

# Advantages of Simple DNS

How Simple DNS compares with Microsoft DNS and BIND



	Simple DNS Plus	Microsoft DNS	BIND
<p><b>Runs on non-Server Windows Versions.</b> For example use Windows XP Professional., which provides the same reliability but is significantly less expensive than a Windows Server license.</p>	Yes	No	Yes
<p><b>Easy to use GUI interface - forget cryptic DNS configuration files</b> Simple DNS Plus provides an intuitive graphical interface for zone and record management. It automatically checks for and corrects most errors.</p>	Yes	Yes	No
<p><b>Automatic SPF records - help fight spam and phishing scams</b> Simple DNS Plus can now automatically synthesize SPF records for all local zones making it easy to setup and maintain SPF protection for your domains. For more on SPF see <a href="http://spf.pobox.com">http://spf.pobox.com</a></p>	Yes	No	No
<p><b>DNS Spoofing security option</b> "DNS spoofing" is a term used for malicious cache poisoning where forged data is placed in the cache of DNS server. Spoofing attacks can result in serious security problems, for example causing users to be directed to wrong Internet sites or e-mail being routed to non-authorized mail servers. With the spoofing security option enabled, all records in received DNS answers are checked for authority, and records for which the answering DNS server does not have authority are ignored.</p>	Yes	No	No
<p><b>"Stealth DNS" security option</b> A hacker may use a software utility known as a "port scanner" to search for potential targets. This software sends dummy requests to a range of IP addresses on different service ports simply to register which addresses/ports respond. Any addresses/ports that responded will then be probed further for possible vulnerabilities. Simple DNS Plus has a special "stealth" option which makes it invisible to such port scanners, by not responding to a DNS request unless it is for data in local zones or originates from a client offered recursion.</p>	Yes	No	No
<p><b>Restrict Recursion by client IP address</b> You can specify exactly which clients (by IP address / subnet) that you want the server to perform recursion for.</p>	Yes	No	Yes
<p><b>IP address blocking</b> Ignore packets from known offenders, and automatically add anyone making too many requests to quickly (DOS attack) to the list. You can specify how long an IP address block should be in effect, and you can enter comments for each block, for example about why an IP address was blocked or should not be blocked for easy reference.</p>	Yes	No	No
<p><b>Quick Domain Wizard</b> In one simple dialog, enter the domain name and the IP addresses of the web and mail servers, and click OK. That's all you need to setup a new zone. The IP addresses can even be pre-filled with default values.</p>	Yes	No	No
<p><b>Bulk Update Wizard</b> Find and replace an IP address in all local primary zones.... Update zone DNS server information in all local primary zones.... Promote secondary server to primary (convert all secondary zones to primary)...</p>	Yes	No	No
<p><b>Copy zone function</b> Quickly setup a new zone using any existing zone as a template.</p>	Yes	Yes	No

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<p><b>Reverse Zone Wizard</b> Forget "in-addr.arpa" and reversing IP address segments. With the "Reverse Zone Wizard", you simply specify your IP address range and Simple DNS Plus automatically generates all the necessary records. It even supports "classless delegation" for those with less than 256 IP addresses. An "auto scan" function can scan all forward zones, A-records and automatically create matching reverse records.</p>	Yes	No	No
<p><b>Integrated DHCP server auto configures network computers and DNS</b> IP-addresses and other TCP/IP options can automatically be assigned to your network computers through DHCP. Client computers configured through DHCP are automatically registered as DNS records, so the rest of the network can easily locate them. There simply is no easier way to configure a DNS server - or TCP/IP settings on your network computers! Simple DNS Plus also has a unique feature fixing the "unknown DHCP client" problem often encountered with older Apple/Mac DHCP clients.</p>	Yes	No	No
<p><b>Import Wizard</b> This function makes it very simple to import zones from other DNS server implementations. This includes zone transfer, import zone file, and import set of zone files based on a boot file.</p>	Yes	No	No
<p><b>"Zone Groups" for easy managements of large domain portfolios</b> You can arrange zones in custom groups, or by primary/secondary status.</p>	Yes	No	No
<p><b>Automatic creation of reverse DNS records</b> Automatically create/update reverse DNS when an A-record is added or modified.</p>	Yes	Yes	No
<p><b>Serve DNS records directly from your existing "hosts" file.</b> Many users are already familiar with this file and it's layout, and many new users already have much of their network defined in such a file.</p>	Yes	No	No
<p><b>Easy to integrate with other applications</b> Simple DNS Plus can automatically check for and load new zone files (DNS record files) generated by other applications, and also includes a command line and TCP/IP interface for other applications to control loading and unloading of records. The included help file contains a complete description of these features.</p>	Yes	No	No
<p><b>HTTP administration / programming interface</b> Create a web interface to your DNS server for yourself or yours customers. This is ideal for communicating with Simple DNS Plus from other applications across the network (for example ASP scripts running on IIS).</p>	Yes	No	No
<p><b>DNS Look Up tool - including WHOIS</b> Great for testing your installation and troubleshooting all kinds of network problems. With the "WHOIS" feature, you can check the details (such as name, address and phone) on the owners of a domain name or IP address. The look up tool is a COM object, which makes it possible to call it from other applications, for example a selection context menu in Internet Explorer or a macro button in Outlook.</p>	Yes	No	No
<p><b>See what's going on behind the scenes - live</b> The Simple DNS Plus "Active Log View" shows who's requesting what, and how the answers are found in real time. Everything translated into human readable text. This is great for troubleshooting all kinds of network problems. If you are trying to learn how DNS works, this can be a real helper.</p>	Yes	No	No
<p><b>Detailed log files</b> Simple DNS Plus optionally writes all DNS queries and answers to a log file which you can then analyze at your convenience.</p>	Yes	Yes	Yes

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<b>Domain usage statistics</b> With the raw log parser utility, you can create statistics for your own internal use or make it available on-line with bar charts etc.	Yes	No	No
<b>Cache snapshot viewer</b> Browse the current DNS cache with this intuitive explorer style tool.	Yes	Yes	No
<b>Animated Tray Bar Icon.</b> Simple DNS Plus optionally resides in the tray-bar (next to the clock), so it is out of the way, but always within a click's reach. The Tray Bar Icon lights up whenever Simple DNS Plus is processing requests, so you will know even when the program is minimized.	Yes	No	No
<b>Automate secondary DNS servers</b> A secondary Simple DNS Plus server can be configured as a "slave" server, meaning that all updates on the primary server are automatically transferred to the secondary. This includes creating and deleting zones. (On other DNS server, you have to create and delete zones on both primary and secondary servers). Everything is completely automated - when changes are made in the Record Editor, Simple DNS Plus immediately notifies secondary servers and a Zone Transfer is initiated. Simple DNS Plus can also be configured as a standard secondary DNS server, and will then automatically check for updates on the primary server. As everything else in Simple DNS Plus, Zone Transfers are implemented according to the DNS standards (RFCs), and so it is 100% compatible with other standard DNS servers.	Yes	No	No
<b>NAT IP alias conversion</b> In DNS responses to LAN clients only, this function changes A-records which are pointing to a public IP address of the NAT router to point to the corresponding private IP address of a local server. This way, for example HTTP requests from LAN clients for local web-sites will go directly to the local web-server instead of via the NAT router (which often does not work).	Yes	No	No
<b>"Round Robin" Load distribution option</b> If you have multiple web servers (or other Internet servers), containing identical content, Simple DNS Plus can automatically distribute connection loads across the servers using Round Robin. Round Robin works on a rotating basis in that one server IP address is handed out, then moves to the back of the list; the next server IP address is handed out, then it moves to the end of the list; and so on, depending on the number of servers being used.	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Support for dynamic updates</b> Windows Me/2000/XP clients can automatically register themselves in the DNS database. (IP address permission list per zone). This includes support for SRV-records used by Microsoft Active Directory. TSIG authenticated dynamic updates are also supported (used mostly by dynamic IP clients).	Yes	Yes	Yes

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<b>Option to redirect abusers (synthesize DNS records for unauthorized users)</b> When someone (unauthorized) from the Internet tries to resolve outside domain names via your DNS server, Simple DNS Plus can respond with synthesized (false) DNS records, for example to redirect that person to a signup web-page or similar. This feature is also useful when someone is incorrectly pointing their domain registration to your DNS server - for example an ISP customer who has canceled their account but not changed the domain registration.	Yes	No	No
<b>Supports wildcard records ( *.domain-name ) for ALL record types.</b> If you are hosting many sub-domains on the same servers, this feature can be a real time saver.	Yes	No	Yes
<b>Alias zones (zone file sharing)</b> Two or more zones can share the same data file making it very easy to manage a large number of zones based on the same data. Change one zone, and all the alias zones are instantly updated as well.	Yes	No	Yes
<b>NXDOMAIN Redirect</b> Typically when you open a non-existing domain name in a web-browser, you either get an error page, or you are redirected to some search web-site controlled by the web-browser company (or DNS registry). This of course happens all the time because of misspellings and bad links on web-sites. Now you can take advantage of those failed requests (from any client configured to use your DNS server) by redirecting them to your web-server instead of giving this traffic to the browser companies.	Yes	No	No
<b>Domain specific DNS forwarding</b> You can use forwarding to different DNS servers for different domain names. This is helpful for example if you wish to be able to resolve both Internet domain names as well as a private domain	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Extended DNS forwarding</b> You can use this unique option if you need to forward incoming requests from the Internet for certain domains names to another internal DNS server.	Yes	No	No
<b>Direct support for dynamic IP clients</b> Simple DNS Plus supports TSIG authenticated dynamic DNS updates. This update method is much more efficient than the HTTP based and other proprietary update methods typically used because it happens directly via the DNS protocol. Several dynamic IP updater applications can be used with this. Setup tutorials are provided for DynSite and DirectUpdate.	Yes	No	Yes
<b>MS Active Directory compatibility</b> Simple DNS Plus supports both the required RFC2782 (SRV records) and RFC2136 (DNS Update), and integrates nicely with MS AD.	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Automatic detection of "lame delegation"</b> "Lame delegation" is when the registration of a domain name points to a DNS server which does not have any data for the domain name. Most other DNS servers will in this situation return a blank response to the client. But Simple DNS Plus recognizes the "lame delegation" and goes on to try the remaining registered DNS servers for the domain name. This means that Simple DNS Plus is more often successful in resolving problem domains, resulting in a better user experience.	Yes	No	No