Raspberry Pi DNS Monitoring Configuration

Now that you have SSH access, let's transform your Pi into a powerful DNS monitoring system.

Phase 1: System Preparation

Step 1: Update and Secure Your Pi

```
# SSH into your Pi
ssh pi@192.168.1.100

# Update the system
sudo apt update && sudo apt upgrade -y

# Install essential tools
sudo apt install -y git python3-pip python3-venv sqlite3 dnsutils tcpdump net-tools htop nano vim

# Check Python version (should be 3.11+)
python3 --version
```

Step 2: Set Static IP Address

Your Pi needs a consistent IP address for DNS monitoring.

```
# Edit network configuration
sudo nano /etc/dhcpcd.conf

# Add these lines at the end:
interface eth0
static ip_address=192.168.1.100/24
static routers=192.168.1.1
static domain_name_servers=8.8.8.8 8.8.4.4

interface wlan0
static ip_address=192.168.1.100/24
static routers=192.168.1.1
static domain_name_servers=8.8.8.8 8.8.4.4

# Save and exit (Ctrl+X, Y, Enter)
```

Step 3: Create Project Structure

Restart networking

Verify IP address

ip addr show

sudo systemctl restart dhcpcd

```
bash
# Create project directory
mkdir ~/smartguard-monitor
cd ~/smartguard-monitor
# Create directory structure
mkdir -p {src,config,logs,data,tests,docs}
# Initialize git repository
git init
```

Phase 2: DNS Server Configuration

Step 4: Install and Configure DNSmasq

bash

Install DNSmasq
sudo apt install -y dnsmasq

Backup original configuration
sudo cp /etc/dnsmasq.conf.backup

Create new configuration

DNSmasq Configuration (/etc/dnsmasq.conf):

sudo nano /etc/dnsmasq.conf

```
bash
# Basic DNS settings
port=53
domain-needed
bogus-priv
no-resolv
no-poll
# Interface binding
interface=eth0
interface=wlan0
bind-interfaces
# Upstream DNS servers
server=8.8.8.8
server=8.8.4.4
server=1.1.1.1
# Cache settings
cache-size=2000
neg-ttl=3600
# Logging
log-queries
log-facility=/var/log/dnsmasq.log
# Local domain
local=/local/
domain=local
expand-hosts
# DHCP range (optional - only if Pi will handle DHCP)
# dhcp-range=192.168.1.50,192.168.1.150,12h
# dhcp-option=option:router, 192.168.1.1
# Disable DHCP (we only want DNS)
no-dhcp-interface=eth0
no-dhcp-interface=wlan0
```

Step 5: Configure DNS Logging

```
bash
```

```
# Create log directory
sudo mkdir -p /var/log/smartguard

# Set up log rotation
sudo nano /etc/logrotate.d/smartguard
```

Log Rotation Configuration:

```
bash
/var/log/dnsmasq.log {
  daily
  rotate 7
  compress
  delaycompress
  missingok
  notifempty
  postrotate
    /bin/kill -HUP `cat /var/run/dnsmasq.pid 2> /dev/null` 2> /dev/null || true
  endscript
}
/var/log/smartguard/*.log {
  daily
  rotate 30
  compress
  delaycompress
  missingok
  notifempty
}
```

Step 6: Start DNS Services

```
bash
```

```
# Enable and start DNSmasq
sudo systemctl enable dnsmasq
sudo systemctl start dnsmasq

# Check status
sudo systemctl status dnsmasq

# Test DNS resolution
nslookup google.com 127.0.0.1
dig @127.0.0.1 facebook.com

# Monitor DNS logs in real-time
sudo tail -f /var/log/dnsmasq.log
```

Phase 3: Python Environment Setup

Step 7: Create Python Virtual Environment

```
bash

cd ~/smartguard-monitor

# Create virtual environment

python3 -m venv venv

# Activate virtual environment

source venv/bin/activate

# Upgrade pip

pip install --upgrade pip

# Create requirements file

nano requirements.txt
```

Requirements.txt:

```
flask==3.0.0

sqlite3

scapy==2.5.0

dnspython==2.4.2

requests==2.31.0

python-dateutil==2.8.2

psutil==5.9.6

watchdog==3.0.0

flask-cors==4.0.0

bash

# Install Python packages

pip install -r requirements.txt

# Verify installations

python3 -c "import flask, sqlite3, scapy; print('All packages installed successfully')"
```

Step 8: Create Database Schema

bash

Create database initialization script nano src/setup_database.py

Database Setup Script (src/setup_database.py):

```
#!/usr/bin/env python3
import sqlite3
import os
from datetime import datetime
def create_database():
  """Initialize the SmartGuard monitoring database"""
  # Create data directory if it doesn't exist
  os.makedirs('../data', exist_ok=True)
  # Connect to database
  db_path = '../data/smartguard.db'
  conn = sqlite3.connect(db_path)
  cursor = conn.cursor()
  # DNS requests table
  cursor.execute(""
    CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS dns requests (
      id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY AUTOINCREMENT,
      timestamp DATETIME DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP,
      client_ip TEXT NOT NULL,
      client_mac TEXT,
      domain TEXT NOT NULL,
      query_type TEXT DEFAULT 'A',
      response_ip TEXT,
      response_time_ms INTEGER,
      status TEXT DEFAULT 'logged',
      classification TEXT,
      confidence_score REAL,
      created_at DATETIME DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP,
      INDEX(timestamp),
      INDEX(client_ip),
      INDEX(domain)
    )
  ''')
  # Device information table
  cursor.execute(""
    CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS devices (
      id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY AUTOINCREMENT,
      mac_address TEXT UNIQUE NOT NULL,
      ip_address TEXT,
      hostname TEXT,
      device_name TEXT,
      device_type TEXT,
```

```
first_seen DATETIME DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP,
    last_seen DATETIME DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP,
    is monitored BOOLEAN DEFAULT 1,
    notes TEXT
  )
''')
# Traffic statistics table
cursor.execute(""
  CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS traffic_stats (
    id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY AUTOINCREMENT,
    timestamp DATETIME DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP,
    src_ip TEXT NOT NULL,
    dst_ip TEXT NOT NULL,
    protocol TEXT,
    port INTEGER,
    bytes_sent INTEGER DEFAULT 0,
    packets_count INTEGER DEFAULT 1,
    duration seconds INTEGER
  )
''')
# System events table
cursor.execute(""
  CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS system_events (
    id INTEGER PRIMARY KEY AUTOINCREMENT,
    timestamp DATETIME DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP,
    event_type TEXT NOT NULL,
    severity TEXT DEFAULT 'INFO',
    message TEXT NOT NULL,
    details TEXT,
    source_ip TEXT
  )
"")
# Configuration table
cursor.execute(""
  CREATE TABLE IF NOT EXISTS configuration (
    key TEXT PRIMARY KEY,
    value TEXT,
    description TEXT,
    updated_at DATETIME DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP
  )
''')
# Insert default configuration
default_config = [
```

```
('monitoring_enabled', 'true', 'Enable/disable monitoring'),
  ('log_level', 'INFO', 'Logging level'),
  ('retention_days', '30', 'Data retention period'),
  ('upstream_dns', '8.8.8.8.8.8.4.4', 'Upstream DNS servers'),
  ('web_port', '5000', 'Web dashboard port'),
  ('classification_enabled', 'false', 'AI classification enabled'),
1
cursor.executemany(
  'INSERT OR IGNORE INTO configuration (key, value, description) VALUES (?, ?, ?)',
  default_config
)
# Create views for common queries
cursor.execute(""
  CREATE VIEW IF NOT EXISTS recent_requests AS
  SELECT
     dr.*.
    d.device name,
    d.device_type
  FROM dns_requests dr
  LEFT JOIN devices d ON dr.client_ip = d.ip_address
  WHERE dr.timestamp > datetime('now', '-24 hours')
  ORDER BY dr.timestamp DESC
"")
cursor.execute(""
  CREATE VIEW IF NOT EXISTS daily_stats AS
  SELECT
     DATE(timestamp) as date,
    COUNT(*) as total_requests,
    COUNT(DISTINCT client_ip) as active_devices,
     COUNT(DISTINCT domain) as unique_domains
  FROM dns_requests
  GROUP BY DATE(timestamp)
  ORDER BY date DESC
# Commit changes
conn.commit()
conn.close()
print(f" Database created successfully at {db_path}")
print(" ✓ Tables created: dns_requests, devices, traffic_stats, system_events, configuration")
print(" Views created: recent_requests, daily_stats")
```

```
if __name__ == '__main__':
    create_database()

bash

# Run database setup

cd src

python3 setup_database.py

cd ..

# Verify database creation

sqlite3 data/smartguard.db ".tables"

sqlite3 data/smartguard.db ".schema dns_requests"
```

Phase 4: DNS Monitoring Implementation

Step 9: Create DNS Monitor Service

bash

nano src/dns_monitor.py

DNS Monitor ((src/dns_monitor.py)):

```
#!/usr/bin/env python3
import socket
import struct
import sqlite3
import threading
import time
import logging
from datetime import datetime
from typing import Optional, Tuple
class DNSMonitor:
  def __init__(self, db_path: str = '../data/smartguard.db'):
    self.db_path = db_path
    self.running = False
    self.socket = None
    # Setup logging
    logging.basicConfig(
       level=logging.INFO,
       format='%(asctime)s - %(levelname)s - %(message)s',
       handlers=[
         logging.FileHandler('../logs/dns_monitor.log'),
         logging.StreamHandler()
       ]
    )
    self.logger = logging.getLogger(__name__)
  def parse_dns_query(self, data: bytes) -> Optional[str]:
    """Parse DNS query packet and extract domain name"""
    try:
       # Skip DNS header (12 bytes)
       if len(data) < 12:
         return None
       domain_parts = []
       i = 12 # Start after header
       while i < len(data):
         # Read length of next label
         if data[i] == 0: # End of domain name
            break
         length = data[i]
         if length > 63: # Invalid label length
            break
```

```
# Extract label
       i += 1
       if i + length > len(data):
         break
       label = data[i:i+length].decode('utf-8', errors='ignore')
       domain_parts.append(label)
       i += length
    if domain_parts:
       domain = '.'.join(domain_parts)
       return domain.lower()
  except Exception as e:
    self.logger.error(f"Error parsing DNS query: {e}")
  return None
def log_dns_request(self, client_ip: str, domain: str, query_type: str = 'A'):
  """Log DNS request to database"""
  try:
    conn = sqlite3.connect(self.db_path)
    cursor = conn.cursor()
    cursor.execute(""
       INSERT INTO dns_requests (client_ip, domain, query_type)
       VALUES (?, ?, ?)
    ", (client_ip, domain, query_type))
    conn.commit()
    conn.close()
    self.logger.info(f" DNS: {client_ip} -> {domain}")
  except Exception as e:
    self.logger.error(f"Database error: {e}")
def forward_dns_request(self, data: bytes, upstream_dns: str = '8.8.8.8') -> Optional[bytes]:
  """Forward DNS request to upstream server"""
  try:
     # Create socket for upstream query
    upstream_socket = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_DGRAM)
    upstream_socket.settimeout(5)
     # Send to upstream DNS
    upstream_socket.sendto(data, (upstream_dns, 53))
    response, _ = upstream_socket.recvfrom(512)
```

```
upstream_socket.close()
    return response
  except Exception as e:
    self.logger.error(f"Upstream DNS error: {e}")
    return None
def handle_dns_request(self, data: bytes, client_addr: Tuple[str, int]) -> Optional[bytes]:
  """Handle incoming DNS request"""
  client_ip = client_addr[0]
  # Parse domain from query
  domain = self.parse_dns_query(data)
  if domain:
     # Log the request
    self.log_dns_request(client_ip, domain)
  # Forward to upstream DNS and return response
  response = self.forward_dns_request(data)
  return response
def start_monitoring(self, interface: str = ", port: int = 5353):
  """Start DNS monitoring service"""
  try:
    # Create UDP socket
    self.socket = socket.socket(socket.AF_INET, socket.SOCK_DGRAM)
    self.socket.setsockopt(socket.SOL_SOCKET, socket.SO_REUSEADDR, 1)
    self.socket.bind((interface, port))
    self.running = True
    self.logger.info(f" * DNS Monitor started on {interface}:{port}")
    while self.running:
       try:
         # Receive DNS query
         data, client_addr = self.socket.recvfrom(512)
         # Handle in separate thread to avoid blocking
         thread = threading.Thread(
            target=self._handle_request_thread,
            args=(data, client_addr)
         )
         thread.daemon = True
         thread.start()
```

```
except socket.timeout:
            continue
          except Exception as e:
            if self.running:
               self.logger.error(f"Socket error: {e}")
     except Exception as e:
       self.logger.error(f"Failed to start DNS monitor: {e}")
     finally:
       self.stop_monitoring()
  def _handle_request_thread(self, data: bytes, client_addr: Tuple[str, int]):
     """Handle DNS request in separate thread"""
     try:
       response = self.handle_dns_request(data, client_addr)
       if response and self.socket:
          self.socket.sendto(response, client_addr)
     except Exception as e:
       self.logger.error(f"Error handling DNS request: {e}")
  def stop_monitoring(self):
     """Stop DNS monitoring service"""
    self.running = False
     if self.socket:
       self.socket.close()
     self.logger.info(" DNS Monitor stopped")
def main():
  """Main function to run DNS monitor"""
  import os
  # Create logs directory
  os.makedirs('../logs', exist_ok=True)
  # Start DNS monitor
  monitor = DNSMonitor()
  try:
     # Note: Port 5353 for testing (port 53 requires root)
     monitor.start_monitoring(port=5353)
  except KeyboardInterrupt:
     print("\n  Stopping DNS monitor...")
     monitor.stop_monitoring()
if __name__ == '__main__':
  main()
```

Step 10: Create Web Dashboard

bash

nano src/web_dashboard.py

Web Dashboard (src/web_dashboard.py):

```
#!/usr/bin/env python3
from flask import Flask, render_template, jsonify, request
from flask cors import CORS
import sqlite3
import ison
from datetime import datetime, timedelta
app = Flask(__name__)
CORS(app)
DB_PATH = '../data/smartguard.db'
def get_db_connection():
  """Get database connection"""
  conn = sqlite3.connect(DB_PATH)
  conn.row_factory = sqlite3.Row
  return conn
@app.route('/')
def dashboard():
  """Main dashboard page"""
  return "
  <!DOCTYPE html>
  <html>
  <head>
     <title>SmartGuard - Network Monitor</title>
     <meta charset="utf-8">
     <meta name="viewport" content="width=device-width, initial-scale=1">
     <style>
       body { font-family: -apple-system, sans-serif; margin: 0; padding: 20px; background: #f5f5f5; }
       .container { max-width: 1200px; margin: 0 auto; }
       .header { background: linear-gradient(135deg, #667eea 0%, #764ba2 100%);
             color: white; padding: 30px; border-radius: 10px; margin-bottom: 20px; }
       .stats-grid { display: grid; grid-template-columns: repeat(auto-fit, minmax(250px, 1fr));
               gap: 20px; margin-bottom: 30px; }
       .stat-card { background: white; padding: 20px; border-radius: 8px; box-shadow: 0 2px 10px rgba(0,0,0,0.1); }
       .stat-value { font-size: 2.5em; font-weight: bold; color: #667eea; }
       .stat-label { color: #666; margin-top: 5px; }
       .requests-table { background: white; border-radius: 8px; overflow: hidden; box-shadow: 0 2px 10px rgba(0,0,0,0.1
       table { width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; }
       th { background: #f8f9fa; padding: 15px; text-align: left; font-weight: 600; }
       td { padding: 12px 15px; border-bottom: 1px solid #eee; }
       .status { display: inline-block; width: 10px; height: 10px; border-radius: 50%; margin-right: 8px; }
       .status.online { background: #4caf50; }
       .refresh-btn { background: #667eea; color: white; border: none; padding: 10px 20px;
               border-radius: 5px; cursor: pointer; margin-bottom: 20px; }
```

```
</style>
</head>
<body>
 <div class="container">
   <div class="header">
     Real-time DNS monitoring and analysis
   </div>
   <button class="refresh-btn" onclick="loadData()"> 🔁 Refresh Data</button>
   <div class="stats-grid">
     <div class="stat-card">
       <div class="stat-value" id="total-requests">-</div>
       <div class="stat-label">Total DNS Requests</div>
     </div>
     <div class="stat-card">
       <div class="stat-value" id="unique-domains">-</div>
       <div class="stat-label">Unique Domains</div>
     </div>
     <div class="stat-card">
       <div class="stat-value" id="active-devices">-</div>
       <div class="stat-label">Active Devices</div>
     </div>
     <div class="stat-card">
       <div class="stat-value" id="monitoring-status">
         <span class="status online"></span>Online
       </div>
       <div class="stat-label">System Status</div>
     </div>
   </div>
   <div class="requests-table">
     <h3 style="margin: 0; padding: 20px 20px 0;">Recent DNS Requests</h3>
     <thead>
         Time
           Device IP
           Domain
           Type
           Status
         </thead>
       Loading...
```

```
</div>
</div>
<script>
 function loadData() {
   // Load statistics
    fetch('/api/stats')
      .then(response => response.json())
      .then(data => {
        document.getElementById('total-requests').textContent = data.total_requests || 0;
        document.getElementById('unique-domains').textContent = data.unique_domains || 0;
        document.getElementById('active-devices').textContent = data.active_devices || 0;
      })
      .catch(error => console.error('Error loading stats:', error));
   // Load recent requests
    fetch('/api/recent-requests')
      .then(response => response.json())
      .then(data => {
        const tbody = document.getElementById('requests-table');
        tbody.innerHTML = ";
        if (data.length === 0) {
          tbody.innerHTML = 'No requests yet
          return;
        data.forEach(request => {
          const row = tbody.insertRow();
          row.innerHTML = `
             ${new Date(request.timestamp).toLocaleString()}
             ${request.client_ip}
             ${request.domain}
             ${request.query_type}
             <span class="status online"></span>Logged
        });
      })
      .catch(error => console.error('Error loading requests:', error));
 }
 // Load data on page load
 loadData();
 // Auto-refresh every 10 seconds
 setInterval(loadData, 10000);
```

```
</script>
  </body>
  </html>
@app.route('/api/stats')
def api_stats():
  """Get system statistics"""
  try:
    conn = get_db_connection()
    # Total requests today
    total_requests = conn.execute(
       "SELECT COUNT(*) FROM dns requests WHERE DATE(timestamp) = DATE('now')"
    ).fetchone()[0]
    # Unique domains today
    unique_domains = conn.execute(
       "SELECT COUNT(DISTINCT domain) FROM dns_requests WHERE DATE(timestamp) = DATE('now')"
    ).fetchone()[0]
    # Active devices today
    active_devices = conn.execute(
       "SELECT COUNT(DISTINCT client_ip) FROM dns_requests WHERE DATE(timestamp) = DATE('now')"
    ).fetchone()[0]
    conn.close()
    return jsonify({
       'total_requests': total_requests,
       'unique_domains': unique_domains,
       'active_devices': active_devices,
       'status': 'online'
    })
  except Exception as e:
    return jsonify({'error': str(e)}), 500
@app.route('/api/recent-requests')
def api_recent_requests():
  """Get recent DNS requests"""
  try:
    limit = request.args.get('limit', 50)
    conn = get_db_connection()
    requests = conn.execute(
       "'SELECT timestamp, client_ip, domain, query_type, status
```

```
FROM dns_requests

ORDER BY timestamp DESC

LIMIT ?"',

(limit,)
).fetchall()
conn.close()

return jsonify([dict(row) for row in requests])

except Exception as e:
    return jsonify({'error': str(e)}), 500

if __name__ == '__main__':
    app.run(host='0.0.0.0', port=5000, debug=True)
```

Phase 5: Testing and Verification

Step 11: Test the System

```
bash
# Create test script
nano test_system.py
```

Test Script:

```
#!/usr/bin/env python3
import subprocess
import time
import requests
import sqlite3
def test_database():
  """Test database connectivity"""
  try:
    conn = sqlite3.connect('../data/smartguard.db')
    cursor = conn.cursor()
    cursor.execute("SELECT COUNT(*) FROM dns_requests")
    count = cursor.fetchone()[0]
    conn.close()
    print(f" ✓ Database: {count} DNS requests logged")
    return True
  except Exception as e:
    print(f" X Database error: {e}")
    return False
def test web dashboard():
  """Test web dashboard"""
  try:
    response = requests.get('http://localhost:5000', timeout=5)
    if response.status_code == 200:
       print(" ✓ Web dashboard: Accessible")
       return True
    else:
       print(f" X Web dashboard: HTTP {response.status_code}")
       return False
  except Exception as e:
    print(f" X Web dashboard error: {e}")
    return False
def test_dns_resolution():
  """Test DNS resolution"""
  try:
    result = subprocess.run(['nslookup', 'google.com', '127.0.0.1'],
                  capture_output=True, text=True, timeout=10)
    if result.returncode == 0:
       print(" ✓ DNS resolution: Working")
       return True
       print(f" X DNS resolution failed: {result.stderr}")
       return False
  except Exception as e:
```

```
print(f" X DNS resolution error: {e}")
    return False
def main():
  print("=" * 40)
  tests = [
    ("Database", test_database),
    ("Web Dashboard", test_web_dashboard),
    ("DNS Resolution", test_dns_resolution)
  ]
  passed = 0
  for name, test_func in tests:
    print(f"\nTesting {name}...")
    if test_func():
      passed += 1
    time.sleep(1)
  print("\n" + "=" * 40)
  print(f"Tests completed: {passed}/{len(tests)} passed")
  if passed == len(tests):
    print(" * All tests passed! System is ready.")
  else:
    if __name__ == '__main__':
  main()
```

Step 12: Start All Services

```
bash
# Te
```

```
# Terminal 1: Start web dashboard

cd ~/smartguard-monitor/src

source ../venv/bin/activate

python3 web_dashboard.py

# Terminal 2: Start DNS monitor (in another SSH session)

cd ~/smartguard-monitor/src

source ../venv/bin/activate

sudo python3 dns_monitor.py # Requires sudo for port 53

# Terminal 3: Run tests (in another SSH session)

cd ~/smartguard-monitor

python3 test_system.py
```

Step 13: Configure Router DNS

Now configure your router to use the Pi as DNS server:

- 1. Access Router Admin: Usually http://192.168.1.1
- 2. Find DHCP/DNS Settings: Look for "LAN", "DHCP", or "DNS" settings
- 3. **Set Primary DNS**: 192.168.1.100 (your Pi's IP)
- 4. Set Secondary DNS: 8.8.8.8 (backup)
- 5. Save and Reboot Router

Step 14: Verify End-to-End Functionality

```
# From any device on network, test DNS
nslookup facebook.com

# Should show:
# Server: 192.168.1.100
# Address: 192.168.1.100#53

# Check Pi logs
sudo tail -f /var/log/dnsmasq.log

# Check SmartGuard database
sqlite3 ~/smartguard-monitor/data/smartguard.db

SELECT * FROM dns_requests ORDER BY timestamp DESC LIMIT 10;
```

Phase 6: Monitoring and Maintenance

Step 15: Create Startup Scripts

bash

Create systemd service for DNS monitor sudo nano /etc/systemd/system/smartguard-dns.service

Systemd Service:

ini

[Unit]

Description=SmartGuard DNS Monitor

After=network.target

[Service]

Type=simple

User=pi

WorkingDirectory=/home/pi/smartguard-monitor/src

Environment=PATH=/home/pi/smartguard-monitor/venv/bin

ExecStart=/home/pi/smartguard-monitor/venv/bin/python3 dns_monitor.py

Restart=always

RestartSec=10

[Install]

WantedBy=multi-user.target

bash

Enable and start service

sudo systemctl enable smartguard-dns sudo systemctl start smartguard-dns sudo systemctl status smartguard-dns

Success Verification

You should now have:

- Pi with static IP (192.168.1.100)
- **I** DNSmasq logging all DNS queries
- Python DNS monitor capturing requests to database
- Web dashboard showing real-time activity
- Router configured to use Pi as DNS server
- All network devices' DNS requests being monitored

Next Steps: Week 3-4 will add AI classification to analyze the domains being requested!

Access your dashboard at: http://192.168.1.100:5000