



# Create a DNS load balancing zone

ONTAP 9

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You can create a DNS load balancing zone to facilitate the dynamic selection of a LIF based on the load, that is, the number of clients mounted on a LIF. You can create a load balancing zone while creating a data LIF.

## Before you begin

The DNS forwarder on the site-wide DNS server must be configured to forward all requests for the load balancing zone to the configured LIFs.

The Knowledgebase article [How to set up DNS load balancing in Cluster-Mode](#) on the NetApp Support Site contains more information about configuring DNS load balancing using conditional forwarding.

## About this task

- Any data LIF can respond to DNS queries for a DNS load balancing zone name.
- A DNS load balancing zone must have a unique name in the cluster, and the zone name must meet the following requirements:
  - It should not exceed 256 characters.
  - It should include at least one period.
  - The first and the last character should not be a period or any other special character.
  - It cannot include any spaces between characters.
  - Each label in the DNS name should not exceed 63 characters.

A label is the text appearing before or after the period. For example, the DNS zone named `storage.company.com` has three labels.

## Step

Use the `network interface create` command with the `dns-zone` option to create a DNS load balancing zone.

If the load balancing zone already exists, the LIF is added to it. For more information about the command, see [ONTAP 9 commands](#).

The following example demonstrates how to create a DNS load balancing zone named `storage.company.com` while creating the LIF `lif1`:

```
network interface create -vserver vs0 -lif lif1 -home-node node1  
-home-port e0c -address 192.0.2.129 -netmask 255.255.255.128 -dns-zone
```

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