

DNS Records Part 2

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CNAME RECORD

DNS RECORDS

TYPE	NAME	ALIAS TO	TTL
CNAME	www.example.com	example.com	7200

www.example.com.

Subdomain 2nd level domain Top level domain Root domain

DNS RECORDS

TYPE	NAME	ALIAS TO	TTL
CNAME	ftp.example.com	example.com	7200

CNAME records resolve domain names to domain names.

example.com

The CNAME (Canonical Name) record resolves a domain or subdomain to another domain name, essentially acting as an alias.

It is common to create a CNAME record pointing www.example.com to example.com. This is why typing either address in a web browser will lead to the same website. Subdomains are also frequently used when a website has various services running on the same server and sharing the same IP address. For instance, ftp.example.com could be created as a subdomain for an FTP service on the server and then have a CNAME record directing it to example.com. When users type ftp.example.com, DNS will look at the CNAME record and forward them to example.com. The web server will then inspect the URL and direct the request to its FTP service. CNAME records are similar to A records, but the key difference is that A records resolve domain names to IP addresses, while CNAMEs resolve domain names to other domain names.