

## Attack Steps:

- The DNS query packet is built with appropriate header values and question segment. A randomly generated garbage domain name is used to build the question segment. The format used is xxxxx.xxxxx.xxxxx
- IP header with spoofed IP Address and UDP header is created. The DNS Packet is the payload here. All of them are concatenated into a single packet.
- Then the packet is sent to the target DNS server.
- This process is run in an infinite loop.
- This attack is executed from the terminal as superuser, and it can be terminated with CTRL+c keyboard command.

## Snapshots of the Attack:



```
Text Editor
[07/20/21]seed@VM:~$ ifconfig
enp0s3 Link encap:Ethernet HWaddr 08:00:27:4c:88:94
inet addr:10.0.2.14 Bcast:10.0.2.255 Mask:255.255.255.0
inet6 addr: fe80::b01f:45be:180c:3d32/64 Scope:Link
UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST MTU:1500 Metric:1
RX packets:414 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
TX packets:423 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000
RX bytes:96778 (96.7 KB) TX bytes:36892 (36.8 KB)

Link encap:Local Loopback
dump.db (/var/cache/bind) - gedit
File Edit View Search Tools Documents Help
Open Save
Start view _default
Cache dump of view '_default' (cache_default)
SDATE 20210720113719
Address database dump
[edns success/4096 timeout/1432 timeout/1232 timeout/512 timeout]
[plain success/timeout]
Unassociated entries
Bad cache
Start view _bind
Cache dump of view '_bind' (cache_bind)
SDATE 20210720113719
Address database dump
[edns success/4096 timeout/1432 timeout/1232 timeout/512 timeout]
Plain Text Tab Width: 8 Ln 1, Col 1 INS
"dump.db" selected (541 bytes)
```

```
root@VM:/# rndc flush
root@VM:/# rndc dumpdb -cache
root@VM:/# gedit var/cache/bind/dump.db

(gedit:2641): dconf-WARNING **: failed to commit changes to dc
he connection is closed

(gedit:2641): dconf-WARNING **: failed to commit changes to dc
he connection is closed
Error creating proxy: The connection is closed (g-io-error-qua
)
Error creating proxy: The connection is closed (g-io-error-qua
)
Error creating proxy: The connection is closed (g-io-error-qua
)
Error creating proxy: The connection is closed (g-io-error-qua
)
Error creating proxy: The connection is closed (g-io-error-qua
)
(gedit:2641): GLib-GIO-CRITICAL **: g_dbus_connection_register
t: assertion 'G_IS_DBUS_CONNECTION (connection)' failed
```

This is the initial state of the **Normal DNS Server** machine. We can see its IP address is 10.0.2.14. Its DNS cache size is 541 bytes, and it contains no record for the time being. Now we use 'dig' command from **Trusted User 1** to send a valid DNS query and see the changes.

```
Terminal
[07/20/21]seed@VM:~$ ifconfig
enp0s3 Link encap:Ethernet HWaddr 08:00:27:11:37:b3
        inet addr:10.0.2.16 Bcast:10.0.2.255 Mask:255.255.0
        inet6 addr: fe80::dd67:9d0c:9b4d:87be/64 Scope:Link
        UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST MTU:1500 Metric:1
        RX packets:45 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
        TX packets:66 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
        collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000
        RX bytes:7819 (7.8 KB) TX bytes:8100 (8.1 KB)

lo Link encap:Local Loopback
        inet addr:127.0.0.1 Mask:255.0.0.0
        inet6 addr: ::1/128 Scope:Host
        UP LOOPBACK RUNNING MTU:65536 Metric:1
        RX packets:48 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
        TX packets:48 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
        collisions:0 txqueuelen:1
        RX bytes:12073 (12.0 KB) TX bytes:12073 (12.0 KB)

[07/20/21]seed@VM:~$

[07/20/21]seed@VM:~$ dig google.com

;; <<> Dig 9.10.3-P4-Ubuntu <<> google.com
;; global options: +cmd
;; Got answer:
;; ->HEADER<- opcode: QUERY, status: NOERROR, id: 46618
;; flags: qr rd ra; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 6, AUTHORITY: 4, ADDITIONAL: 9
;; OPT PSEUDOSECTION:
;; EDNS: version: 0, flags:; udp: 4096
;; QUESTION SECTION:
;google.com.                        IN      A

;; ANSWER SECTION:
google.com.      300     IN      A       172.217.194.102
google.com.      300     IN      A       172.217.194.138
google.com.      300     IN      A       172.217.194.100
google.com.      300     IN      A       172.217.194.101
google.com.      300     IN      A       172.217.194.139
google.com.      300     IN      A       172.217.194.113

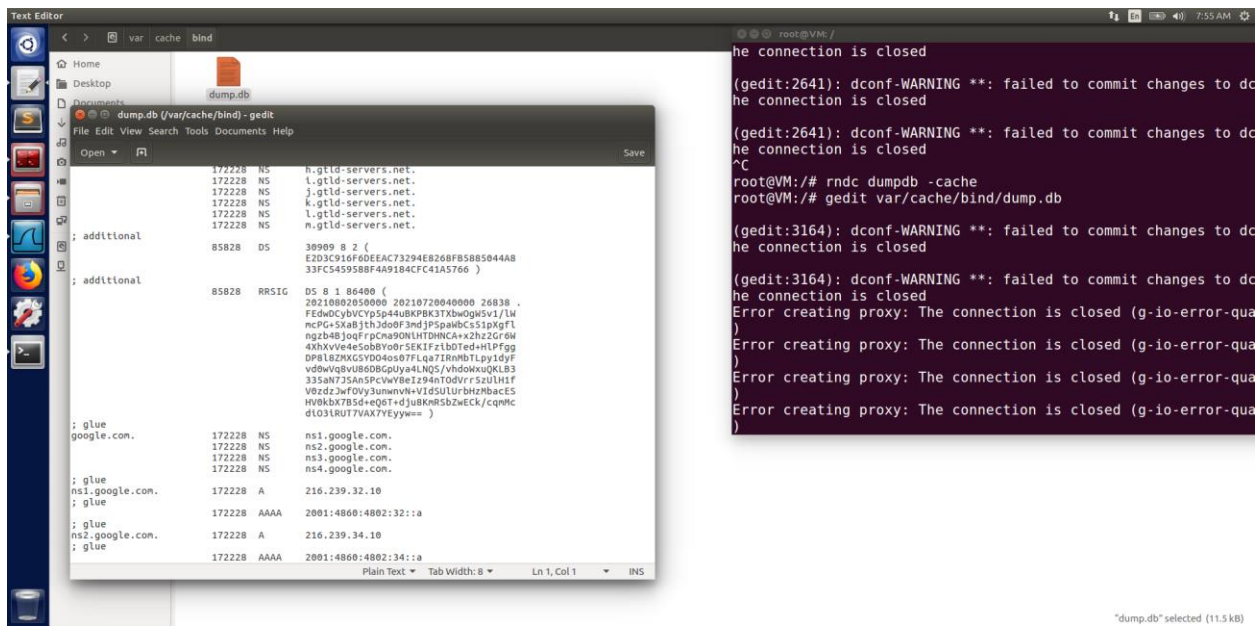
;; AUTHORITY SECTION:
google.com.      172800  IN      NS      ns1.google.com.
google.com.      172800  IN      NS      ns3.google.com.
```

This is **Trusted User 1** machine with IP address 10.0.2.16; We can see the 'dig' command executed successfully and we got a valid DNS response. Now let's check the server's status.

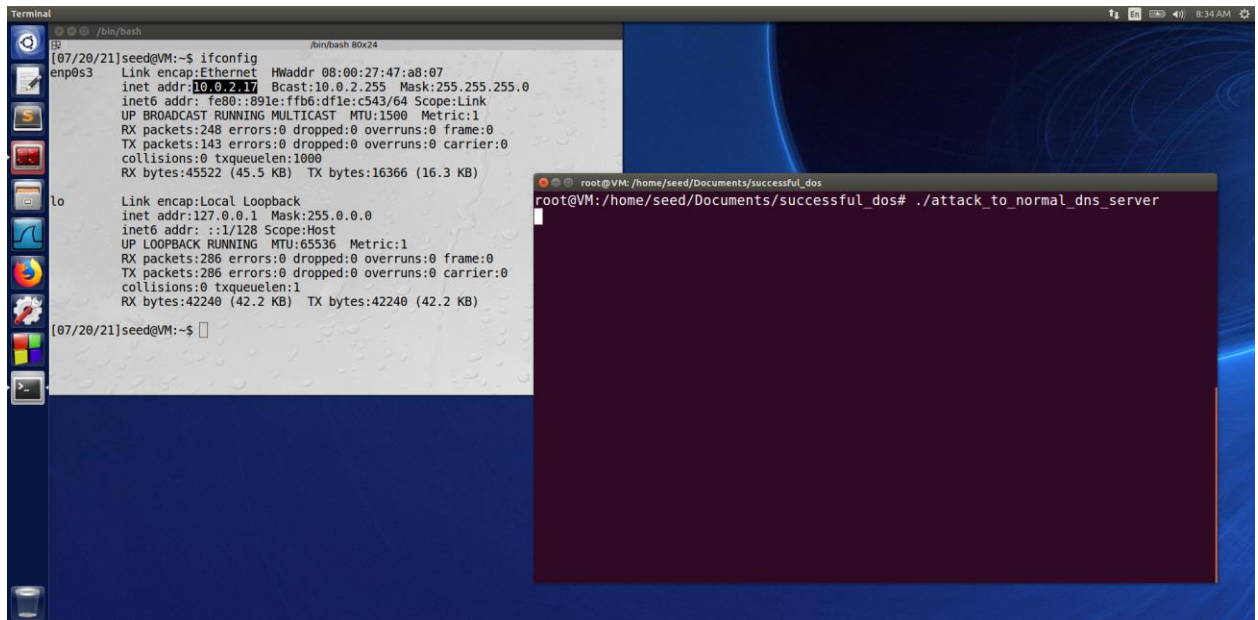
The image shows a Wireshark packet capture of DNS traffic. The top pane displays a list of 20 captured packets, with the first packet being a DNS Standard query from 10.0.2.16 to 10.0.2.14. The middle pane shows the details of the selected packet (No. 1), including the Ethernet II header, Internet Protocol Version 4 header, and User Datagram Protocol header. The bottom pane shows the raw packet data in hexadecimal and ASCII format.

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
1	2021-07-20 07:45:06.1644112	10.0.2.16	10.0.2.14	DNS	81	Standard query 0xb61a A google.com OPT
2	2021-07-20 07:45:06.1855244	10.0.2.14	199.7.91.13	DNS	81	Standard query 0xb3b1 A google.com OPT
3	2021-07-20 07:45:06.1856128	10.0.2.14	199.7.91.13	DNS	70	Standard query 0x444d NS <Root> OPT
4	2021-07-20 07:45:06.1857432	10.0.2.14	199.7.91.13	DNS	89	Standard query 0xf7aa AAAA E.ROOT-SERVERS.NET OPT
5	2021-07-20 07:45:06.1858141	10.0.2.14	199.7.91.13	DNS	89	Standard query 0x8fd AAAA G.ROOT-SERVERS.NET OPT
6	2021-07-20 07:45:06.2355122	199.7.91.13	10.0.2.14	DNS	305	Standard query response 0xb3b1 A google.com NS a.gtld-servers.net NS b.gtld-servers.net NS c.gtld-servers.net...
7	2021-07-20 07:45:06.2355350	199.7.91.13	10.0.2.14	DNS	531	Standard query response 0xf7aa AAAA E.ROOT-SERVERS.NET AAAA 2001:500:ab::e NS a.ROOT-SERVERS.NET NS b.ROOT-S...
8	2021-07-20 07:45:06.2355375	199.7.91.13	10.0.2.14	DNS	70	Standard query response 0x444d NS <Root> OPT
9	2021-07-20 07:45:06.2357456	10.0.2.14	199.7.91.13	TCP	74	34785 -> 53 [SYN] Seq=1395000979 Win=29200 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK_PERM=1 TSval=86669 TSecr=0 WS=128
10	2021-07-20 07:45:06.2359855	10.0.2.14	199.7.91.13	TCP	74	51025 -> 53 [SYN] Seq=4102553439 Win=29200 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK_PERM=1 TSval=86669 TSecr=0 WS=128
11	2021-07-20 07:45:06.2363852	199.7.91.13	10.0.2.14	DNS	531	Standard query response 0x8fd AAAA G.ROOT-SERVERS.NET AAAA 2001:500:12::d0d NS a.ROOT-SERVERS.NET NS b.ROOT...
12	2021-07-20 07:45:06.2851506	199.7.91.13	10.0.2.14	TCP	60	53 -> 34785 [SYN, ACK] Seq=9894 Ack=1395000980 Win=32768 Len=0 MSS=1460
13	2021-07-20 07:45:06.2851777	10.0.2.14	199.7.91.13	TCP	54	34785 -> 53 [ACK] Seq=1395000980 Ack=9895 Win=29200 Len=0
14	2021-07-20 07:45:06.2853186	10.0.2.14	199.7.91.13	DNS	95	Standard query 0x58ad A google.com OPT
15	2021-07-20 07:45:06.2917471	199.7.91.13	10.0.2.14	TCP	60	53 -> 51025 [SYN, ACK] Seq=4102553440 Ack=10218 Win=29200 Len=0 MSS=1460
16	2021-07-20 07:45:06.2917269	10.0.2.14	199.7.91.13	TCP	54	51025 -> 53 [ACK] Seq=4102553440 Ack=10218 Win=29200 Len=0
17	2021-07-20 07:45:06.2917982	10.0.2.14	199.7.91.13	DNS	84	Standard query 0xb8c2 NS <Root> OPT
18	2021-07-20 07:45:06.3340940	199.7.91.13	10.0.2.14	DNS	1226	Standard query response 0x58ad A google.com NS a.gtld-servers.net NS b.gtld-servers.net NS c.gtld-servers.net...
19	2021-07-20 07:45:06.3341174	10.0.2.14	199.7.91.13	TCP	54	34785 -> 53 [ACK] Seq=1395001021 Ack=11967 Win=31644 Len=0
20	2021-07-20 07:45:06.3345378	10.0.2.14	192.31.80.30	DNS	81	Standard query 0x8a32 A google.com OPT

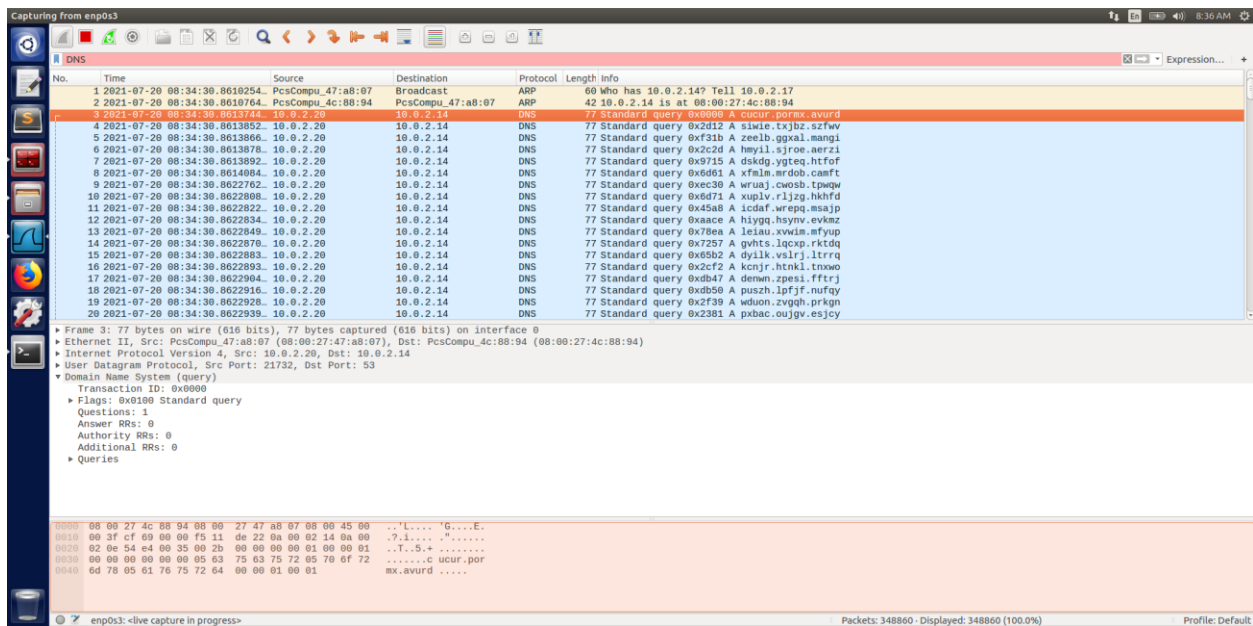
We can check the packets in Wireshark. Here we can see a DNS query about google.com from Source 10.0.2.16 to Destination 10.0.2.14 which is the machine itself. Now if we check the DNS cache status,



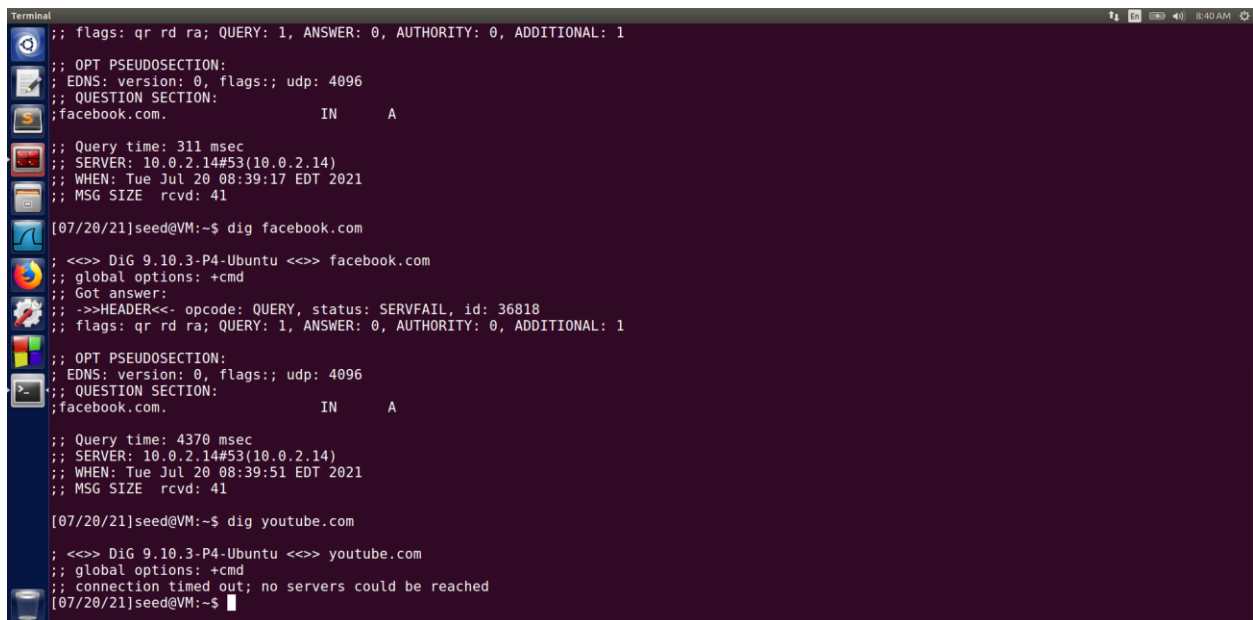
We can see the entry google.com in the DNS cache and the cache size increased to 11.5 KB. Now we will start the DoS attack and see what happens.



This is the **Attacker** machine with IP address 10.0.2.17; We start the DoS attack from here. Now let's check the server using Wireshark

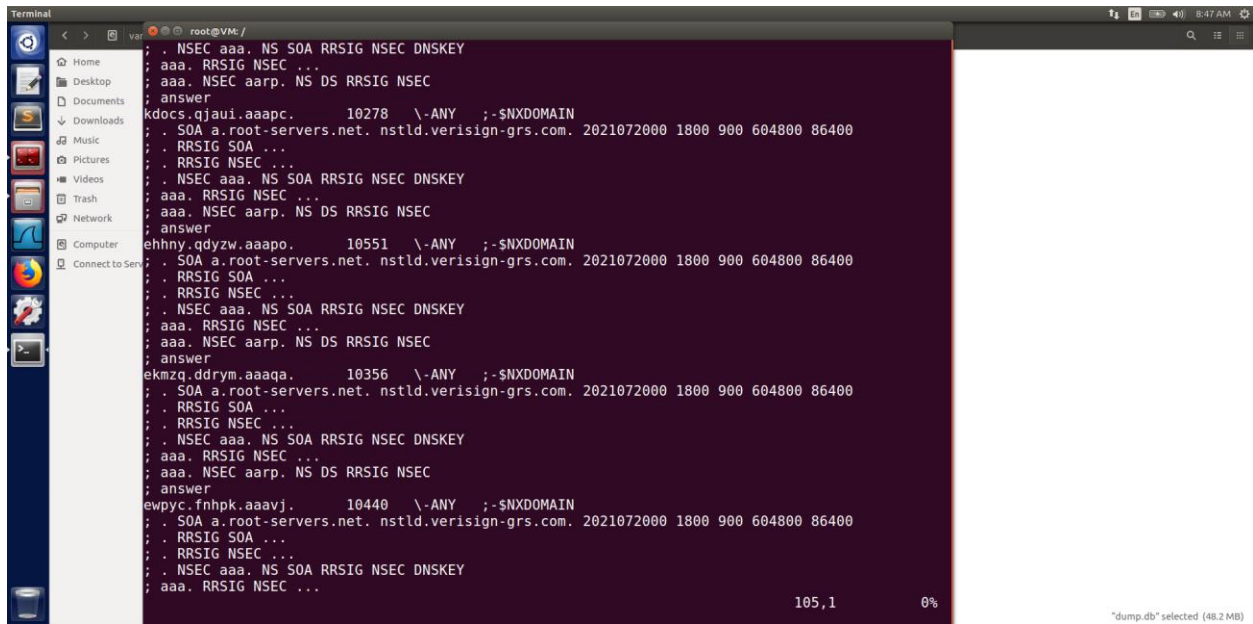


We can see, the server is flooded with garbage DNS queries from IP address 10.0.2.20 which is not the attacker's own IP address. So, IP spoofing was successful. Now let's check the Client machine and try to use 'dig' command like before.



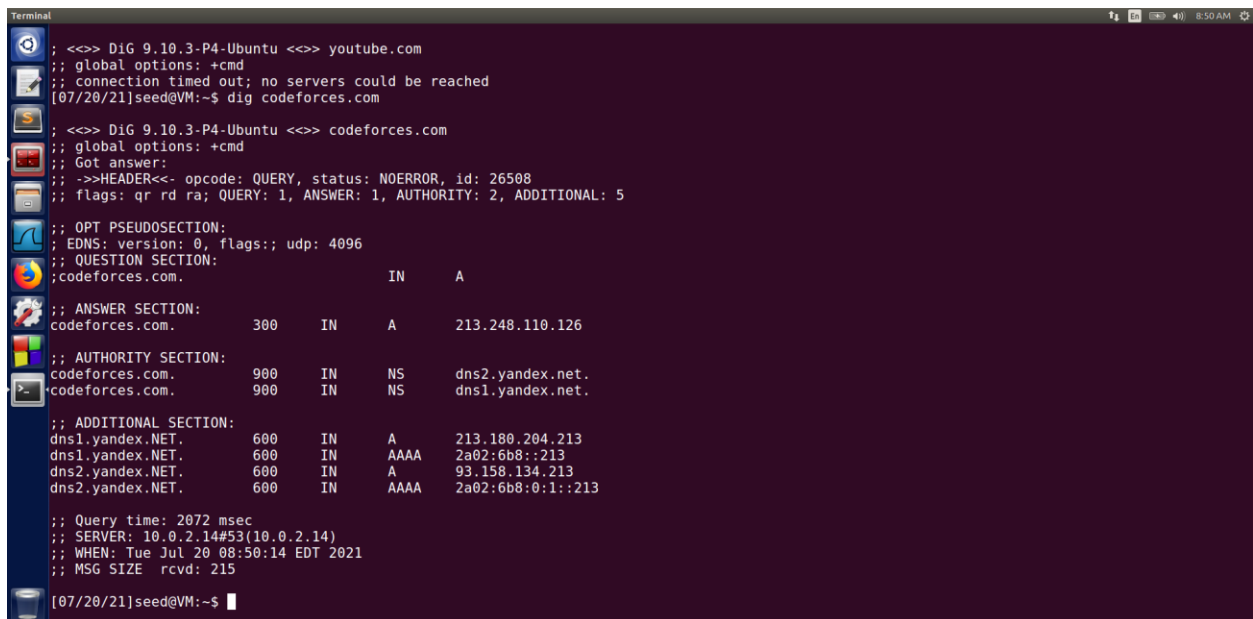
We can see all the requests failed with either **SERVFAIL** status or **Connection Timed Out** Status. So, the client is successfully being denied of service. Let's stop the attack and check the server cache.



A terminal window on a Linux system showing the contents of a DNS cache. The output lists several entries for the domain 'aaa', all of which are NXDOMAIN (non-existent domain). The entries include SOA (Start of Authority) records and RRSIG (Resource Record Signature) records. The cache size is shown as 105,1 and 0% at the bottom right. A status bar at the bottom right indicates "dump.db" selected (48.2 MB).

```
root@VM: /  
; NSEC aaa. NS SOA RRSIG NSEC DNSKEY  
aaa. RRSIG NSEC ...  
aaa. NSEC aarp. NS DS RRSIG NSEC  
answer  
kdocs.qjaii.aaapc. 10278 \-ANY ;-$NXDOMAIN  
; SOA a.root-servers.net. nstld.verisign-grs.com. 2021072000 1800 900 604800 86400  
; RRSIG SOA ...  
; RRSIG NSEC ...  
; NSEC aaa. NS SOA RRSIG NSEC DNSKEY  
aaa. RRSIG NSEC ...  
aaa. NSEC aarp. NS DS RRSIG NSEC  
answer  
ehhny.qdyzw.aaapo. 10551 \-ANY ;-$NXDOMAIN  
; SOA a.root-servers.net. nstld.verisign-grs.com. 2021072000 1800 900 604800 86400  
; RRSIG SOA ...  
; RRSIG NSEC ...  
; NSEC aaa. NS SOA RRSIG NSEC DNSKEY  
aaa. RRSIG NSEC ...  
aaa. NSEC aarp. NS DS RRSIG NSEC  
answer  
ekmzg.ddrym.aaaaa. 10356 \-ANY ;-$NXDOMAIN  
; SOA a.root-servers.net. nstld.verisign-grs.com. 2021072000 1800 900 604800 86400  
; RRSIG SOA ...  
; RRSIG NSEC ...  
; NSEC aaa. NS SOA RRSIG NSEC DNSKEY  
aaa. RRSIG NSEC ...  
aaa. NSEC aarp. NS DS RRSIG NSEC  
answer  
ewpyc.fnhpk.aaavj. 10440 \-ANY ;-$NXDOMAIN  
; SOA a.root-servers.net. nstld.verisign-grs.com. 2021072000 1800 900 604800 86400  
; RRSIG SOA ...  
; RRSIG NSEC ...  
; NSEC aaa. NS SOA RRSIG NSEC DNSKEY  
aaa. RRSIG NSEC ...  
105,1 0%  
"dump.db" selected (48.2 MB)
```

We can see the cache is filled with NXDOMAIN entries from the attack. Its size has increased to 48.2 MB. Now that we stopped the attack, let's try to use 'dig' command from the **Trusted User 1** machine again.

A terminal window showing the output of the 'dig' command for 'codeforces.com'. The output shows a successful query with an answer section containing an A record for 'codeforces.com' with IP address 213.248.110.126. The query time is 2072 msec. The terminal prompt is '[07/20/21]seed@VM:~\$'.

```
[07/20/21]seed@VM:~$ dig codeforces.com  
; <<>> DiG 9.10.3-P4-Ubuntu <<>> youtube.com  
;; global options: +cmd  
;; connection timed out; no servers could be reached  
[07/20/21]seed@VM:~$ dig codeforces.com  
; <<>> DiG 9.10.3-P4-Ubuntu <<>> codeforces.com  
;; global options: +cmd  
;; Got answer:  
;; ->HEADER<- opcode: QUERY, status: NOERROR, id: 26508  
;; flags: qr rd ra; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 1, AUTHORITY: 2, ADDITIONAL: 5  
;; OPT PSEUDOSECTION:  
;; EDNS: version: 0, flags:;, udp: 4096  
;; QUESTION SECTION:  
;codeforces.com.  
;; ANSWER SECTION:  
codeforces.com. 300 IN A 213.248.110.126  
;; AUTHORITY SECTION:  
codeforces.com. 900 IN NS dns2.yandex.net.  
codeforces.com. 900 IN NS dns1.yandex.net.  
;; ADDITIONAL SECTION:  
dns1.yandex.NET. 600 IN A 213.180.204.213  
dns1.yandex.NET. 600 IN AAAA 2a02:6b8::213  
dns2.yandex.NET. 600 IN A 93.158.134.213  
dns2.yandex.NET. 600 IN AAAA 2a02:6b8:0:1::213  
;; Query time: 2072 msec  
;; SERVER: 10.0.2.14#53(10.0.2.14)  
;; WHEN: Tue Jul 20 08:50:14 EDT 2021  
;; MSG SIZE rcvd: 215  
[07/20/21]seed@VM:~$
```

We can see the command is working again just as it was before.

**So, from the observation above, we can say that the DoS attack is working perfectly.**

## Snapshots of Attack on a Secured DNS Server:

Here we will target the **Secure DNS Server** machine for our attack. The client will be **Trusted User 2**, and the attacker will be same as before.

The top screenshot shows a terminal window with the following output:

```
[07/20/21]seed@VM:~$ ifconfig
enp0s3
Link encap:Ethernet  HWaddr 08:00:27:5c:c5:9f
inet addr:10.0.2.19  Bcast:10.0.2.255  Mask:255.255.255.0
inet6 addr: fe80::3f2d:f5e8:40cd:8e71/64 Scope:Link
UP BROADCAST RUNNING MULTICAST  MTU:1500  Metric:1
RX packets:114 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
TX packets:115 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
collisions:0 txqueuelen:1000
RX bytes:25069 (25.0 KB)  TX bytes:12315 (12.3 KB)

lo
Link encap:Local Loopback
inet addr:127.0.0.1  Mask:255.0.0.0
inet6 addr: ::1/128 Scope:Host
UP LOOPBACK RUNNING  MTU:65536  Metric:1
RX packets:51 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 frame:0
TX packets:51 errors:0 dropped:0 overruns:0 carrier:0
collisions:0 txqueuelen:1
RX bytes:12221 (12.2 KB)  TX bytes:12221 (12.2 KB)

[07/20/21]seed@VM:~$
```

The bottom screenshot shows a terminal window with the following output:

```
[07/20/21]seed@VM:~$ dig google.com

;<<>> DiG 9.10.3-P4-Ubuntu <<>> google.com
;; global options: +cmd
;; Got answer:
;;->HEADER<- opcode: QUERY, status: NOERROR, id: 11762
;; flags: qr rd ra; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 6, AUTHORITY: 4, ADDITIONAL: 9

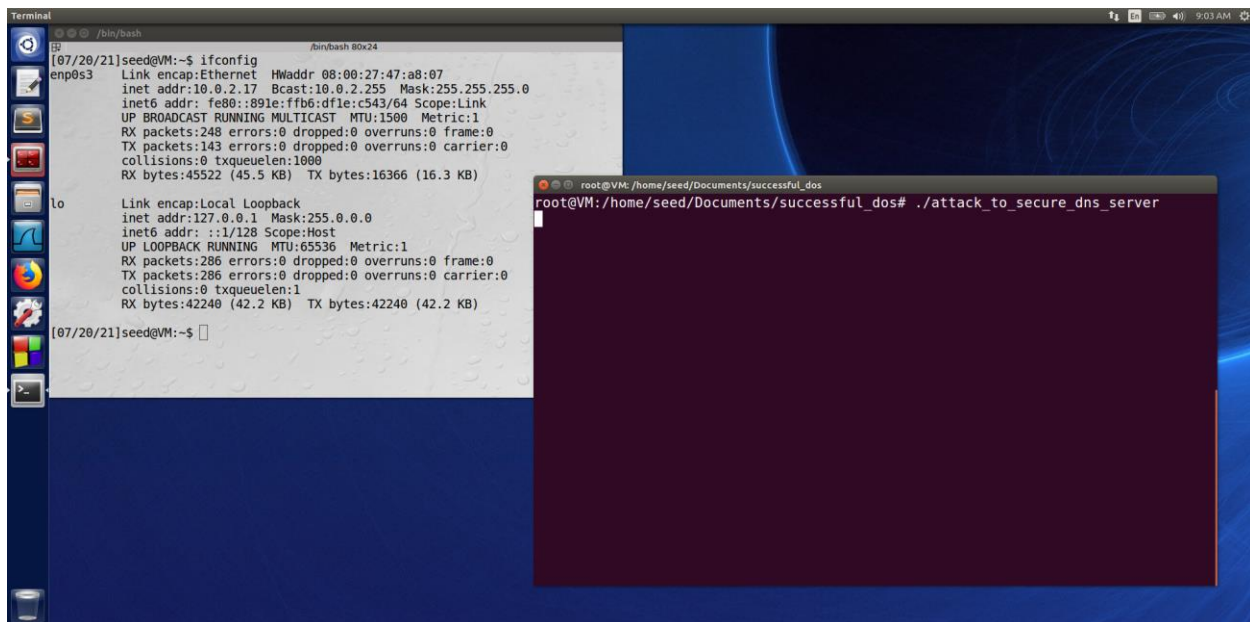
;; OPT PSEUDOSECTION:
;; EDNS: version: 0, flags:; udp: 4096
;; QUESTION SECTION:
;google.com.                IN      A

;; ANSWER SECTION:
google.com.                 300     IN      A       172.217.194.113
google.com.                 300     IN      A       172.217.194.139
google.com.                 300     IN      A       172.217.194.102
google.com.                 300     IN      A       172.217.194.100
google.com.                 300     IN      A       172.217.194.101
google.com.                 300     IN      A       172.217.194.138

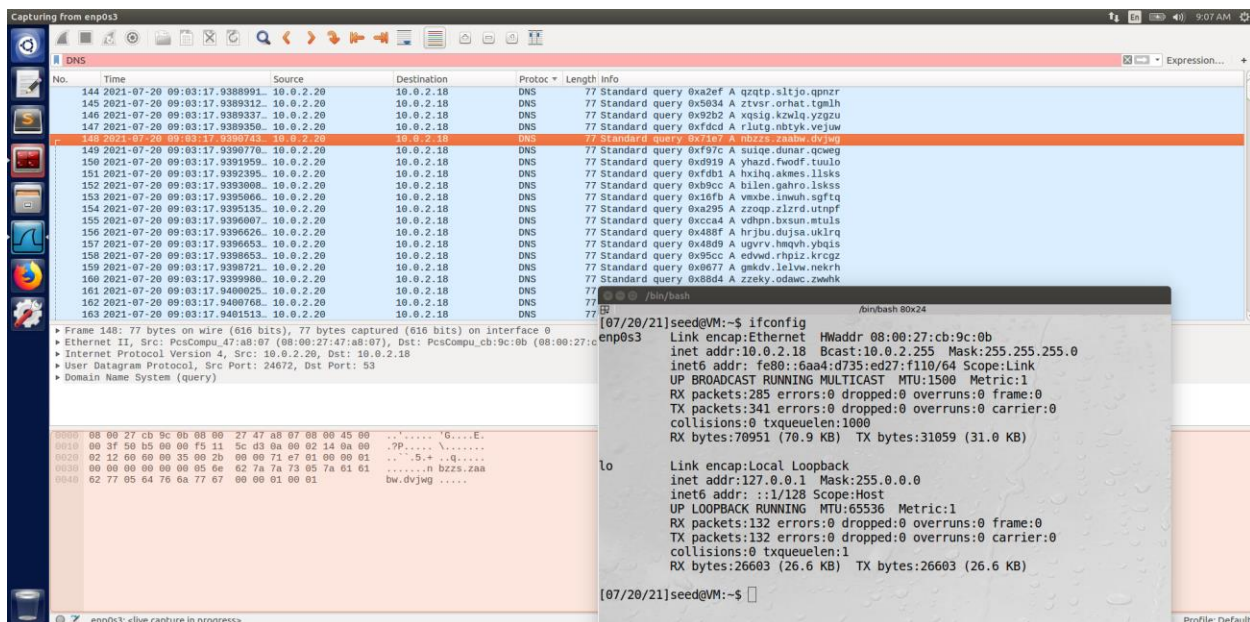
;; AUTHORITY SECTION:
google.com.                 172800  IN      NS      ns4.google.com.
google.com.                 172800  IN      NS      ns3.google.com.
```

The bottom screenshot shows a Wireshark packet capture of a DNS query from 10.0.2.19 to 10.0.2.18. The packet list shows a DNS query from 10.0.2.19 to 10.0.2.18. The packet details show the query for google.com. The packet bytes show the raw data of the query.

So, we can see the **Trusted User 2** machine has IP address 10.0.2.19 and sends DNS query to **Secured DNS Server** machine with IP address 10.0.2.18; The query is resolved, and the client got the DNS response. Now, we will start the attack.



Here, we started the DoS attack. Let's check the DNS server status with Wireshark.



We can see the server is flooded with garbage domain-name queries from IP address 10.0.2.20

Let's check the client machine to see if we can still get response using 'dig' command.



```
Terminal
;; WHEN: Tue Jul 20 09:05:56 EDT 2021
;; MSG SIZE rcvd: 300

[07/20/21]seed@VM:~$ dig youtube.com

<<>> DiG 9.10.3-P4-Ubuntu <<>> youtube.com
;; global options: +cmd
;; Got answer:
;; ->HEADER<<- opcode: QUERY, status: NOERROR, id: 26416
;; flags: qr rd ra; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 4, AUTHORITY: 4, ADDITIONAL: 9

;; OPT PSEUDOSECTION:
;; EDNS: version: 0, flags: udp: 4096
;; QUESTION SECTION:
;youtube.com.                IN      A

;; ANSWER SECTION:
youtube.com.                300     IN      A       74.125.24.91
youtube.com.                300     IN      A       74.125.24.136
youtube.com.                300     IN      A       74.125.24.93
youtube.com.                300     IN      A       74.125.24.190

;; AUTHORITY SECTION:
youtube.com.                172800  IN      NS      ns3.google.com.
youtube.com.                172800  IN      NS      ns2.google.com.
youtube.com.                172800  IN      NS      ns4.google.com.
youtube.com.                172800  IN      NS      ns1.google.com.

;; ADDITIONAL SECTION:
ns1.google.com.            172083  IN      A       216.239.32.10
ns1.google.com.            172083  IN      AAAA    2001:4860:4802:32::a
ns2.google.com.            172083  IN      A       216.239.34.10
ns2.google.com.            172083  IN      AAAA    2001:4860:4802:34::a
ns2.google.com.            172083  IN      A       216.239.36.10
ns3.google.com.            172083  IN      AAAA    2001:4860:4802:36::a
ns3.google.com.            172083  IN      A       216.239.38.10
ns4.google.com.            172083  IN      A       216.239.38.10
```

```
Terminal
;; ->HEADER<<- opcode: QUERY, status: NOERROR, id: 26416
;; flags: qr rd ra; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 4, AUTHORITY: 4, ADDITIONAL: 9

;; OPT PSEUDOSECTION:
;; EDNS: version: 0, flags: udp: 4096
;; QUESTION SECTION:
;youtube.com.                IN      A

;; ANSWER SECTION:
youtube.com.                300     IN      A       74.125.24.91
youtube.com.                300     IN      A       74.125.24.136
youtube.com.                300     IN      A       74.125.24.93
youtube.com.                300     IN      A       74.125.24.190

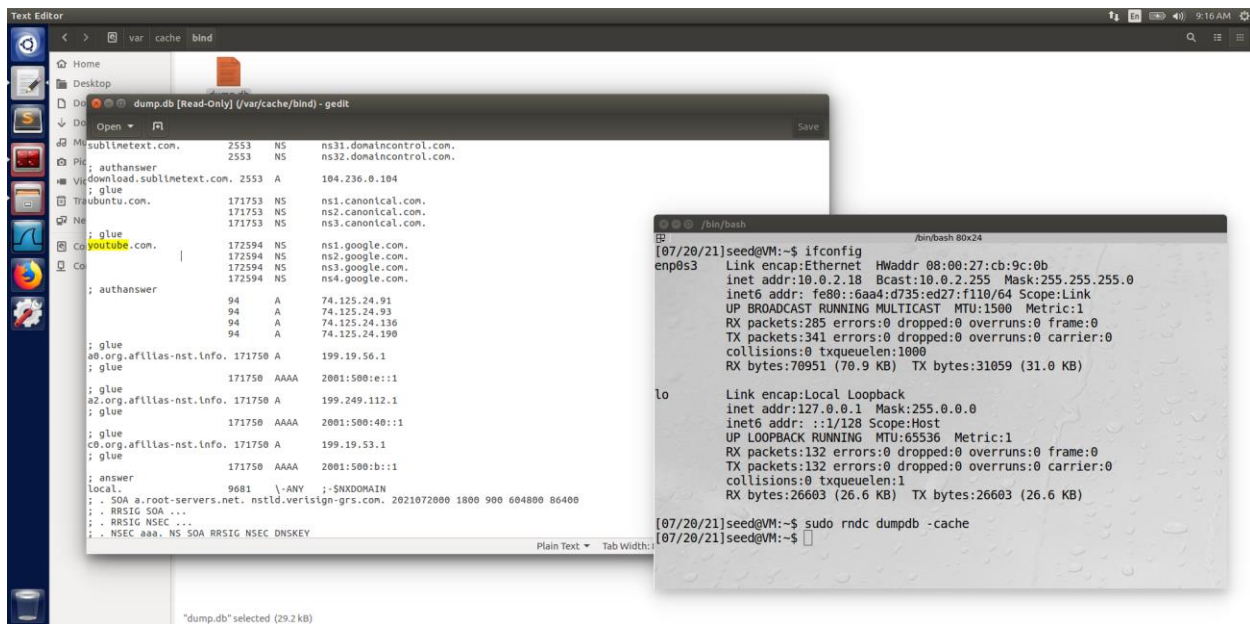
;; AUTHORITY SECTION:
youtube.com.                172800  IN      NS      ns3.google.com.
youtube.com.                172800  IN      NS      ns2.google.com.
youtube.com.                172800  IN      NS      ns4.google.com.
youtube.com.                172800  IN      NS      ns1.google.com.

;; ADDITIONAL SECTION:
ns1.google.com.            172083  IN      A       216.239.32.10
ns1.google.com.            172083  IN      AAAA    2001:4860:4802:32::a
ns2.google.com.            172083  IN      A       216.239.34.10
ns2.google.com.            172083  IN      AAAA    2001:4860:4802:34::a
ns2.google.com.            172083  IN      A       216.239.36.10
ns3.google.com.            172083  IN      AAAA    2001:4860:4802:36::a
ns3.google.com.            172083  IN      A       216.239.38.10
ns4.google.com.            172083  IN      AAAA    2001:4860:4802:38::a

;; Query time: 590 msec
;; SERVER: 10.0.2.18#53(10.0.2.18)
;; WHEN: Tue Jul 20 09:11:43 EDT 2021
;; MSG SIZE rcvd: 359

[07/20/21]seed@VM:~$
```

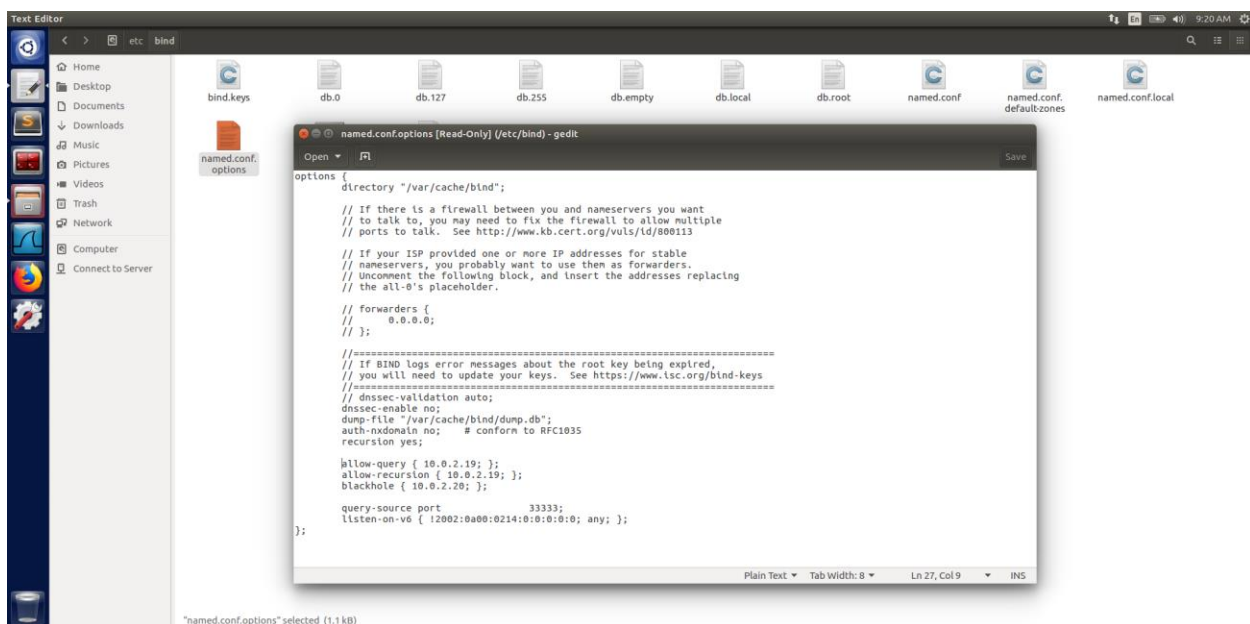
So, we can see that we are still getting response in reasonable time despite the DoS attack. Let's stop the attack and check server's DNS cache.



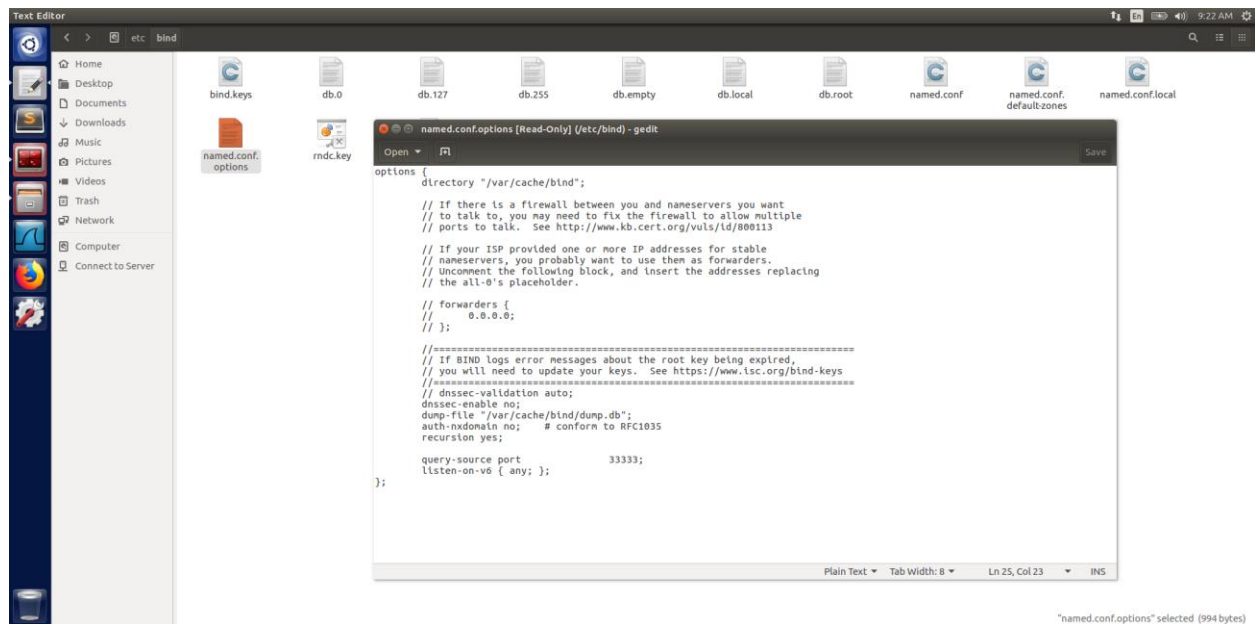
We can see the cache is unaffected by the DoS attack and thus no NXDOMAIN entries. Its size is now only 29.2 KB.

**So, from the above observation we can say that the DoS attack is successfully prevented.**

To achieve this, I had to make some changes in the /etc/bind/named.conf.options file. Below both normal and secure server's file snapshot is given for comparison.



This is from the **Secure DNS Server** machine.



This is from the **Normal DNS Server** machine.

**Demonstration Video Link:** <https://youtu.be/1hZ89F8APoE>

## References:

- <https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc1035>
- <https://w3.cs.jmu.edu/kirkpams/OpenCSF/Books/csf/html/index.html>
- Wenliang Du - Computer & Internet Security\_ A Hands-on Approach-Wenliang Du (2019)