OpenDNS

OpenDNS is now part of Cisco.

LOOKINGPOINT

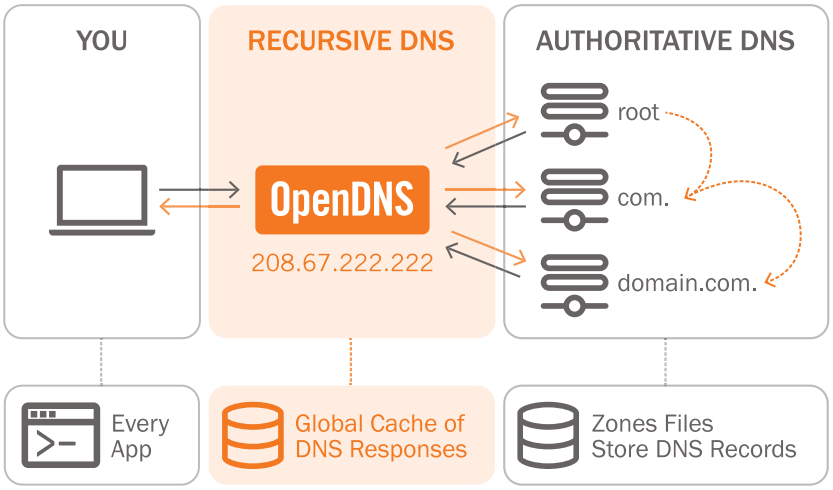
Feature Brief: Why Point DNS to OpenDNS

10 Reasons Over 10,000 Businesses Point DNS to OpenDNS

More Secure, Ultra Reliable and Speedy Recursive DNS Service Compared to ISPs or Local DNS Servers

OpenDNS is committed to delivering the best possible Internet experience to every single one of our 65+ million users. And we are obsessed with inventing new technologies to speed up the Internet and move the state of the art for the Domain Name System (DNS) forward.

The OpenDNS Global Network handles 80+ billion DNS requests daily—over 2% of the World's Internet activity—with 100% uptime.



Here are the top 10 reasons to use OpenDNS:

MORE SECURE

1 Highly Scalable, Automated Defenses
Shielding our infrastructure from DDoS, cache poisoning and forged responses mitigates impact from attacks

We have your back by implementing and innovating best-in-class DNS practices—from blocking or rate limiting requests with unusual record types, excessive duplicate queries, excessive DNS records, or those sent from malicious client IPs to adding entropy to our nameserver requests.

2 Hardened DNS Resolver Code
Specializing code drastically reduces the likelihood of exploits compared to BIND or Microsoft DNS

OpenDNS servers run a private fork of djbdns source code, and related systems are always patched. Compared to BIND or Microsoft DNS, OpenDNS was insusceptible to vulnerabilities like the widespread DNS cache poisoning reported in July 2008.

3 The First Service to Encrypt DNS Traffic
Securing the "Last Mile" of DNS traffic between you and the ISP blocks eavesdropping and other attacks

Just as SSL turns HTTP web traffic into HTTPS, OpenDNS DNSCrypt™ turns regular DNS into encrypted DNS traffic. Optional endpoint software secures DNS from man-in-the-middle attacks without any changes to domain names or how they work.

ULTRA RELIABLE

Transparent Operational Excellence
Staffing a 24x7 dedicated team of the top DNS experts and network engineers enables you to connect with confidence

100% uptime isn't just marketing to us. OpenDNS's network operations center maintains watch over the entire Internet for routing issues as well as our global infrastructure for incidents. Since 2006, we've publicly shared our System Status.

Anycast Routing Reduces Admin Burden
Handling all DNS requests using the same IP address eliminates network complexity

OpenDNS announces one IP address for hundreds of DNS resolvers across all data center locations. Even if multiple locations go offline, there are no service disruptions, because DNS requests are transparently routed to the next best location, ensuring that you get where you want to go.

Smarter DNS Cache Technology
Substituting invalid responses with the last-known IP address enables a better Internet experience

If a domain's authoritative nameserver becomes unreachable or misconfigured, OpenDNS SmartCache™ returns the expired DNS response rather than an error. When the rest of the world is unable to reach a site, you are able to connect with confidence.

SPEEDY

One of the World's Largest DNS Caches
Knowing nearly every answer before you even ask the question reduces authoritative nameserver delays

We know you don't have all day to wait for DNS resolution—that's why OpenDNS data centers share previous responses in one global cache. This avoids delays associated with waiting for multiple authoritative nameservers to reply to your DNS request.

Over 500 Peers at Internet Exchange Points
Routing requests and responses with the fewest Internet hops reduces round-trip time

OpenDNS leverages a little help from our friends. By exchanging routes and establishing interconnections with over 500 of the largest ISPs and networks in the world, we shorten the path between you and OpenDNS, and between OpenDNS and authoritative nameservers. See what Equinix has to say about us.

Integrated with Content Delivery Networks
Directing networks and devices to connect to the nearest content reduces connection latency

OpenDNS, leading global CDNs and other public DNS services work together to speed up the Internet by enabling CDNs to answer DNS requests with IP addresses for the closest content servers to you. This reduces latency for everything—from business critical apps to streaming video.

Over-Provisioned Resilient Infrastructure
Handling floods of malicious requests without impacting legitimate requests mitigates slowdowns

While it's mostly a security issue, minimizing the effects of attacks also provides major performance benefits. OpenDNS over- provisions system resources for each recursive resolver at each data center to be an order of magnitude of over target capacity.

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