What’s an A record?

An **A record** maps a domain name to the IP address (Version 4) of the computer hosting the domain. An A record uses a domain name to find the IP address of a computer connected to the internet

The *A* in A record stands for *Address*. Whenever you visit a web site, send an email, connect to Twitter or Facebook, or do almost anything on the Internet, the address you enter is a series of words connected with dots.

For example, to access the DNSimple website you enter www.dnsimple.com. At our name server, there’s an A record that points to the IP address 208.93.64.253. This means that a request from your browser to www.dnsimple.com is directed to the server with IP address 208.93.64.253.

A Records are the simplest type of DNS records, and one of the primary records used in DNS servers.

You can do a lot with A records, including using multiple A records for the same domain in order to provide redundancy and fallbacks. Additionally, multiple names could point to the same address, in which case each would have its own A record pointing to that same IP address.

The DNS A record is specified by [RFC 1035](https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc1035).

[📎](https://support.dnsimple.com/articles/a-record/#record-format)A record format

The structure of an A record follows the standard top-level format definition defined in [RFC 1035](https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc1035#section-3.2.1). The RDATA section is composed of one element:

| **Element** | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| address | A 32 bit Internet address representing an IPv4 address |

Hosts that have multiple Internet addresses have multiple A records.

The canonical representation is:

A <address>

where <address> is an IPv4 address and looks like 162.159.24.4.

In DNSimple, the A record is represented by the following customizable elements:

| **Element** | **Description** |
| --- | --- |
| Name | The host name for the record, without the domain name. This is generally referred to as “subdomain”. We automatically append the domain name. |
| TTL | The time-to-live in seconds. This is the amount of time the record is allowed to be cached by a resolver. |
| Address | The IPv4 address the A record points to. |

[📎](https://support.dnsimple.com/articles/a-record/#querying-a-records)Querying A records

You can use dig to determine the A record associated to a domain name. The result is contained in the ANSWER section. It contains the fully-qualified domain name (FQDN), the remaining time-to-live (TTL), and the IP address.

$ dig A api.dnsimple.com

; <<>> DiG 9.8.3-P1 <<>> A api.dnsimple.com

;; global options: +cmd

;; Got answer:

;; ->>HEADER<<- opcode: QUERY, status: NOERROR, id: 5792

;; flags: qr rd ra; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 1, AUTHORITY: 0, ADDITIONAL: 0

;; QUESTION SECTION:

;api.dnsimple.com. IN A

;; ANSWER SECTION:

api.dnsimple.com. 59 IN A 208.93.64.253

;; Query time: 80 msec

;; SERVER: 8.8.8.8#53(8.8.8.8)

;; WHEN: Sun Jul 31 22:21:31 2016

;; MSG SIZE rcvd: 50

[📎](https://support.dnsimple.com/articles/a-record/#manage-a-records)Manage A records

From the DNSimple record editor, you can [add, remove, and update A records](https://support.dnsimple.com/articles/manage-a-record).