# Useful commands

* Nslookup – it can check corresponding IP address for a domain name and vice versa
* Iptables – it is a tool used for setting up firewall rules.

# Resolving domain names

We can assign to servers domain names which will be used in communication instead of IP addresses.

Resolving domain names means finding an IP address matching given domain name.

DNS servers are used for resolving domain names.

# DNS

DNS is a server used for translating domain names into IP addresses and vice versa.

/etc/resolv.conf file contains information about IP addresses of the DNS servers which are used for translating DNS names.

In the resolv.conf file there might be written:

* search domain-name-1 domain-name-2 …
* Options ndots:x

That means there need to be at least x dots in the domain name in order to be treated as FQDN.

So if host tries to resolve a domain name which has less than x dots, then it will try to append domain names from the ‘search’ field to the domain name which it is trying to resolve.

There might be a situation that host will try to use only the first domain name from the ‘search’ field and if it fails it will not try other names.