

Using Amazon Route 53 to point a domain to an Amazon Lightsail instance

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The DNS zone in Amazon Lightsail makes it easy to point a registered domain name, like [example.com](#), to your website running on a Lightsail instance. You can create up to three Lightsail DNS zones (for three domains), and not all DNS record types are supported.

Note

For more information about Lightsail DNS zones, see [DNS in Amazon Lightsail](#).

If the Lightsail DNS zone is too limited for you, then we recommend using an Amazon Route 53 hosted zone to manage your domain's DNS records. You can manage the DNS for up to 500 domains using Route 53, and it supports a greater variety of DNS record types. Or, you might already be using Route 53 to manage your domain's DNS records and prefer to continue using it. This guide shows you how to edit the DNS records for a domain managed in Route 53 to point to your Lightsail instance.

Prerequisites

Complete the following prerequisites if you haven't already done so:

- Register a domain name using Route 53. For more information, see [Registering a New Domain](#) in the Route 53 documentation.
- If you already registered a domain but you're not using Route 53 to manage its records, then you must transfer management of the DNS records for your domain to Route 53. For more information, see [Making Amazon Route 53 the DNS Service for an Existing Domain](#) in the Route 53 documentation.
- Create a public hosted zone for your domain in Route 53. For more information, see [Creating a Public Hosted Zone](#) in the Route 53 documentation. **Note**
You don't need to create a Lightsail DNS zone if you plan on using Route 53 to manage the DNS records for your domain.
- Create a static IP and attach it to your Lightsail instance. In this guide, you create a DNS record in your domain's Route 53 hosted zone that resolves to the static IP address (public IP address) of your instance. For more information, see [Create a static IP and attach it to an instance in Amazon Lightsail](#).

Pointing a domain to a Lightsail instance using Route 53

The following steps provide guidance about to configure the two most common DNS records, address and canonical name, in Route 53. However, the steps are similar for other record types. For additional information, see [Creating Records by Using the Amazon Route 53 Console](#) in the Route 53 documentation.

To point a domain to a Lightsail instance using Route 53

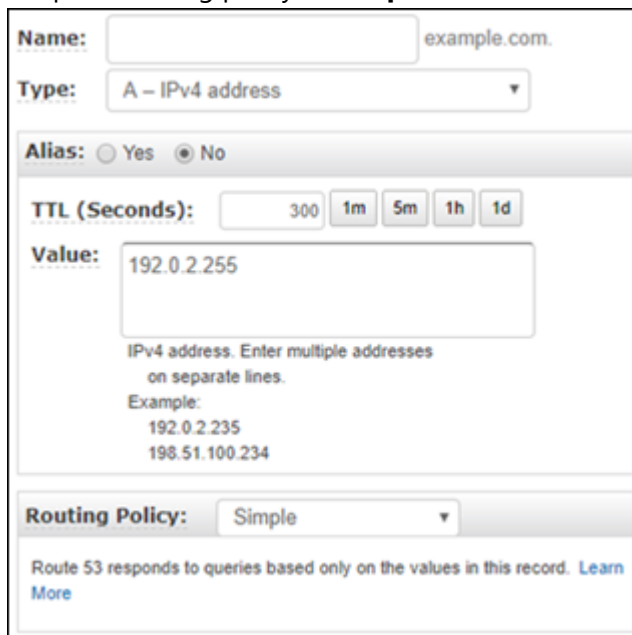
1. Sign in to the [Route 53 console](#).
2. In the left navigation pane, choose **Hosted zones**.
3. Choose **Create record set** to add a new DNS record to the hosted zone.

4. Choose one of the following record types:

A – IPv4 address

An address (A) record maps a domain, such as `example.com`, or a subdomain, such as `blog.example.com`, to a web server's IP address, such as `192.0.2.255`.

1. Keep the **Name** text box empty to point the apex of your domain, such as `example.com`, to an IP address, or enter a subdomain.
2. Choose **A – IPv4 address** in the **Type** drop-down menu.
3. Enter the static IP address (public IP address) of your Lightsail instance in the **Value** text box.
4. Keep the routing policy as **Simple**.



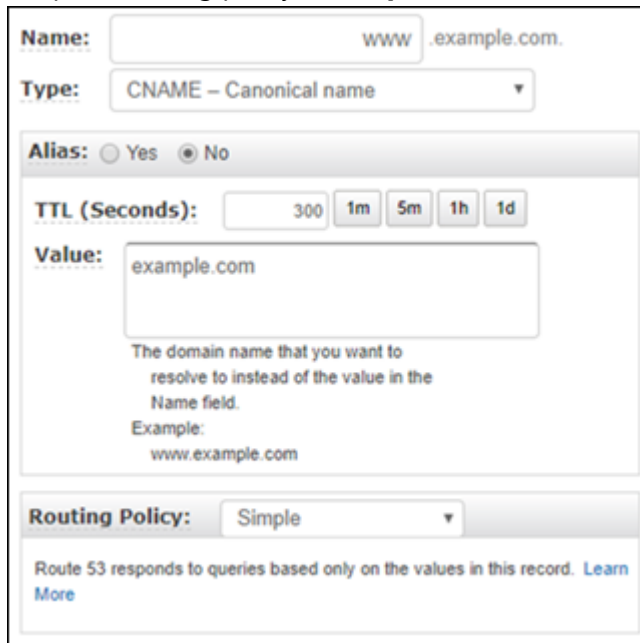
The screenshot shows the Amazon Route 53 console configuration for an A record. The **Name** field is empty, with `example.com.` shown as a placeholder. The **Type** is set to **A – IPv4 address**. The **Alias** option is set to **No**. The **TTL (Seconds)** is set to **300**. The **Value** field contains `192.0.2.255`. Below the value field, there is a note: "IPv4 address. Enter multiple addresses on separate lines. Example: 192.0.2.235 198.51.100.234". The **Routing Policy** is set to **Simple**. At the bottom, there is a note: "Route 53 responds to queries based only on the values in this record. [Learn More](#)".

CNAME – Canonical name

A canonical name (CNAME) record maps an alias or subdomain, such as `www.example.com`, to a domain, such as `example.com`, or a subdomain, such as `www2.example.com`. A CNAME record redirects one domain to another.

5. Enter a subdomain in the **Name** text box.
6. Choose **CNAME – Canonical name** in the **Type** drop-down menu.
7. Enter a domain or subdomain in the **Value** text box.

8. Keep the routing policy as **Simple**.



The screenshot shows the Amazon Route 53 console interface for creating a new record set. The 'Name' field is set to 'www' and the 'Type' is 'CNAME - Canonical name'. The 'Alias' option is set to 'No'. The 'TTL (Seconds)' is set to '300'. The 'Value' field is set to 'example.com'. Below the 'Value' field, there is a note: 'The domain name that you want to resolve to instead of the value in the Name field. Example: www.example.com'. The 'Routing Policy' is set to 'Simple'. At the bottom, there is a link to 'Learn More'.

Name: .example.com.

Type:

Alias: ☐ Yes ☒ No

TTL (Seconds):

Value:

The domain name that you want to resolve to instead of the value in the Name field.
Example:
www.example.com

Routing Policy:

Route 53 responds to queries based only on the values in this record. [Learn More](#)

5. Choose **Create** to add the record to your hosted zone.

Allow time for the change to propagate through the internet's DNS. This may take a few minutes to several hours.

To edit an existing record set in the Route 53 hosted zone, choose the record to edit, enter your changes, and then choose **Save Record Set**.