

NAME

host - DNS lookup utility

SYNOPSIS

host [-aCdilrsTvw46] [-c *class*] [-N *ndots*] [-R *number*] [-t *type*] [-W *wait*] *name* [*server*]

DESCRIPTION

host is a simple utility for performing DNS lookups. It is normally used to convert names to IP addresses and vice versa.

name is the domain name that is to be looked up. It can also be a dotted-decimal IPv4 address or a colon-delimited IPv6 address, in which case **host** will by default perform a reverse lookup for that address.

When *name* is not provided, **host** prints a short summary of it's usage.

server is an optional argument which is either a domain name or an IP address of the name server that **host** should query instead of the server or servers listed in */etc/resolv.conf*. When *server* is a domain name, system resolver is used to obtain it's address.

Supported options:

- a Make a verbose query of type **ANY**. Equivalent to **-v -t ANY**.
- C Query for **SOA** records for zone *name* from all of it's authoritative name servers. The list of name servers is obtained via **NS** query for *name*.
- c *class*
Perform DNS query of class *class*. Recognized classes are **IN** (Internet), **CH** (Chaosnet), **HS** (Hesiod), **NONE**, **ANY** and **CLASSN** (where *N* is a number from 1 to 255). Default is **IN**.
- d Produce verbose output. This is a synonym for **-v**, and is provided for backward compatibility.
- i Use IP6.INT domain for reverse lookups of IPv6 addresses (as defined in RFC1886; note that RFC4159 deprecates IP6.INT). By default IP6.ARPA is used.
- l List all **NS**, **PTR**, **A** and **AAAA** records in zone *name* by performing a zone transfer (**AXFR**). You can combine this option with **-a** to print all records, or with **-t** to only print specific ones.
- N *ndots*

Consider names with at least this many dots as absolute. That is, try to resolve them directly before consulting **domain** or **search** options from */etc/resolv.conf*.

-r Perform non-recursive query to the name server by clearing RD ("recursion desired") bit of the query.

-R *number*

Retry this many times when a query does not receive an answer in time. The default is 1 retry. If *number* is negative or zero, 1 is used instead.

-s Report SERVFAIL responses as they are, do not ignore them.

-T Query name server over TCP. By default UDP is used, except for **AXFR** and **IXFR** queries, which require TCP. **host** will also retry UDP queries in TCP mode if the UDP response was truncated (i.e. had TC bit set).

-t *type*

Perform DNS query of type *type*, which can be any standard query type name (**A**, **CNAME**, **MX**, **TXT**, etc), a wildcard query (**ANY**), or **TYPE*N***, where *N* is a number from 1 to 65535. For **IXFR** (incremental zone transfer) queries the starting serial number can be specified by appending an equal sign followed by the number (e.g. **-t IXFR=12345678**).

The default is to query for **A**, **AAAA**, and **MX** records, unless **-C** or **-I** options are given (in which case **SOA** or **AXFR** queries are made) or *name* is a valid IP address (in which case reverse lookup using **PTR** query is performed).

-v Produce verbose output.

-w Wait forever (or for a very long time) for response from the name server.

-W *wait*

Wait this many seconds for a reply from name server before timing out. If *wait* is negative or zero, value of 1 is used. The default is to wait 10 seconds for TCP connections, and 5 seconds for UDP (both are subject to retries, see option **-R**).

-4 Only use IPv4 transport.

-6 Only use IPv6 transport.

FILES

/etc/resolv.conf

SEE ALSO

drill(1), resolv.conf(5)

COMPATIBILITY

host aims to be reasonably compatible with ‘host’ utility from BIND9 distribution, both in supported options and in produced output. Here is a list of known notable differences:

- ⊕ Debugging options (**-D** and **-m**) are not supported.
- ⊕ Query class **CLASS0** and type **TYPE0** are not supported.
- ⊕ Backslashes in domain names are treated especially.
- ⊕ The maximum of 255 retries (option **-R**) are supported.
- ⊕ Some resource records are formatted differently. For example, **RRSIG** and **DNSKEY** records are displayed without spaces in them.
- ⊕ When parsing */etc/resolv.conf* commands **sortlist** and **options** are ignored. When multiple **search** and/or **domain** commands are present, **host** first uses the last **domain** command, and then all of **search** commands, while ‘host’ from BIND9 uses whatever command was specified last.
- ⊕ ‘Pseudosection TSIG’ is missing from verbose packet output.

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