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Analyzing the DNS records

The goal of using the tools in the DNS records category is to collect information about the DNS servers and the corresponding records of a target domain.

The following are several common DNS record types:

No.	Record type	Description
1	SOA	This is the start of authority record.
2	NS	This is the name server record.
3	А	This is the IPv4 address record.
4	MX	This is the mail exchange record.
5	PTR	This is the pointer record.
6	AAAA	This is the IPv6 address record.
7	CNAME	This is the abbreviation for canonical name. It is used as an alias name for another canonical domain name.

For example, in a penetration test engagement, the customer may ask you to find out all of the hosts and IP addresses available for their domain. The only information you have is the organization's domain name. We will look at several common tools that can help you if you encounter this situation.

host

After we get the DNS server information, the next step is to find out the IP address of a hostname. To help us out on this matter, we can use the following host command-line tool to lookup the IP address of a host from a DNS server:

```
# host www.example.com
```

The following is the command's result:

```
www.example.com has address 192.0.43.10
www.example.com has IPv6 address 2001:500:88:200::10
```

By default, the host command will look for the A , AAAA , and MX records of a domain. To query for any records, just give the -a option to the command.

```
# host -a example.com
Trying "example.com"
;; ->>HEADER<<- opcode: QUERY, status: NOERROR, id: 25153
;; flags: qr rd ra; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 3, AUTHORITY: 0, ADDITIONAL: 2
;; QUESTION SECTION:</pre>
```

```
;example.com.
                                 IN
                                          ANY
;; ANSWER SECTION:
example.com.
                         3201
                                 IN
                                          SOA
                                                  dns1.icann.org.
hostmaster.icann.org. 2012080782 7200 3600 1209600 3600
example.com.
                         46840
                                          NS
                                                  a.iana-servers.net.
                                 ΙN
                         46840
example.com.
                                 IN
                                          NS
                                                  b.iana-servers.net.
;; ADDITIONAL SECTION:
b.iana-servers.net.
                         1401
                                                  199.43.133.53
                                 IN
                                          Α
a.iana-servers.net.
                         1401
                                 IN
                                                  199.43.132.53
Received 170 bytes from 202.152.165.39#53 in 563 ms
```

The host command looks for these records by querying the DNS servers listed in the /etc/resolv.conf file of your Kali Linux system. If you want to use other DNS servers, just give the DNS server address as the last command-line option.

Note

If you give the domain name as the command-line option in host, the method is called forward lookup, but if you give an IP address as the command-line option to the host command, the method is called reverse lookup.

Try to do a reverse lookup of the following IP address:

```
host 23.23.144.81
```

What information can you get from this command?

The host tool can also be used to do a DNS zone transfer. With this mechanism, we can collect information about the available hostnames in a domain.

Note

A DNS zone transfer is a mechanism used to replicate a DNS database from a master DNS server to another DNS server, usually called a slave DNS server. Without this mechanism, the administrators have to update each DNS server separately. The DNS zone transfer query must be issued to an authoritative DNS server of a domain.

Due to the nature of information that can be gathered by a DNS zone transfer, nowadays, it is very rare to find a DNS server that allows zone transfer to an arbitrary zone transfer request.

If you find a DNS server that allows zone transfer without limiting who is able to do it, this means that the DNS server has been configured incorrectly.

The following is an example of performing DNS zone transfer for a domain via a misconfigured DNS server:

```
# host -l example.com ns4.isp.com
```

The following is the DNS zone transfer result:

Using domain server:

```
Name: ns4.isp.com
Address: 172.16.176.22#53
Aliases:

example.com name server ns1.isp.com.
example.com name server ns2.isp.com.
example.com has address 192.168.1.1
smtp.example.com has address 192.168.1.2
mail.example.com has address 192.168.1.3
webmail.example.com has address 192.168.1.3
www.example.com has address 192.168.1.4
```

The host command will return information about the NS, PTR, and address records of a domain. In this case, the misconfigured DNS server is ns4.isp.com.

dig

Besides the host command, you can also use the dig command to do DNS interrogation. The advantages of dig compared to host are its flexibility and clarity of output. With dig, you can ask the system to process a list of lookup requests from a file.

Let's use dig to interrogate the example.com domain:

```
root@kali:~# dig example.com
 <<>> DiG 9.8.4-rpz2+rl005.12-P1 <<>> example.com
;; global options: +cmd
;; Got answer:
 ; ->>HEADER<<- opcode: QUERY, status: NOERROR, id: 3786
;; flags: qr rd ra; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 1, AUTHORITY: 0, ADDITIONAL: 0
;; QUESTION SECTION:
;example.com.
                                ΙN
;; ANSWER SECTION:
                        41023
                                               192.0.43.10
                                ΙN
                                         Α
example.com.
;; Query time: 14 msec
;; SERVER: 10.17.3.245#53(10.17.3.245)
;; WHEN: Mon May 20 08:53:09 2013
 ; MSG SIZE rcvd: 45
```

Without giving any options besides the domain name, the dig command will only return the A record of a domain. To request for any other DNS record type, we can give the type option in the command line:

```
# dig example.com any
; <<>> DiG 9.7.0-P1 <<>> example.com any
;; global options: +cmd
;; Got answer:
;; ->>HEADER<<- opcode: QUERY, status: NOERROR, id: 40971
;; flags: qr rd ra; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 4, AUTHORITY: 0, ADDITIONAL: 2
;; QUESTION SECTION:
;example.com.
                                 IN
                                         ANY
;; ANSWER SECTION:
example.com.
                        3565
                                 IN
                                         SOA
                                                 dns1.icann.org.
hostmaster.icann.org. 2012080782 7200 3600 1209600 3600
                                                 2001:500:88:200::10
example.com.
                        83186
                                IN
                                         AAAA
example.com.
                        48296
                                 IN
                                         NS
                                                 b.iana-servers.net.
example.com.
                        48296
                                IN
                                         NS
                                                 a.iana-servers.net.
;; ADDITIONAL SECTION:
a.iana-servers.net.
                        182
                                 IN
                                                 199.43.132.53
b.iana-servers.net.
                                                 199.43.133.53
                        182
                                 IN
```

```
;; Query time: 327 msec
;; SERVER: 202.152.165.39#53(202.152.165.39)
;; WHEN: Sat Aug 18 10:46:09 2012
;; MSG SIZE rcvd: 198
```

From the result, we can see that the dig output now returns the DNS records of SOA , NS , A , and AAAA .

To do zone transfer using dig, we must set the authoritative DNS server for that domain and set axfr as the type:

```
# dig @ns4.isp.com example.com axfr
```

Following is the abridged result of the preceding command:

```
; <<>> DiG 9.7.0-P1 <<>> @ns4.isp.com example.com axfr
; (1 server found)
;; global options: +cmd
example.com.
                      3600
                              IN
                                      SOA
                                              ns1.isp.com.
hostmaster.isp.com. 2011020409 900 600 86400 3600
example.com.
                     3600
                             IN
                                     NS
                                           ns1.isp.com.
example.com.
                     3600
                             IN
                                     NS
                                           ns4.isp.com.
example.com.
                     3600
                             IN
                                           192.168.1.1
example.com.
                             IN
                     3600
                                     MX
                                           192.168.1.3
mail.example.com.
                     3600
                             IN
                                     Α
                                           192.168.1.3
webmail.example.com. 3600
                             IN
                                     Α
                                           192.168.1.3
www.example.com.
                     3600
                             IN
                                     Α
                                           192.168.1.4
example.com.
                     3600
                             IN
                                     SOA
                                           ns1.isp.com.
hostmaster.isp.com. 2011020409 900 600 86400 3600
;; Query time: 855 msec
;; SERVER: 172.16.176.22#53 (172.16.176.22)
;; WHEN: Sat Aug 18 10:59:11 2012
;; XFR size: 9 records
```

We can see in the preceding result that the DNS records are similar to those of the host command. Based on this, we can be confident about the DNS records collected.

dnsenum

To collect information from a DNS server, we can utilize dnsenum. The DNS information that can be gathered is as follows:

- The host IP addresses
- The DNS server of a domain
- The MX record of a domain

Note

In this chapter, you may see that we used several tools that generate similar results, this is because we need to validate the information collected. If the information is found in more than one tool, we can be more confident with the information.

Besides being used to get DNS information, dnsenum also has the following features:

- Get additional names and subdomains utilizing the Google search engine.
- Find out subdomain names by brute forcing the names from the text files. The dnsenum tool included in Kali Linux comes with a dns.txt dictionary file that contains 1,480 subdomain names and a dns-big.txt file, which contains 266,930 subdomain names.

- Carry out Whois queries on C-class domain network ranges and calculate its network ranges.
- Carry out reverse lookup on network ranges.
- · Use threads to process different queries.

To access dnsenum, go to the console and type the following command:

dnsenum

This will display the usage instruction on your screen.

As an example of the dnsenum tool usage, we will use dnsenum to get DNS information from a target domain. The command to do this is as follows:

dnsenum example.com

The following is the abridged result of that command:

example.com

```
dnsenum.pl example.com
dnsenum.pl VERSION:1.2.2
---- example.com -----
Host's addresses:
Name Servers:
ns1.isp.com 10771
                      IN
                            Α
                                     172.168.1.2
             7141
                                     172.168.1.1
ns0.isp.com
                      IN
                            Α
Mail (MX) Servers:
                                       192.168.10.3
hermes1.example.com 86400 IN A
hermes.example.com 3600
                                 Α
                                         192.168.10.2
                           IN
Trying Zone Transfers and getting Bind Versions:
Trying Zone Transfer for example.com on ns0.isp.com ...
AXFR record query failed: NOERROR
ns0.isp.com Bind Version:
DNS server
Trying Zone Transfer for example.com on ns1.isp.com ...
example.com
                                86400
                                        IN
                                              SOA
                                86400
                                        IN
                                              NS
```

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```
example.com
                                    86400
                                             IN
                                                   MX
example.com
                                    86400
                                             IN
                                                    TXT
admin.example.com
                                    3600
                                             IN
                                                   NS
blogs.example.com
                                    3600
                                             IN
                                                   NS
ftp.example.com
                                                   192.168.10.4
                            3600
                                      IN
                                            Α
hermes.example.com
                                                    192.168.10.2
                              3600
                                        IN
                                              Α
hermes.example.com
                                  86400
                                           IN
                                                 TXT
                                                 SPF
hermes.example.com
                                  86400
                                           IN
hermes1.example.com
                                                       192.168.10.2
                             86400
                                       ΙN
                                             Α
www.example.com
                           3600
                                     IN
                                           NS
```

```
ns1.isp.com Bind Version:
DNS server
```

brute force file not specified, bay.

Using the default options of dnsenum, we can get information about the host address, name servers, and the mail server's IP address. Fortunately, the ns1.isp.com DNS server allows us to do zone transfer for the example.com domain.

In the case that the zone transfer is not successful, we can do brute forcing of the lookups to find the subdomains from a wordlist. For example, if we want to brute force the subdomain using the provided text file wordlist (dns.txt), the following is the appropriate command:

```
dnsenum -f dns.txt example.com
```

The following is the result of the brute forcing process:

```
Brute forcing with dns.txt:
```

apps.example.com	86400	IN	Α	
192.168.10.152				
<pre>mail.example.com</pre>	86400	IN	Α	192.168.10.107
portal.example.com	86400	IN	Α	192.168.10.249

Beware that brute forcing the DNS lookups will take some time to finish.

Luckily for us, the target domain uses common subdomain names. So we are able to find several subdomains (apps , mail , and portal) in the target domain based on the dictionary file we have.

Another technique that can be used to find the subdomain is by using Google. This will be useful if the DNS zone transfer is disabled. To use Google, just add the options -p for the number of Google pages to be processed or -S to define the number of subdomains to be collected. You may also want to set the number of threads to do the queries (--threads) in order to speed up the process.

dnsdict6

Up until now, we only talked about the DNS tools to enumerate the subdomains in IP Version 4. If you want to enumerate the IP Version 6 subdomains, you can use dnsdict6 from the The Hacker's Choice (THC) group.

To access dnsdict6 in Kali Linux, you can use the console and type the following command:

dnsdict6

It will display the dsndict6 help page.

Without giving any options, dnsdict6 will use the built-in wordlist and eight threads.

Let's enumerate the subdomains available in the example.com domain using the following command line:

dnsdict6 example.com

The following screenshot shows the result of this command:

```
root@kali:~# dnsdict6 example.com
Starting DNS enumeration work on example.com. ...
Starting enumerating example.com. - creating 8 threads for 798 words...
Estimated time to completion: 1 to 2 minutes
www.example.com. => 2001:500:88:200::10
Found 1 domain name and 1 unique ipv6 address for example.com.
```

After brute forcing the subdomain using the dnsdict6 built-in wordlist (containing 798 words), we know that there is only one subdomain (www) available in the example.com domain that has an IP Version 6 address.

Note

We found that the number of words displayed by dnsdict6 is incorrect. We tested this using a file containing three words; the dnsdict6 command informed us that the number of words is four.

Also, the dnsdict6 tool can be used to find the subdomain on IP Version 4 using the -4 , option, and it can also collect information about the DNS and NS of a domain by using the -d option. Let's use these options to check the example.com domain:

```
root@kali:~# dnsdict6 -d -4 example.com
Starting DNS enumeration work on example.com. ...
Gathering NS and MX information...
NS of example.com. is b.iana-servers.net. => 199.43.133.53
NS of example.com. is b.iana-servers.net. => 2001:500:8d::53
NS of example.com. is a.iana-servers.net. => 199.43.132.53
NS of example.com. is a.iana-servers.net. \Rightarrow 2001:500:8c::53
Warning: no mail sever (MX) information found
Starting enumerating example.com. - creating 8 threads for 798 words...
Estimated time to completion: 1 to 2 minutes
Warning: wildcard domain configured
*.example.com. -> 124.81.172.106
Warning: wildcard domain configured (2nd test)
www.example.com. => 192.0.43.10
www.example.com. => 2001:500:88:200::10
Found 1 domain name, 2 unique ipv4 and 1 unique ipv6 addresses for example.com.
```

fierce

The **fierce** tool is a DNS enumeration tool that uses several techniques to find all of the IP addresses and hostnames of a target. It works by first querying your system's DNS server for the target DNS server; next, it uses the target DNS server. It also supports the wordlist supplied by the user to find subdomain names. It does this recursively until all of the wordlist items are tested. The main feature of **fierce** is that it can be used to locate noncontiguous IP space and hostnames against specified domains.

To access fierce in Kali Linux, you can use the console and type the following command:

```
# fierce -h
```

This will display the usage instructions on your screen.

As an example, let's use **fierce** to find information about a domain:

fierce -dns example.com -threads 3

The following is the abridged result:

```
DNS Servers for targetdomain.com:
        ns4.example.com
        ns1.example.com
        ns2.example.com
        ns3.example.com
Trying zone transfer first...
        Testing ns4.example.com
                Request timed out or transfer not allowed.
        Testing ns1.example.com
                Request timed out or transfer not allowed.
        Testing ns2.example.com
                Request timed out or transfer not allowed.
        Testing ns3.example.com
                Request timed out or transfer not allowed.
Unsuccessful in zone transfer (it was worth a shot)
Okay, trying the good old fashioned way... brute force
Checking for wildcard DNS...
Nope. Good.
Now performing 1895 test(s)...
192.168.116.3 voips.example.com
192.168.116.7 ns.example.com
192.168.116.19 streaming.example.com
192.168.117.50 dev.example.com
192.168.117.16 mx1.example.com
                mx2.example.com
192.168.117.17
192.168.117.18 mx3.example.com
192.168.117.16
                imap.example.com
192.168.117.5
                www.example.com
                intra.example.com
192.168.117.6
192.168.117.17
                mail.example.com
192.168.117.5
                web.example.com
192.168.117.16
                webmail.example.com
Subnets found (may want to probe here using nmap or unicornscan):
        192.168.73.0-255 : 2 hostnames found.
        192.168.46.0-255 : 1 hostnames found.
        192.168.116.0-255 : 34 hostnames found.
        192.168.117.0-255 : 25 hostnames found.
Done with Fierce scan: http://ha.ckers.org/fierce/
Found 62 entries.
Have a nice day.
```

It may take some time to finish the DNS enumeration using fierce .

Note

In this section, we talked a lot about finding hostnames for a domain; you may ask what are the purposes of these hostnames. In a penetration testing project, one of the authors found a web meeting session after getting the hostnames' result from the DNS analysis phase. That host allowed the author to join the ongoing web meeting session.

DMitry

DMitry (Deepmagic Information Gathering Tool) is an all-in-one information gathering tool. It can be used to gather the following information:

- The Whois record of a host by using the IP address or domain name
- Host information from Netcraft.com
- Subdomains in the target domain
- The e-mail address of the target domain
- Open, filtered, or closed port lists on the target machine by performing a port scan

Even though this information can be obtained using several Kali Linux tools, it is very handy to gather all of the information using a single tool and to save the report to one file.

Note

We thought this tool is more suitable to be categorized under DNS analysis instead of the Route analysis section because the capabilities are more about DNS analysis rather than in routing analysis.

To access DMitry from the Kali Linux menu, navigate to Applications | Kali Linux | Information Gathering | OSINT Analysis | dmitry or you can use the console and type the following command:

dmitry

As an example, let's do the following to a targethost:

- Perform a Whois lookup
- Get information from Netcraft.com
- Search for all the possible subdomains
- Search for all the possible e-mail addresses

The command for performing the mentioned actions is as follows:

```
# dmitry -iwnse targethost
```

The following is the abridged result of the preceding command:

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We can also use DMitry to perform a simple port scan by giving the following command:

```
# dmitry -p targethost -f -b
```

The result of the preceding command is as follows:

```
Deepmagic Information Gathering Tool
"There be some deep magic going on"
HostIP:192.168.xx.xx
HostName:targethost
Gathered TCP Port information for 192.168.xx.xx
Port
                State
. . .
80/tcp
                open
. . .
135/tcp
                filtered
136/tcp
                filtered
137/tcp
                filtered
                filtered
138/tcp
139/tcp
                filtered
```

Portscan Finished: Scanned 150 ports, 138 ports were in state closed

From the preceding command, we find that the targethost is using a device to do packet filtering. It only allows incoming connections to port 80, which is commonly used for a web server.

Maltego

Maltego is an open source intelligence and forensics application. It allows you to mine and gather information and represent the information in a meaningful way. The word open source in Maltego means that it gathers information from the open source resources. After gathering the information, Maltego allows you to identify the key relationship between the information gathered.

Maltego is a tool that can graphically display the links between data, so it will make it easier to see the common aspects between pieces of information.

Maltego allows you to enumerate the following Internet infrastructure information:

- Domain names
- DNS names

- Whois information
- · Network blocks
- IP addresses

It can also be used to gather the following information about people:

- · Companies and organizations related to the person
- E-mail addresses related to the person
- Websites related to the person
- Social networks related to the person
- Phone numbers related to the person

Kali Linux, by default, comes with Maltego 3.3.0 Kali Linux edition. The following are the limitations of the community version (http://www.paterva.com/web5/client/community.php):

- Not for commercial use
- A maximum of 12 results per transform
- You need to register yourself on our website to use the client
- API keys expire every couple of days
- Runs on a (slower) server that is shared with all community users
- · Communication between client and server is not encrypted
- Not updated until the next major version
- No end user support
- No updates of transforms on server side

There are more than 70 transforms available in Maltego. The word transform refers to the information gathering phase of Maltego. One transform means that Maltego will only do one phase of information gathering.

To access Maltego from the Kali Linux menu, navigate to Kali Linux | Information Gathering | OSINT Analysis | maltego or you can use the console and type the following command:

maltego

You will see the Maltego welcome screen. After several seconds, you will see the following Maltego start-up wizard that will help you set up the Maltego client for the first time:

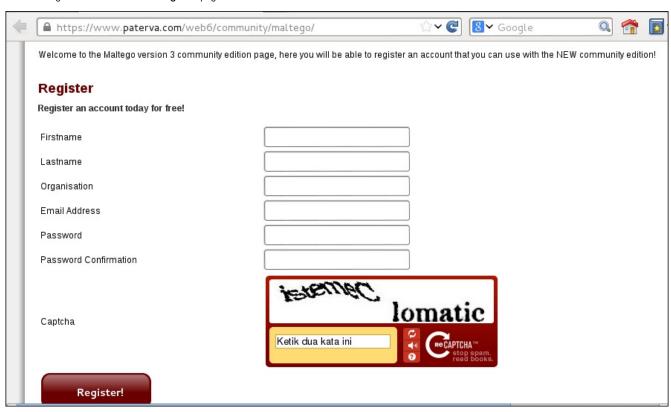


Click on Next to continue to the next window as shown in the following screenshot:



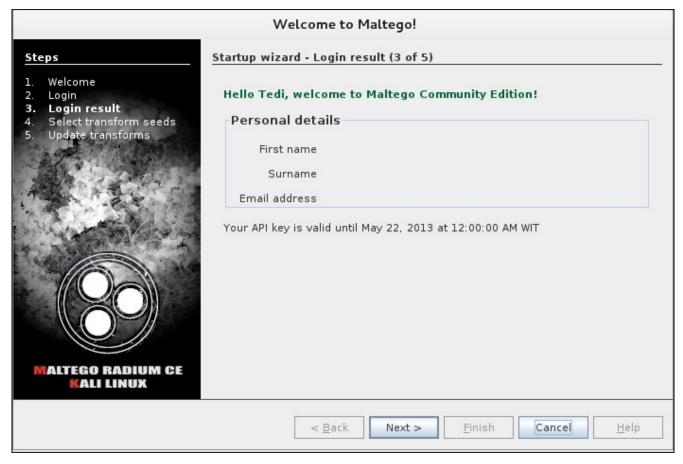
In this window, you need to enter your login information to the Maltego community server. If you don't have the login information, you need to register yourself first by clicking on the **register here** link.

The following screenshot shows the Register page:

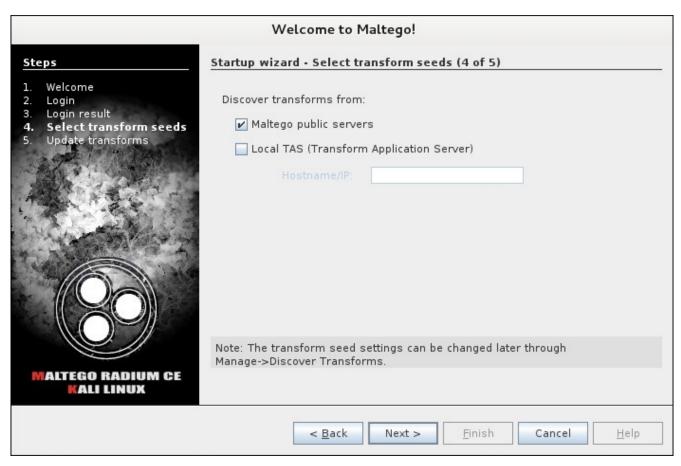


You need to fill in your details into the corresponding fields provided, and click on the Register! button to register.

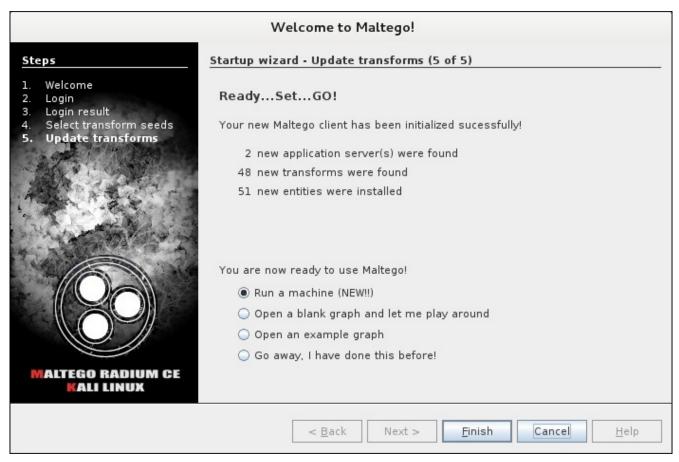
If you already have the login details, you can enter them in the fields provided. When the login information is correct, the following information will be displayed:



You will then need to select the transform seeds as shown in the following screenshot:

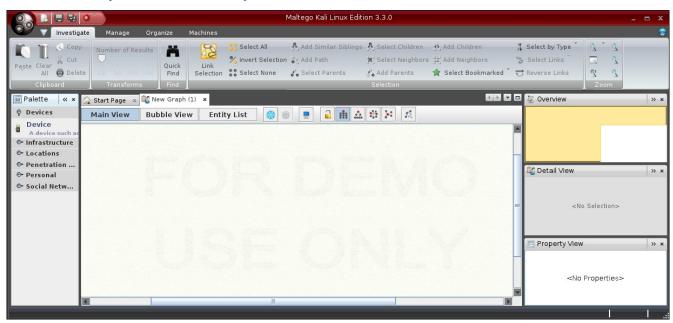


The Maltego client will connect to the Maltego servers in order to get the transforms. If Maltego has been initialized successfully, you will see the following screenshot:



This means that your Maltego client initialization has been done successfully. Now you can use the Maltego client.

Before we use the Maltego client, let's first see the Maltego interface:



On the top-left side of the preceding screenshot, you will see the **Palette** window. In the **Palette** window, you can choose the entity type for which you want to gather the information. Maltego divides the entities into six groups as follows:

- Devices such as phone or camera
- Infrastructure such as AS, DNS name, domain, IPv4 address, MX record, NS record, netblock, URL, and website
- · Locations on Earth
- . Penetration testing such as built with technology
- Personal such as alias, document, e-mail address, image, person, phone number, and phrase
- Social Network such as Facebook object, Twitter entity, Facebook affiliation, and Twitter affiliation

In the top-middle of the preceding screenshot, you will see the different views: **Main View**, **Bubble View**, and **Entity List**. Views are used to extract information that is not obvious from large graphs—where the analyst cannot see clear relationships by manual inspection of data. **Main View** is where you work most of the time. In **Bubble View**, the nodes are displayed as bubbles, while in the **Entity List** tab, the nodes are simply listed in text format.

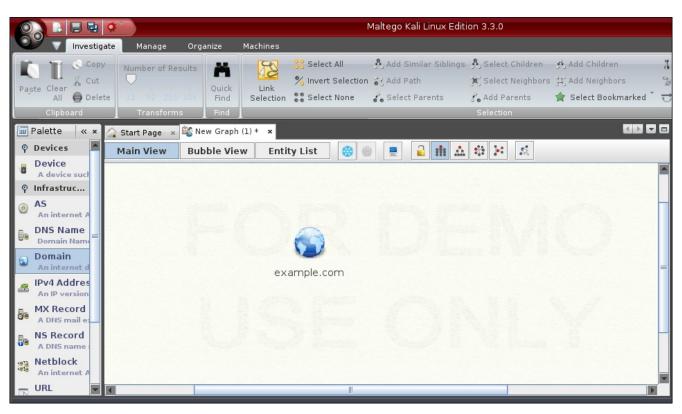
Next to the views, you will see different layout algorithms. Maltego supports the following four layout algorithms:

- Block layout: This is the default layout and is used during mining
- Hierarchical layout: Think of this as a tree-based layout, such as a file manager
- Centrality layout: Nodes that are the most central to the graph (for example, most incoming links) appear in the middle, with the other nodes scattered around it
- Organic layout: Nodes are packed together tightly in such a way that the distance between each node and all the other nodes is minimized

After a brief description of the Maltego client user interface, it's time for the action.

Let's suppose you want to gather information about a domain. We will use the domain example. Com for this example. We will explore how to do this in the following sections.

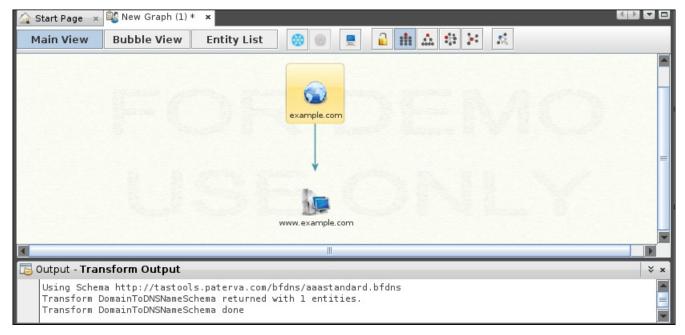
Create a new graph (Ctrl + T), go to the **Palette** tab, select **Infrastructure**, and click on **Domain**. Drag it to the main window. If successful, you will see a domain called **paterva.com** in the main window. Double-click on the name and change it to your target domain, such as example.com, as shown in the following screenshot:



If you right-click on the domain name, you will see all of the transforms that can be done to the domain name:

- DNS from domain
- · Domain owner's details
- E-mail addresses from domain
- Files and documents from domain
- Other transforms, such as To Person, To Phone numbers, and To Website
- All transforms

Let's choose **DomainToDNSNameSchema** from domain transforms (**Run Transform** | **Other Transforms** | **DomainToDNSNameSchema**). The following screenshot shows the result:



After the DNS from Domain transform, we got information on the website address (www.example.com) related to the example.com domain.

You can run other transforms to the target domain.

If you want to change the domain, you need to save the current graph first. To save the graph, click on the Maltego icon, and then select **Save**. The graph will be saved in the Maltego graph file format (.mtgx). To change the domain, just double-click on the existing domain and change the domain name.

Next, we will describe several tools that can be used for getting route information.