

MyDNS reference manual

for version 1.2.8.27, 26 March 2009

This is the manual for MyDNS (version 1.2.8.27, 26 March 2009)

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Table of Contents

1	Introduction to MyDNS	1
2	Installation	2
2.1	Compiling the source.....	2
2.2	Creating 'mydns.conf'	2
2.3	Creating the database.....	2
2.4	Creating the tables.....	3
2.5	Database access.....	3
3	Database	4
3.1	The 'soa' table.....	4
3.2	The 'rr' table.....	6
3.3	Supported RR types	7
3.4	Optional columns	9
3.4.1	any.active	10
3.4.2	soa.xfer	10
3.4.3	soa.update_acl	11
3.4.4	soa.also_notify	11
3.4.5	soa.recursive	12
3.4.6	rr.stamp	12
3.4.7	rr.serial	12
3.4.8	rr.data.....	13
3.4.9	rr.datakey.....	13
4	Server	14
4.1	Caching.....	14
4.2	Signals.....	15
4.3	TCP support	15
4.4	Zone transfers.....	15
4.5	Incremental zone transfers.....	15
4.6	DNS UPDATE.....	16
4.7	DNS NOTIFY	16
4.8	Round robin	16
4.9	Load balancing.....	16
4.10	Logging queries	17
5	Utilities	19
5.1	mydnscheck.....	19
5.2	mydnsexport.....	19
5.3	mydnsimport	20

Appendix A	Troubleshooting	21
Appendix B	Configuration	22
B.1	Database configuration	22
B.2	Name daemon configuration	22
B.3	Cache configuration.....	22
B.4	Miscellaneous configuration options.	23
Appendix C	References	26
Appendix D	GNU Free Documentation License	27
D.0.1	ADDENDUM: How to use this License for your documents	33
Index		34

1 Introduction to MyDNS

MyDNS is an Internet domain name server. It is unique among DNS servers in that it was designed explicitly to work with an external SQL database.

At the moment, two popular open-source databases are supported: **MySQL** and **PostgreSQL**.

The primary goals of the MyDNS package are stability, security, interoperability, simplicity, and speed. But not necessarily in that order.

This manual assumes that the reader has a working understanding of basic DNS concepts and their SQL server.

2 Installation

2.1 Compiling the source

First, uncompress and unpack the distribution to a location of your choosing. The distribution will be extracted into a directory named ‘`mydns-1.2.8.27`’.

Change directory into the distribution directory, then run the `configure` script to configure the package for your system.

The ‘`INSTALL`’ file has full details on how the `configure` script works. Run `configure --help` to output a summary of all options.

You’ll probably be able to simply run the `configure` command with no additional arguments.

```
$ ./configure
```

If you have both MySQL and PostgreSQL installed on your system, MyDNS chooses MySQL by default. To tell MyDNS to use PostgreSQL instead of MySQL, run `configure --without-mysql`.

After the configuration process is complete, build the package.

```
$ make
```

Then, if the build completed successfully, install the package.

```
# make install
```

The ‘`mydns`’ binary should now be installed in the ‘`sbin`’ dir beneath the ‘`prefix`’ provided to the `configure` script, if any.

By default, ‘`mydns`’ is installed as ‘`/usr/local/sbin/mydns`’.

2.2 Creating ‘`mydns.conf`’

MyDNS probably won’t start properly if it can’t find its configuration file. By default, the configuration file is called ‘`/etc/mydns.conf`’.

Running `mydns --dump-config` will output a set of configuration options suitable for using as your configuration file. See [Appendix B \[Configuration\]](#), page 22.

So, for a fresh installation, this command will create your initial configuration file:

```
# mydns --dump-config > /etc/mydns.conf
```

You should now edit your ‘`mydns.conf`’ file. Most defaults should be fine for most sites.

The values you are most likely to want to modify are the values for ‘`db-host`’ and ‘`db-user`’, which should contain the database username and password that you will create at the end of step See [Section 2.5 \[Database access\]](#), page 3.

2.3 Creating the database

Now that you have installed and configured MyDNS, you’ll need to set up a database and access permissions.

To create a database called ‘`mydns`’ on your database server:

MySQL:

```
$ mysqladmin -h host -u username -p create mydns
```

PostgreSQL:

```
$ createdb mydns
```

2.4 Creating the tables

Next, create the tables in your database that will hold the DNS data.

Running `mydns --create-tables` will cause MyDNS to output `CREATE TABLE` statements appropriate for your database.

MySQL:

```
$ mydns --create-tables | mysql -h host -u username -p mydns
```

PostgreSQL:

```
$ mydns --create-tables | psql mydns
```

After you have created the tables, you should have two tables in your ‘mydns’ database, called ‘soa’ (see [Section 3.1 \[soa table\], page 4](#)) and ‘rr’ (see [Section 3.2 \[rr table\], page 6](#)).

2.5 Database access

Next, create a user that the MyDNS server can use to access the ‘mydns’ database:

MySQL:

```
$ mysql -h host -u username -p mydns
```

```
mysql> GRANT SELECT ON mydns.* TO user@localhost IDENTIFIED BY 'password';
```

PostgreSQL:

```
$ psql mydns
```

```
mydns=# CREATE USER user WITH PASSWORD 'password';
```

```
mydns=# GRANT SELECT ON soa,soa_id_seq TO user;
```

```
mydns=# GRANT SELECT ON rr,rr_id_seq TO user;
```

3 Database

The default database name is `'mydns'`.

To specify a different name, edit the `'database'` variable in your `'mydns.conf'`.

You can freely add columns to the `'mydns'` database. You can also modify the columns that MyDNS uses, as long as you don't change their names.

The table layouts described here are for the tables created on a MySQL database. If you're using PostgreSQL, the fields are pretty much the same; however, the field types are slightly different. You can run `mydns --create-tables` to see the exact table structures.

3.1 The 'soa' table

The `'soa'` table contains one row for each zone for which the server is authoritative.

The default values for the various timer fields are from [RFC 1537](#).

`'id INT UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY'` (*MySQL*)

`'id SERIAL NOT NULL PRIMARY KEY'` (*PostgreSQL*)

A unique number identifying this zone.

`'origin CHAR(255) NOT NULL'` (*MySQL*)

`'origin VARCHAR(255) NOT NULL'` (*PostgreSQL*)

The name of this zone. (*Unique key*)

ex: example.com.

`'ns CHAR(255) NOT NULL'` (*MySQL*)

`'ns VARCHAR(255) NOT NULL'` (*PostgreSQL*)

The name of the name server that was the original or primary source of data for this zone. (*meaningless to MyDNS*)

ex: primary.example.com.

`'mbox CHAR(255) NOT NULL'` (*MySQL*)

`'mbox VARCHAR(255) NOT NULL'` (*PostgreSQL*)

A name which specifies the mailbox of the person responsible for this zone. This should be specified in the mailbox-as-domain-name format where the `'@'` character is replaced with a dot. (*meaningless to MyDNS*)

ex: postmaster.example.com.

`'serial INT UNSIGNED NOT NULL DEFAULT '1''` (*MySQL*)

`'serial INTEGER NOT NULL DEFAULT 1'` (*PostgreSQL*)

A "version number" for this zone. DNS servers that rely on AXFR for zone transfers use this to determine when updates have occurred. Popular values to use are the Unix timestamp or a date in the form YYYYMMDD. (see [Section 4.4 \[Zone transfers\]](#), page 15).

ex: 20020529

`'refresh INT UNSIGNED NOT NULL DEFAULT '28800''` (*MySQL*)

`'refresh INTEGER NOT NULL DEFAULT 28800'` (*PostgreSQL*)

The number of seconds after which slave nameservers should check to see if this zone has been changed. If the zone's serial number has changed, the slave nameserver initiates a zone transfer. (*meaningless to MyDNS*)

ex: 10800

`'retry INT UNSIGNED NOT NULL DEFAULT '7200'' (MySQL)`

`'retry INTEGER NOT NULL DEFAULT 7200' (PostgreSQL)`

This specifies the number of seconds a slave nameserver should wait before retrying if it attempts to transfer this zone but fails. (*meaningless to MyDNS*)
ex: 3600

`'expire INT UNSIGNED NOT NULL DEFAULT '604800'' (MySQL)`

`'expire INTEGER NOT NULL DEFAULT 604800' (PostgreSQL)`

If for *expire* seconds the primary server cannot be reached, all information about the zone is invalidated on the secondary servers (i.e., they are no longer authoritative for that zone). (*meaningless to MyDNS*)
ex: 60400

`'minimum INT UNSIGNED NOT NULL DEFAULT '86400'' (MySQL)`

`'minimum INTEGER NOT NULL DEFAULT 86400' (PostgreSQL)`

The minimum TTL field that should be exported with any RR from this zone. If any RR in the database has a lower TTL, this TTL is sent instead.
ex: 86400

`'ttl INT UNSIGNED NOT NULL DEFAULT '86400'' (MySQL)`

`'ttl INTEGER NOT NULL DEFAULT 86400' (PostgreSQL)`

The number of seconds that this zone may be cached before the source of the information should again be consulted. Zero values are interpreted to mean that the zone should not be cached.
ex: 86400

`'active ENUM('Y', 'N') NOT NULL DEFAULT 'Y'' (MySQL)`

`'active VARCHAR(1) NOT NULL CHECK (active='Y' OR active='N')' (PostgreSQL)`

Optional column allowing zones to be marked inactive and therefore ignored by the server.

`'recursive ENUM('Y', 'N') NOT NULL DEFAULT 'N'' (MySQL)`

`'recursive VARCHAR(1) NOT NULL CHECK (recursive='Y' OR recursive='N')' (PostgreSQL)`

Optional column marking the zone as recursive - if this is true then the server will delegate any requests for resolution to an external resolver. **This is due to be replaced by a zone type column shortly**

`'xfer CHAR(255) DEFAULT NULL' (MySQL)`

`'xfer CHAR(255) DEFAULT NULL' (PostgreSQL)`

Optional column specifying the ACL for allowing AXFR/IXFR requests. Currently specified as an IP address list.

`'update_acl CHAR(255) DEFAULT NULL' (MySQL)`

`'update_acl CHAR(255) DEFAULT NULL' (PostgreSQL)`

Optional column specifying the ACL controlling who can update a zone. Currently specified as an IP address list.

`'also_notify CHAR(255) DEFAULT NULL' (MySQL)`

`'also_notify CHAR(255) DEFAULT NULL' (PostgreSQL)`

Optional column specifying the name servers, other than those mentioned in the zone data, that should receive NOTIFY messages. Specified as a list of IP addresses.

3.2 The 'rr' table

The 'rr' table contains all non-SOA resource record types.

It has a unique key on the combination of *zone*, *name*, *type*, and *data*. Plus optionally the *active* and *edatakey* columns.

`'id INT UNSIGNED NOT NULL AUTO_INCREMENT PRIMARY KEY' (MySQL)`

`'id SERIAL NOT NULL PRIMARY KEY' (PostgreSQL)`

A unique number identifying this record.

`'zone INT UNSIGNED NOT NULL' (MySQL)`

`'zone INTEGER NOT NULL' (PostgreSQL)`

The ID of the zone (from the 'soa' table) to which this resource record belongs. (see [Section 3.1 \[soa table\]](#), page 4).

For PostgreSQL databases, this column is also created with 'FOREIGN KEY (zone) REFERENCES soa (id) ON DELETE CASCADE'.

`'name CHAR(64) NOT NULL' (MySQL)`

`'name VARCHAR(64) NOT NULL' (PostgreSQL)`

The name that this RR describes. Wildcard values such as '*' or '*.sub' are supported, and this field can contain a FQDN or just a hostname. It may contain out-of-zone data if this is a glue record.

ex: foo

ex: foo.example.com.

`'type`

`ENUM('A', 'AAAA', 'CNAME', 'HINFO', 'MX', 'NAPTR', 'NS', 'PTR', 'RP', 'SRV', 'TXT')`
`NOT NULL' (MySQL)`

`'type VARCHAR(5) NOT NULL CHECK (type='A' OR type='AAAA' OR type='CNAME' OR type='HINFO' OR type='MX' OR type='NAPTR' OR type='NS' OR type='PTR' OR type='RP' OR type='SRV' OR type='TXT')' (PostgreSQL)`

The type of resource record. (see [Section 3.3 \[Supported RR types\]](#), page 7).

`'data CHAR(128) NOT NULL' (MySQL)`

`'data VARCHAR(128) NOT NULL' (PostgreSQL)`

The data associated with this resource record. See [Section 3.3 \[Supported RR types\]](#), page 7, for specifications and examples of the type of data each record type should contain.

`'aux INT UNSIGNED NOT NULL' (MySQL)`

`'aux INTEGER NOT NULL default 0' (PostgreSQL)`

An auxillary numeric value in addition to *data*. For 'MX' records, this field specifies the preference. For 'SRV' records, this field specifies the priority.

`'ttl INT UNSIGNED NOT NULL DEFAULT '86400'' (MySQL)`

`'ttl INTEGER NOT NULL default 86400' (PostgreSQL)`

The time interval that this resource record may be cached before the source of the information should again be consulted. Zero values are interpreted to mean that the RR can only be used for the transaction in progress, and should not be cached.

`'edata BLOB(65408) DEFAULT NULL' (MySQL)`

`'edata BYTEA DEFAULT NULL' (PostgreSQL)`

Optional column that holds data that will not fit into the data column. This allows much larger rr records to be stored.

`'edatakey CHAR(32) DEFAULT NULL' (MySQL)`

`'edatakey CHAR(32) DEFAULT NULL' (PostgreSQL)`

Optional column that holds the MD5 hash of the data stored in the edata column.

`'active ENUM('Y', 'N', 'D') NOT NULL DEFAULT 'Y' (MySQL)`

`'active VARCHAR(1) NOT NULL CHECK (active='Y' OR active='N' OR active='D')' (PostgreSQL)`

Optional column used to mark a record as active. When not set to Y the record is not served out by the server during normal requests or AXFR's. However if IXFR processing is enabled and the record is marked as 'D' (*deleted*) then it is visible in IXFR responses. If IXFR is disabled then 'D' === 'N'.

`'stamp TIMESTAMP NOT NULL DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP' (MySQL)`

`'stamp TIMESTAMP NOT NULL DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP' (PostgreSQL)`

Optional column used to mark the last modified time and date of the record. Utilised in IXFR processing.

`'serial INT UNSIGNED DEFAULT NULL' (MySQL)`

`'serial INTEGER DEFAULT NULL' (PostgreSQL)`

Optional column used to contain the serial number of the zone when the record was created. Utilised in IXFR processing.

3.3 Supported RR types

The `'type'` column in the `'rr'` table may contain any of the following supported resource record types:

`'A'` A host address. The `'data'` column should contain the IP address (in numbers-and-dots format) associated with the `'name'`.

example: `'192.168.1.88'`

`'AAAA'` An IPv6 host address. The `'data'` column should contain the IPv6 address associated with the `'name'`.

example: `'3ffe:b00:c18:3::a'`

`'ALIAS'` A server side alias. An alias is like a `CNAME`, only it is handled entirely by the server. The `'data'` column should contain the hostname aliased by `'name'`. Aliases can be used in place of A records. The client will only see A records

and will not be able to tell that aliases are involved. The hostname specified by `'data'` must exist in the database.

It can be useful to use aliases for everything. Use `A` records for the canonical name of the machine and use aliases for any additional names. This is especially useful when combined with automatic `PTR` records. If a single IP address is only used for one `A` record, then there will never be any confusion over what the `PTR` record should be.

In order for server-side aliases to work, MyDNS must have been compiled with `configure --enable-alias`.

example: `'albuquerque.example.com.'` (FQDN)

example: `'albuquerque'` (hostname only)

'CNAME' The canonical name for an alias. The `'data'` column should contain the real name of the machine specified by `'name'`. `'data'` may be a hostname or an FQDN.

example: `'porcini.example.com.'` (FQDN)

example: `'porcini'` (hostname only)

'HINFO' Host information. The `'data'` column should contain two strings which provide information about the host specified by `'name'`. The first string specifies the CPU type, and the second string describes the operating system type. The two strings should be separated by a space. If either string needs to contain a space, enclose it in quotation marks.

Well-known CPU and operating system types that are most often used are listed in [RFC 1700](#).

example: `"Pentium Pro" Linux'`

'MX' Mail exchange. The `'data'` column should contain the hostname or FQDN of a mail server which will accept mail for the host specified by `'name'`. The `'aux'` column should contain a preference for this mail server. Mail transfer agents prefer MX records with lower values in `'aux'`.

example: `'ns0.example.com.'` (FQDN)

example: `'ns0'` (hostname only)

'NAPTR' Naming authority pointer. The `'data'` column should contain six fields, separated by whitespace, which describe a regular expression based rewrite rule as described in [RFC 2915](#) for the name specified by `'name'`. The first field is the order (a number) in which the record must be processed with other similar records. The second field is the preference (a number) in which similar records with equal order values should be processed. The third field (a string) describe processing flags used while rewriting. The fourth field (a string) specifies the services available down this rewrite path. The fifth field (a string) contains a regular expression to use while rewriting. The last field (a string) contains the next name to query along the rewrite path. If a string contains spaces, it may be enclosed in quotation marks. If a string needs to contain a literal quotation mark, precede it with a backslash character.

example: `'100 90 "" "" "!http://([^\:]+)\1!i" .'`

‘NS’	<p>An authoritative nameserver. The ‘data’ column should contain the hostname or FQDN of a server which should be considered authoritative for the zone listed in ‘name’.</p> <p><i>example:</i> ‘france.example.com.’ (FQDN)</p> <p><i>example:</i> ‘france’ (hostname only)</p>
‘PTR’	<p>A domain name pointer. These records, used only with <i>IN-ADDR.ARPA</i> zones, should contain the canonical hostname of the machine referred to by ‘name’ in ‘data’.</p> <p><i>example:</i> ‘webserver.example.com.’</p>
‘RP’	<p>A responsible person. The ‘data’ column should contain the DNS-encoded email address of the person responsible for the name requested, then a space, then a hostname that should return a TXT record containing additional information about the responsible person. If there is no such TXT record, the second value should contain a dot (‘.’).</p> <p>For more information, see RFC 1183.</p> <p><i>example:</i> ‘webmaster.example.com. contactinfo.example.com.’</p>
‘SRV’	<p>Server location. Specifies the location of the server(s) for a specific protocol and domain. The ‘data’ column must contain three space-separated values. The first value is a number specifying the <i>weight</i> for this entry. The second field is a number specifying the <i>port</i> on the target host of this service. The last field is a name specifying the <i>target</i> host. The ‘aux’ column should contain the <i>priority</i> of this target host. Targets with a lower priority are preferred.</p> <p>For well-known services, a reserved universal symbolic name may be listed in RFC 1700.</p> <p>For more information, see RFC 2782.</p> <p><i>example:</i> ‘0 9 server.example.com.’ (FQDN)</p> <p><i>example:</i> ‘0 9 server’ (hostname only)</p>
‘TXT’	<p>A text string. The ‘data’ column contains a text string that is returned only when a <i>TXT</i> query is issued for the host specified by ‘name’.</p> <p><i>example:</i> ‘This is a string.’</p>

3.4 Optional columns

As shown above MyDNS allows optional columns in the tables. These are utilised when extended operation is enabled. The configuration must enable the use of these columns before they will have any effect.

Each of these columns is optional.

If these columns exist, MyDNS will notice this and enable additional code specific to each optional field.

If you add any of these fields to your database, you must signal MyDNS to rescan the tables by sending it a SIGHUP signal (see [Section 4.2 \[Signals\], page 15](#)).

3.4.1 any.active

Both the ‘soa’ table and the ‘rr’ table may contain a column called ‘active’.

If this column exists, it should contain a boolean value. This could be 0/1 (an integer), ‘Y’/‘N’, ‘1’/‘0’, or ‘Active’/‘Inactive’. For MySQL databases, an ENUM value is recommended.

If the **active** column is present, whenever records are retrieved from that table, the **active** column will be honored. If the row is inactive, it will be as if the row did not exist at all.

To create an ‘active’ column on your ‘soa’ table, for example, you might issue SQL statements like this:

MySQL:

```
mysql> ALTER TABLE mydns.soa ADD COLUMN active ENUM('Y','N') NOT NULL;
mysql> ALTER TABLE mydns.soa ADD INDEX (active);
```

PostgreSQL:

```
mydns=# ALTER TABLE soa ADD COLUMN active INT;
mydns=# UPDATE soa SET active=1;
mydns=# ALTER TABLE soa ALTER COLUMN active SET NOT NULL;
mydns=# ALTER TABLE soa ALTER COLUMN active SET DEFAULT 1;
```

3.4.2 soa.xfer

If the ‘soa’ table contains a column named ‘xfer’ and DNS-based zone transfers are enabled (see [Section 4.4 \[Zone transfers\]](#), page 15), the ‘xfer’ column will be examined whenever a DNS-based zone transfer request is received.

The ‘xfer’ column should contain one or more IP addresses separated by commas. These IP addresses will be allowed to transfer the zone.

If the ‘xfer’ column is empty, no DNS-based zone transfers will be allowed for that zone.

The IP addresses in ‘xfer’ may contain standard wildcard characters. Thus, if you want to grant zone transfer access for a particular zone to any IP address, you would set ‘xfer’ to ‘*’.

Addresses may also be specified in CIDR notation (i.e. 192.168.1.1/24) or in network/netmask notation (i.e. 192.168.1.1/255.255.0.0).

The ‘xfer’ column may be any size you want, and whatever size you think will be adequate for the IP address lists you intend to use.

To create an ‘xfer’ column on your ‘soa’ table, for example, you might issue SQL statements like this:

MySQL:

```
mysql> ALTER TABLE mydns.soa ADD COLUMN xfer CHAR(255) NOT NULL;
```

PostgreSQL:

```
mydns=# ALTER TABLE soa ADD COLUMN xfer VARCHAR(255);
mydns=# UPDATE soa SET xfer='';
mydns=# ALTER TABLE soa ALTER COLUMN xfer SET NOT NULL;
mydns=# ALTER TABLE soa ALTER COLUMN xfer SET DEFAULT '';
```

3.4.3 soa.update_acl

If the ‘soa’ table contains a column named ‘update_acl’ and dynamic DNS updates are enabled (see [Section 4.6 \[DNS UPDATE\], page 16](#)), the ‘update’ column will be examined whenever a DNS UPDATE request is received.

The ‘update_acl’ column should contain one or more IP addresses separated by commas. These IP addresses will be allowed to update the zone.

If the ‘update_acl’ column is empty, no dynamic DNS updates will be allowed for that zone.

The IP addresses in ‘update_acl’ may contain standard wildcard characters. Thus, if you want to grant access for a particular zone to any IP address, you would set ‘update_acl’ to ‘*’.

Addresses may also be specified in CIDR notation (i.e. 192.168.1.1/24) or in network/netmask notation (i.e. 192.168.1.1/255.255.0.0).

The ‘update_acl’ column may be any size you want, and whatever size you think will be adequate for the IP address lists you intend to use.

To create an ‘update_acl’ column on your ‘soa’ table, for example, you might issue SQL statements like this:

MySQL:

```
mysql> ALTER TABLE mydns.soa ADD COLUMN update_acl CHAR(255) NOT NULL;
```

PostgreSQL:

```
mydns=# ALTER TABLE soa ADD COLUMN update_acl VARCHAR(255);
mydns=# UPDATE soa SET update_acl='';
mydns=# ALTER TABLE soa ALTER COLUMN update_acl SET NOT NULL;
mydns=# ALTER TABLE soa ALTER COLUMN update_acl SET DEFAULT '';
```

3.4.4 soa.also_notify

If the ‘soa’ table contains a column named ‘also_notify’ and dynamic DNS updates are enabled (see [Section 4.6 \[DNS UPDATE\], page 16](#)), the ‘also_notify’ column will be examined whenever an UPDATE is processed successfully by the server.

The ‘also_notify’ column should contain one or more IP addresses separated by commas. These IP addresses will be used to send NOTIFY messages to additional name servers.

The IP addresses in ‘also_notify’ must be host addresses and may not contain any wildcard specifications.

The ‘also_notify’ column may be any size you want, whatever size you think will be adequate to hold the list of additional servers for the zone.

To create an ‘also_notify’ column on your ‘soa’ table, for example, you might issue SQL statements like this:

MySQL

```
mysql> ALTER TABLE mydns.soa ADD COLUMN also_notify CHAR(255) DEFAULT NULL;
```

PostgreSQL

```
mydns=# ALTER TABLE soa ADD COLUMN also_notify VARCHAR(255) DEFAULT NULL;
```

3.4.5 soa.recursive

If the ‘soa’ table contains a column named ‘recursive’ the column will be examined on every request and if set to true requests for this zone will be forwarded via the recursor rather than resolved locally.

To create a ‘recursive’ column on your ‘soa’ table, for example, you might issue SQL statements like this:

MySQL:

```
mysql> ALTER TABLE mydns.soa ADD COLUMN recursive ENUM('Y','N') NOT NULL;
```

PostgreSQL:

```
mydns=# ALTER TABLE soa ADD COLUMN recursive VARCHAR(1);
mydns=# UPDATE soa SET recursive='N';
mydns=# ALTER TABLE soa ALTER COLUMN recursive SET NOT NULL;
mydns=# ALTER TABLE soa ALTER COLUMN recursive SET DEFAULT 'Y';
mydns=# ALTER TABLE soa ALTER COLUMN recursive SET CHECK (recursive='Y' OR recursive='N');
```

3.4.6 rr.stamp

If the ‘rr’ table contains a column named ‘stamp’ the column will be examined by the garbage collection code to determine if the record can be deleted. This is used in conjunction with the ‘active’ column where the record must be in the **D** state, and the ‘soa.expire’ column for the zone which determines how old the record must be before it can be deleted.

To create a ‘stamp’ column on your ‘rr’ table, for example, you might issue SQL statements like this:

MySQL:

```
mysql> ALTER TABLE mydns.rr ADD COLUMN stamp TIMESTAMP NOT NULL DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP;
```

PostgreSQL:

```
mydns=# ALTER TABLE rr ADD COLUMN stamp TIMESTAMP NOT NULL DEFAULT CURRENT_TIMESTAMP;
```

3.4.7 rr.serial

If the ‘rr’ table contains a column named ‘serial’ the column will be examined by the IXFR code to determine if the record needs to be sent to the requestor. This is used in conjunction with the ‘active’ column where the record must be in the **D** state, and the ‘soa.expire’ column for the zone which determines how old the record must be before it can be ignored.

To create a ‘serial’ column on your ‘rr’ table, for example, you might issue SQL statements like this:

MySQL:

```
mysql> ALTER TABLE mydns.rr ADD COLUMN serial INT UNSIGNED DEFAULT NULL;
```

PostgreSQL:

```
mydns=# ALTER TABLE rr ADD COLUMN serial INTEGER DEFAULT NULL;
```

3.4.8 rr.data

If the 'rr' table contains a column named 'edata' the column will be used to extend the data column when responding to queries and when updates are stored in the db. This allows maximum length records to be stored without compromising the index function.

To create an 'edata' column on your 'rr' table, for example, you might issue SQL statements like this:

MySQL

```
mysql> ALTER TABLE mydns.rr ADD COLUMN edata BLOB(65408) DEFAULT NULL;  
mysql> ALTER TABLE mydns.rr ADD COLUMN edatakey CHAR(32) DEFAULT NULL;  
mysql> ALTER TABLE mydns.rr ADD INDEX edatakey;
```

PostgreSQL

```
mydns=# ALTER TABLE rr ADD COLUMN edata BYTEA DEFAULT NULL;  
mydns=# ALTER TABLE rr ADD COLUMN edatakey CHAR(32) DEFAULT NULL;  
mydns=# DROP INDEX rr;  
mydns=# CREATE INDEX rr ON rr (zone,name,type,data,edatakey,active);
```

3.4.9 rr.datakey

If the 'rr' table contains a column named 'edatakey' the column will be used to key the edata extension column when responding to queries and when updates are stored in the db. This allows maximum length records to be stored without compromising the index function.

To create an 'edatakey' column on your 'rr' table, for example, you might issue SQL statements like this:

MySQL

```
mysql> ALTER TABLE mydns.rr ADD COLUMN edata BLOB(65408) DEFAULT NULL;  
mysql> ALTER TABLE mydns.rr ADD COLUMN edatakey CHAR(32) DEFAULT NULL;  
mysql> ALTER TABLE mydns.rr ADD INDEX edatakey;
```

PostgreSQL

```
mydns=# ALTER TABLE rr ADD COLUMN edata BYTEA DEFAULT NULL;  
mydns=# ALTER TABLE rr ADD COLUMN edatakey CHAR(32) DEFAULT NULL;  
mydns=# DROP INDEX rr;  
mydns=# CREATE INDEX rr ON rr (zone,name,type,data,edatakey,active);
```

4 Server

4.1 Caching

MyDNS uses a lightweight internal cache to speed up question resolution. When the DNS server receives a question, it descends through each label in the name, looking for the first label that has any associated resource records (see [RFC 1034](#)).

This means that a request for a name with lots of labels may require many database queries, most of which are likely to return no rows.

MyDNS stores positive results in its zone cache. The size of the zone cache is determined by the `zone-cache-size` variable in `mydns.conf`. The zone-cache-size specifies the *number of entries* the zone cache may contain at any given time. If the zone-cache-size is set to zero, the zone cache will be completely disabled, and the database will be queried every time. Typically, the bigger your cache, the better MyDNS will perform. Large sites may consider a cache around 32768 entries. The default size is 8192 entries.

The `zone-cache-expire` variable in `mydns.conf` specifies the number of seconds after which zone cache data expires. Most installations will want to set this value fairly low, maybe 60 seconds or so. This way, the DNS data being served by MyDNS will never be more than 60 seconds behind what is actually stored in the database. If your database changes infrequently, set this value much higher.

If any RR stored in the zone data cache has a TTL that is shorter than the value of `zone-cache-expire`, the cached data will expire when the TTL expires.

Once a complete reply has been constructed for a specific request (for example, IN A `foo.example.com.`), the completed reply will be stored in the reply cache. The size of the reply cache is determined by the `reply-cache-size` variable in `mydns.conf`. Entries in the reply cache expire after `reply-cache-expire` seconds.

The reply cache is especially useful because if a match is found for a request in the reply cache, MyDNS will not need to perform any database queries or even very much internal computation in order to return the reply.

A good way to check your cache configuration is to send SIGUSR2 to your server:

```
# kill -USR2 `cat /var/run/mydns.pid`
```

The server will then output its cache status. For example

```
mydns: zone cache 47% useful (31385 hits, 15894 misses),
      2143 collisions (5%), 100% full (8192 records),
      12711624 bytes, avg life 27 sec
mydns: reply cache 84% useful (55200 hits, 10718 misses),
      5707 collisions (14%), 100% full (8192 records),
      3357269 bytes, avg life 38 sec
```

This tells you that MyDNS has been able to find the answer to a question in the reply cache (avoiding all database queries) 84 percent of the time, and that the other 16 percent of the time, it was able to find the data needed in the zone cache 47 percent of the time.

When tweaking your cache sizes, the best clue in this output is the "avg life". This is the average amount of time an entry remains in the cache, between the time it was first inserted

and the time it was removed due to either expiration or because it was removed to make room for other, more commonly-requested entries.

If your "avg life" is extremely short (just a second or two) you should consider increasing your cache size. Of course, if the average life is very short because your zone data has extremely short TTL values, this is to be expected.

A very long `zone-cache-expire/reply-cache-expire` time means that the results returned by MyDNS are more likely to be out-of-date, especially if your database is constantly being updated. Most DNS data is not.

4.2 Signals

If you send `'SIGHUP'` to MyDNS, it empties its cache.

MyDNS responds to `'SIGUSR1'` by outputting some brief server statistics.

MyDNS responds to `'SIGUSR2'` by outputting cache statistics.

4.3 TCP support

MyDNS will process all TCP requests it receives if the configuration option `'allow-tcp'` is true. This is not usually necessary or recommended. TCP support will make the server run a little slower, and a denial-of-service attack is easier if TCP is allowed.

Some very large sites may require TCP support, however. If a response set would exceed the UDP message size limit (512 bytes), MyDNS will set the TC (truncated) flag on its answer. Some clients will then fall back to TCP, which can handle such large answers. If TCP support is enabled, those clients can get their responses. Also, TCP support is required to perform DNS-based zone transfers.

4.4 Zone transfers

MyDNS will allow zone transfers (via AXFR) if the configuration option `'allow-axfr'` is true. This is recommended only if you have an absolute need for DNS-based zone transfers, such as if your secondary name server is running BIND.

MyDNS does *not* support incremental zone transfers (IXFR).

If you need to support DNS-based zone transfers, you have to enable `'allow-tcp'`. (This is not true for BIND 9.)

You can specify IP access rules for DNS-based zone transfers by using an optional column called `'xfer'` in the `soa` table. See [Section 3.4.2 \[soa.xfer\]](#), page 10.

4.5 Incremental zone transfers

MyDNS will respond to IXFR requests with an incremental update to the zone if the option to support IXFRs has been configured. This requires configuration file settings and additions to the database schema.

IXFR messages are subject to the same permission checks as a full AXFR.

4.6 DNS UPDATE

MyDNS will allow dynamic DNS updates (described in RFC 2136) if the configuration option `'allow-update'` is true.

You can specify IP access rules for DNS UPDATE by using an optional column called `'update_acl'` in the `soa` table. See [Section 3.4.3 \[soa.update_acl\]](#), page 11.

If the `'update_acl'` column does not exist in the `soa` table, DNS UPDATE requests will be allowed only from localhost.

In order for dynamic DNS updates to work, the `'db-user'` specified in the MyDNS configuration file must have permissions to insert and update on the `rr` table.

If MyDNS receives multiple UPDATE requests in one packet, they must all complete successfully, or the UPDATE must fail. Therefore, your database must have transactional capabilities if you enable DNS UPDATE.

For more information, see [RFC 2136](#).

4.7 DNS NOTIFY

MyDNS will send DNS NOTIFY messages if the configuration option `'notify-enable'` is true.

These messages are sent when the zone is updated using DNS UPDATE facilities or when the server first starts.

Notification is sent to all name servers that have NS records in the zone plus any mentioned in the `'also_notify'` column in the `soa` table. See [Section 3.4.4 \[soa.also_notify\]](#), page 11

4.8 Round robin

If your `rr` table contains more than one address record for the same name (but with different addresses, of course), MyDNS will serve them up in a random order each time.

Round robin is used only if all the address records found have an `aux` value of '0'. If any of the records have an `aux` value that is non-zero, load balancing will be used instead. (See [Section 4.9 \[Load balancing\]](#), page 16.)

Note that MyDNS will also return multiple same-preference MX records in random order, to help equalize the load among same-preference MX hosts.

4.9 Load balancing

If your `rr` table contains more than one address record for the same name, and one or more of the records has an `aux` value greater than zero, MyDNS will weight its response using the value in `aux`.

MyDNS uses the value in `aux` to determine the order in which addresses are listed. Clients usually start with the first address and work their way down, so addresses that are usually listed first will bear the heaviest client load.

A low value in `aux` makes an address record more likely to be listed first. The balancing algorithm causes servers with a lower `aux` to be selected more frequently than those with higher values, although all servers will still be listed first occasionally, as the algorithm is partially random.

Records where `aux` is 0 (zero) will be listed first almost every time. Records where `aux` is 50,000 or greater will always be listed last.

Here's an example of how hosts were distributed on a 100,000 query test against ten hosts with `aux` values 10-100. The number shown is the number of times that host was listed first:

```
aux 10    51,211
aux 20    21,881
aux 30    10,983
aux 40     6,209
aux 50     3,661
aux 60     2,311
aux 70     1,526
aux 80     1,032
aux 90       675
aux 100     511
```

4.10 Logging queries

If MyDNS is started with the `--verbose (-v)` option, each query the server receives will be output via the logging mechanism specified in your configuration file (see [Section B.4 \[Misc options\]](#), page 23).

Each log line consists of the program name (and possibly the PID) followed by a colon, then seventeen fields separated by spaces. For example:

```
mydns: 25-Jul-2003 01:50:11+659583 #1 3987 UDP 192.168.1.1 IN ANY
bboy.net. NOERROR - 1 11 0 5 LOG Y QUERY
```

or

```
mydns: 25-Jul-2003 01:50:44+720684 #2 33848 UDP 192.168.1.1 IN ANY
bogus.example.com. NXDOMAIN No_matching_resource_records 1 0 1 0 LOG N QUERY
```

In order, here's what these fields mean:

1. The date the query was received.
2. The time the query was received, then a plus sign ('+'), then the number of microseconds after the second the query was received.
3. A pound sign ('#') followed by the server's internal ID number for this query. The internal ID numbers begin at 0 and advance sequentially.
4. The query ID provided by the client. This is usually a seemingly-random 16-bit number used by the client to make sure the answer it receives matches the question it asked.
5. The transport used, always either TCP or UDP.
6. The client IP address, in dotted-decimal notation.
7. The query class, always IN.
8. The query type, such as A, MX, NS, etc. (see [Section 3.3 \[Supported RR types\]](#), page 7).
9. The name being requested.
10. The result of the query. The following values are possible:

NOERROR

No error; the query was successful.

FORMERR

The server was unable to interpret the query.

SERVFAIL

MyDNS experienced an internal error, usually the result of some malformed data in the database.

NXDOMAIN

No resource records (of any type) exist matching the domain name requested.

NOTIMP The requested type of query is not implemented.

REFUSED

The query was refused due to server policy. This usually happens because the client attempted to *AXFR* a zone that they were not allowed to transfer, or because the client requested a name within a zone for which the server is not authoritative.

11. If the previous field was anything but *NOERROR*, this is a human-readable reason why the query failed, with any space characters in the string converted into underscore ('_') characters. If the previous field was *NOERROR*, this field contains a dash ('-').
12. The number of resource records included in the *question* section of the reply.
13. The number of resource records included in the *answer* section of the reply.
14. The number of resource records included in the *authority* section of the reply.
15. The number of resource records included in the *additional* section of the reply.
16. The word *LOG*.
17. The character 'Y' if this was a cached reply, 'N' if it was not.
18. The opcode for this query – 'QUERY' or 'UPDATE'.
19. If the previous field was 'UPDATE', this is a description of the update performed, enclosed in quotation marks. For example, this field might contain "test-a.example.com. 3600 IN A 0 1.2.3.4", indicating that for the zone specified, an A record was created for test-a.example.com. with the value 1.2.3.4.

There is a script in the *contrib/* directory of the source distribution called *stats.php* that provides an example of how a script might read and parse these lines, in case you wanted to accumulate usage information or something.

5 Utilities

MyDNS includes several helpful utilities.

All utilities support the ‘`--host`’, ‘`--database`’, ‘`--user`’, and ‘`--password`’ options.

5.1 mydnscheck

The ‘`mydnscheck`’ program scans one more more zones and reports on syntax and consistency problems in the zone data. When used without any zone arguments, ‘`mydnscheck`’ checks all zones by default.

‘`mydnscheck`’ outputs lines of tab-delimited data. This is so that it will hopefully be easier for experienced users to write scripts to automate fixups, in the event that they have created a new database that has many problems. Each line contains seven fields:

1. A brief, human-readable string describing the error found.
2. The zone ID, or ‘-’ if no zone ID is applicable.
3. The resource record ID, or ‘-’ if no resource record ID is applicable.
4. The name, or ‘-’ if no name is applicable.
5. The ttl (time-to-live) value, or ‘-’ if no ttl is applicable.
6. The resource record type, or ‘-’ if no type is applicable.
7. The data value, or ‘-’ if no data value is applicable.

The most useful way for an administrator to use ‘`mydnscheck`’ is without any arguments (indicating a scan of all zones) and with the database consistency check option enabled. This will perform a thorough analysis of your database. To perform this type of check, you would run:

```
# mydnscheck --consistency
```

You can also run ‘`mydnscheck`’ on a single zone only. This might be useful if invoked from a CGI script, to offer customers or clients the ability to check their zone:

```
$ mydnscheck -uUSER -pPASS example.com
```

For an explanation of all available options, please see the ‘`mydnscheck`’(8) man page.

5.2 mydnsexport

The ‘`mydnsexport`’ program outputs zone data in various formats understood by DNS servers other than MyDNS.

By default, ‘`mydnsexport`’ exports a single zone specified on the command line in BIND format. The following command would output the `example.com` zone in BIND zone file format:

```
# mydnsexport example.com
```

‘`mydnsexport`’ can also output *tinydns-data* style data files, as used by the `tinydns` name server, by specifying the ‘`-t, --tinydns-data`’ option. If this output format is specified, and no zone names are provided on the command line, ‘`mydnsexport`’ will output all zones.

For an explanation of all available options, please see the ‘`mydnsexport`’(8) man page.

5.3 mydnimport

The `mydnimport` program can be used to import data into your MyDNS database from external sources. This is the simplest way to seed your database when migrating from another name server to MyDNS.

The only import option supported at this time is the `-a, --axfr` option. Pretty much every name server on the market supports DNS-based zone transfers via AXFR. Make sure your MyDNS server has permission to request a zone transfer for the zone you wish to import, then specify the host name and zone name with the `--axfr` option.

If you want to test permissions, you can use the `dig` command, like:

```
# dig @bind.example.com axfr example.com
```

Let's say you have a BIND server located at `bind.example.com` and you are going to get rid of it and switch to MyDNS. Great! You want to import the zones `example.com` and `example.net`, as well as the PTR records from `1.168.192.in-addr.arpa`. You would issue the following commands:

```
# mydnimport --axfr=bind.example.com example.com example.net
# mydnimport --axfr=bind.example.com 1.168.192.in-addr.arpa
```

For an explanation of all available options, please see the `mydnimport(8)` man page.

Appendix A Troubleshooting

Of the problems you may encounter while running MyDNS, the vast majority will be caused by *inappropriate* data in your tables. MyDNS does not know what your intentions are, and will serve the data as you have specified it. The best way to make sure your data seems reasonable is to run the provided data validation utility. (See [Section 5.1 \[mydnscheck\]](#), [page 19](#).)

If you give the ‘`--enable-debug`’ option to the ‘`configure`’ script, MyDNS will be compiled with built-in debug messages. You can then run MyDNS with the ‘`-d, --debug`’ flag, and it will output copious amounts of debugging information. If you are trying to debug, do not run MyDNS as a daemon, as the debugging information will not be output.

Appendix B Configuration

The ‘`mydns.conf`’ file has a simple, familiar format. It consists of lines that may contain variables and values, in the format

`variable = value`

Blank lines are allowed. The ‘`#`’ character begins comments, which are ignored.

The ‘`--dump-config`’ option of the `mydns` program will output all possible variables in ‘`mydns.conf`’ format. (See [Section 2.2 \[Creating mydns.conf\]](#), [page 2](#).)

Boolean values can be ‘`yes`’, ‘`no`’, ‘`1`’, ‘`0`’, ‘`on`’, or ‘`off`’.

B.1 Database configuration

db-host (string) The hostname where your database server is located. May be overridden by the ‘`-h`’ (‘`--host`’) command-line option.

db-user (string) The username to provide to the database server during authentication. May be overridden by the ‘`-u`’ (‘`--user`’) command-line option.

db-password (string) The password to provide to the database server during authentication. May be overridden by the ‘`-p`’ (‘`--password`’) command-line option.

database (string) The name of the database containing DNS data.

B.2 Name daemon configuration

user (string) Run with the permissions of this user.

group (string) Run with the permissions of this group.

listen (string) Listen and accept requests on this address only. If this is ‘`*`’, the server will accept connections on all addresses. This must be an IP address in numbers-and-dots format, or ‘`*`’. Multiple addresses may be specified, as a comma-delimited list of addresses or on separate ‘`listen`’ lines. To specify a port other than port 53, append ‘`:port`’ to the address.

no-listen (string) Do *not* listen on this address. This must be an IP address in numbers-and-dots format, or ‘`*`’. Multiple addresses may be specified, as a comma-delimited list of addresses or on separate ‘`no-listen`’ lines. To specify a port other than port 53, append ‘`:port`’ to the address. This option may be used to easily tell MyDNS not to listen on the address ‘`127.0.0.1`’, on which you are running a recursive name server.

B.3 Cache configuration

zone-cache-size (integer) The number of items stored in the DNS server’s internal zone data cache. Set this to ‘`0`’ to disable the zone data cache entirely. (See [Section 4.1 \[Caching\]](#), [page 14](#).)

zone-cache-expire

(*integer*) Number of seconds after which cached items expire. If this is ‘0’, the zone data cache is not used. The TTL value for any RR may override this value if it is a shorter amount of time. (See [Section 4.1 \[Caching\]](#), page 14.)

reply-cache-size

(*integer*) The number of items stored in the DNS server’s internal reply cache. Set this to ‘0’ to disable the reply cache entirely. (See [Section 4.1 \[Caching\]](#), page 14.)

reply-cache-expire

(*integer*) Number of seconds after which cached replies expire. If this is ‘0’, the reply cache is not used. (See [Section 4.1 \[Caching\]](#), page 14.)

B.4 Miscellaneous configuration options.

log (*string*) The name daemon should log via the syslog facility specified, which may be ‘LOG_DAEMON’ or any of ‘LOG_LOCAL0’ through ‘LOG_LOCAL7’. If the argument is ‘stderr’ or ‘stdout’, program output will go to that stream only. If the argument is a filename, program output will go to that file.

pidfile (*string*) The `mydns` program will write its PID to this file on startup.

timeout (*integer*) Number of seconds after which queries should time out.

multicpu (*integer*) Number of processors in your system. - deprecated use servers instead.

servers (*integer*) Number of server processors to run. Set this to ‘0’ to run just a single process, ‘1’ will run a master and a server process. ‘n’ runs *n* servers plus a master. It is recommended that this be set to the number of CPUs times 2 plus 1.

recursive (*string*) Forward recursive requests to a DNS server at this address and return its response to the client.

recursive-timeout

(*integer*) Number of seconds to wait before first retry - default ‘60’

recursive-retries

(*integer*) Number of retries before abandoning recursion

recursive-algorithm

(*string*) Algorithm to use when applying timeout. Linear - each timeout is equal to *recursive-timeout*, Exponential - double timeout on each retry, Progressive - increase timeout by number of retries. Default is `linear`.

allow-axfr (*boolean*) Should DNS-based zone transfers be enabled?

allow-tcp (*boolean*) Should TCP queries be allowed? Use of this option is usually not recommended. However, TCP queries should be enabled if you think your server will be serving out answers larger than 512 bytes.

allow-update

(*boolean*) Should RFC 2136 DNS UPDATE queries be allowed? (See [Section 4.6 \[DNS UPDATE\]](#), page 16.)

ignore-minimum

(*boolean*) Should MyDNS ignore the minimum TTL specified in the SOA record for each zone?

soa-table (*string*) Name of the table containing SOA records.

rr-table (*string*) Name of the table containing resource record data.

use-soa-active

(*boolean*) Where there is an soa-active column use this to determine which zones to serve.

use-rr-active

(*boolean*) Where there is a rr-active column use this to determine which records to serve.

notify-enabled

(*boolean*) Support DNS NOTIFY message generation if this is enabled.

notify-source

(*string*) IPv4 address from which NOTIFY messages will be sent - set to '0.0.0.0' or leave blank for the default of using the outgoing interface address.

notify-source6

(*string*) IPv6 address from which NOTIFY messages will be sent - set to ':::' or leave blank for the default of using the outgoing interface address.

notify-timeout

(*integer*) Number of seconds before first retry of NOTIFY message - default '60'.

notify-retries

(*integer*) Number of times to retry the NOTIFY message before giving up. Default '5'.

notify-algorithm

(*string*) Select type of notify algorithm to use - select one of Linear - each timeout is equal to *notify-timeout*, Exponential - double timeout on each retry, Progressive - increase timeout by number of retries. Default is **linear**.

ixfr-enabled

(*boolean*) Enable IXFR functionality - requires DB schema change as well.

ixfr-gc-enabled

(*boolean*) Enable *real-time* IXFR garbage collection facility. With this switched on the server will periodically scan the database for expired records that have been marked deleted and will remove them from the DB.

ixfr-gc-interval

(*integer*) Number of seconds between each GC scan. - default 86400 seconds = 1 day.

ixfr-gc-delay

(*integer*) Number of seconds before first GC scan. - default 600 seconds = 10 minutes.

extended-data-support

(*boolean*) Switch on support for extended data, this allows large rr data entries needed by large TXT records and other data types.

dbengine (*string*) Select default DB engine used when creating MySQL databases. Tested with MyISAM, InnoDB, NDBCLUSTER - default MyISAM.

soa-where (*string*) An additional SQL 'WHERE' clause to use when retrieving records from the **soa** table (see [Section 3.1 \[soa table\], page 4](#)).

rr-where (*string*) An additional SQL 'WHERE' clause to use when retrieving records from the **rr** table (see [Section 3.2 \[rr table\], page 6](#)).

wildcard-recursion

(*integer*) number of ancestor zones to scan for a matching wildcard. default 0. Use -1 for infinite.

debug-<module>

(*integer*) debug level for reporting from module selected.

Appendix C References

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- RFC 2782** Gulbrandsen, et al., "A DNS RR for specifying the location of services (DNS SRV)", RFC 2782, February 2000.
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Version 1.1, March 2000

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Index

A

A record	7
AAAA record	7
active	4, 10
ALIAS record	7
allow-axfr	23
allow-tcp	23
allow-update	23
also_notify	4, 11
aux	6, 16
AXFR	15, 20

C

cache	14
cache, configuration	22
CNAME record	7
configuration	22
configuration, cache	22
configuration, daemon	22
configuration, database	22
configuration, misc	23
configure script	2

D

daemon, configuration	22
data	6
database	4, 22
database, access	3
database, configuration	22
database, creating	2
db-host	22
db-password	22
db-user	22
dbengine	23
debug mode, enabling	21
debug-<module>	23
DNS NOTIFY	16
DNS UPDATE	16

E

expire	4
extended-data-support	23

F

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---	----

G

group	22
-------------	----

H

HINFO record	7
--------------------	---

I

ignore-minimum	23
importing data	20
installation	2
introduction	1
IXFR	15
ixfr-enabled	23
ixfr-gc-delay	23
ixfr-gc-enabled	23
ixfr-gc-interval	23

L

listen	22
Load balancing	16
log	23
Logging queries	17

M

migrating	20
minimum	4
misc, configuration	23
multicpu	23
MX record	7
mydns (database)	4
mydns (program)	14
mydns, description	1
mydns.conf	2, 22
mydns.rr	6
mydns.soa	4
mydnscheck	19
mydnsexport	19
mydnsimport	20

N

NAPTR record	7
no-listen	22
notify on updates, dynamic	16
notify-algorithm	23
notify-enabled	23
notify-retries	23
notify-source	23
notify-source6	23
notify-timeout	23
NS record	7

O

optional columns 9
 origin..... 4

P

pidfile 23
 port number..... 22
 PTR record 7

R

recursive 4, 12, 23
 recursive-algorithm 23
 recursive-retries 23
 recursive-timeout 23
 refresh..... 4
 reply cache 14
 reply-cache-expire 22
 reply-cache-size 22
 retry 4
 RFC 2136 16
 Round robin..... 16
 RP record 7
 rr 6
 RR types..... 7
 rr-table..... 23
 rr-where..... 23
 rr.edata 13
 rr.edatakey 13

S

serial 4, 12
 server 14
 servers 23
 SIGHUP 15
 signals..... 15
 SIGUSR1..... 15
 SIGUSR2..... 15
 soa 4
 soa-table 23
 soa-where 23

SRV record 7
 stamp 12

T

table layouts..... 4
 tables 4
 tables, creating..... 3
 TCP 15
 timeout 23
 transfers, zone..... 15
 troubleshooting..... 21
 TTL..... 4
 TXT record 7

U

update_acl 4, 11
 updates, dynamic..... 16
 use-rr-active 23
 use-soa-active..... 23
 user 22
 utilities..... 19

V

variables, configuration 22

W

wildcard 6
 wildcard-recursion 23
 wildcards 6

X

xfer 4, 10

Z

zone cache..... 14
 zone transfers 15
 zone-cache-expire 22
 zone-cache-size 22