CS 240

#21: Domain Name System (DNS)

Computer Systems

Nov. 9, 2021 · Wade Fagen-Ulmschneider

DNS Translation

Up until now, we have been focused on delivering content and running web services. However, how does the user get to our service?!

- IP Protocol (Layer 3):
- User-Supplied Address:

| DNS: | | | |
|------|--|--|--|
| | | | |
| | | | |

Website Address vs. IP Address:

Fully Qualified Domain Name (FQDN):

All DNS lookups are done based on a Fully Qualified Domain Name (**FQDN**). A FQDN has several properties always present:

- Does **NOT** contain protocol information:
- "Fully Qualified":
- Comprised of multiple hierarchical levels:
 - Top-Level Domain (TLD):
 - o Second-Level Domain (SLD/2LD):
 - o Sub-Domains:

DNS Record

A DNS record is a dictionary-like structure with a key ("record type") and an associated value and "Time to Live" (TTL) for caching.

- Time To Live (TTL) Value:
- Records and Values:
 - o A Record:
 - **AAAA** Record:
 - o **NS** Record:
 - o **MX** Record:
 - o **TXT** Record:

| DNS Record for illinois.edu | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-----|--|--|
| Record Type | Value | TTL | | |
| Α | | | | |
| AAAA | | | | |
| MX | | | | |
| NS | | | | |
| ТХТ | | | | |

| DNS Record for cs.illinois.edu | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------|-----|--|--|
| Record Type | Value | TTL | | |
| A | | | | |
| AAAA | | | | |
| MX | | | | |
| NS | | | | |
| ТХТ | | | | |

DNS Resolution: How do we retrieve DNS records so we can translate a domain name into an IP address?

• There are way, **way** too many lookups every second for a centralized solution!

Piece #1: DNS Root Servers: There are only 13 authoritative root DNS servers in the world (as of 2021), managed by the International Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA):

| Host Name | IP Address | Operator | |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| a.root-servers.net | 198.41.0.4, 2001:503:ba3e::2:30 | Verisign, Inc. | |
| b.root-servers.net | 199.9.14.201, 2001:500:200::b | University of Southern California, Information Sciences Institute | |
| c.root-servers.net | 192.33.4.12, 2001:500:2::c | Cogent Communications | |
| d.root-servers.net | 199.7.91.13, 2001:500:2d::d | University of Maryland | |
| e.root-servers.net | 192.203.230.10, 2001:500:a8::e | NASA (Ames Research Center) | |
| f.root-servers.net | 192.5.5.241, 2001:500:2f::f | Internet Systems Consortium, Inc. | |
| g.root-servers.net | 192.112.36.4, 2001:500:12::d0d | US Department of Defense (NIC) | |
| h.root-servers.net | 198.97.190.53, 2001:500:1::53 | US Army (Research Lab) | |
| i.root-servers.net | 192.36.148.17, 2001:7fe::53 | Netnod | |
| j.root-servers.net | 192.58.128.30, 2001:503:c27::2:30 | Verisign, Inc. | |
| k.root-servers.net | 193.0.14.129, 2001:7fd::1 | RIPE NCC | |
| l.root-servers.net | 199.7.83.42, 2001:500:9f::42 | ICANN | |
| m.root-servers.net | 202.12.27.33, 2001:dc3::35 | WIDE Project | |

• Purpose of Root Name Servers:

Phase #2: TLD Name Servers: A collection of 1,514 (as of 2021) valid top-level domain name servers. (ICANN maintains registration and approval for all TLDs.)

• Purpose of TLD Name Servers:

Phase #3: SLD/2LD Name Servers: When you "purchase" a domain name, part of the cost goes to maintaining your entry in the Domain Name System that points to your name server.

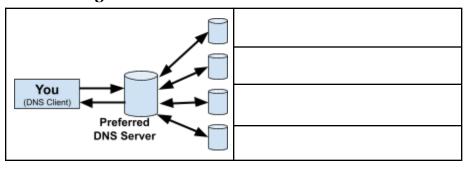
• Purpose of Second Level Domain Name Servers:

DNS Record Caching

When you connect to the Internet, the protocol that initializes your connection will provide the IP address to a local DNS server called your "**Preferred DNS Server**".

- Local:
- [Possibly] Private:
- Can be user-defined (ex: 1.1.1.1, 8.8.8.8, "Public DNS servers"):

DNS Caching:



Q1: What servers must be contacted the first time that you visit d7.cs.illinois.edu if the cache is completely empty?

Q2: What servers must be contacted the <u>second</u> time that you visit d7.cs.illinois.edu after just a short time?

Q3: What servers must be contacted when you visit waf.cs.illinois.edu after the above requests?