Switching your DNS

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Now that you have your new account with us it is time to start planning on moving your current hosting over to your new server. This getting started guide covers switching your DNS over to use your new WiredTree server. We are more than happy to assist you with any issues that surface during this transition. Please be sure to contact us through Grove (https://grove.wiredtree.com) with any questions that you may have.

There are two kinds of DNS setups you can use with your new server. The first that is covered is using WiredTree's nameservers to handle all of your DNS needs. This is perhaps is the most easy to use of the two, but in the long run it isn't the most effective DNS to use for servers that host many domain names. This is due to the fact that you will have to manually create the DNS zone on our nameserver through Grove for each domain name that you add to your server. This isn't a big deal if you only have a handful of domain names, but if you plan on hosting a lot of domain names on your server, the second DNS setup covered in this guide is a far better solution.

The second setup entails creating your own nameservers on your server. This means you will have to create host entries at your domain name's registrar so you can then set your new server's nameservers on any domain name you plan on hosting. This is also known as "registering your nameserver IPs" at your registrar. WiredTree has flash demos for most of the popular registrars at on our documents page (http://www.wiredtree.com/docs/demos/privatednsdemos.php) which detail out how to set them up.

Setting up your own nameservers can be a bit more complex then the first DNS setup, but it provides greater functionality and automation for each domain name that you add to your server. The best thing about using your own nameservers it that when cPanel creates a new account on your server it automatically creates the new DNS zone. This saves from having to setup the zone manually through Grove.

Before we dive into adding and editing zone files we are going briefly cover the following elements of a zone file.

- Host Records (A records)
- CNAMEs
- MX Records
- PTR Records
- SPF Records

Host Records (A records)

This also known as an Address Record that maps an domain name to a IP Address.

Example Host Record:
- wiredtree.com. IN A 10.10.10.8
- What this means is that wiredtree.com points to the IP Address of 10.10.10.8.

CNAME

Is short for Canonical Name Record which creates an alias that points to another domain name. CNAMEs can only be pointed at Host Records (A records), not an IP Address.

Example CNAME:
- www IN CNAME wiredtree.com
- This means that www.wiredtree.com points to wiredtree.com which in the A record example above points to 10.10.10.8.

MX Record

This stands for Mail Exchange Record. It points to a list of mail servers for that domain name. MX records can not contain IP addresses and have to be pointed at Cname or A Record. MX records also have a priority level that can be set in the zone file. You can see what a normal MX Record looks like in the following example.

Example MX Record:

- wiredtree.com. IN MX 0 email.wiredtree.com.

The 0 represents the priority. The lower the number the higher the priority. So if you had a backup email server that was to accept email if your primary email server was down your MX record would look like this.

Example MX Record with secondary MX:

- wiredtree.com. IN MX 10 email.wiredtree.com.

- wiredtree.com. IN MX 20 backup-email.wiredtree.com.

So in this setup if email.wiredtree.com was down all mail would goto backup-email.wiredtree.com.

PTR Record

Also known as a Pointer Record or a Reverse DNS Record maps an IP Address to a hostname. The last octet of the IP address is used when creating this entry. PTR records may be set in Grove under the Network/DNS tab.

Example PTR Entry:

- 2   IN   PTR   leaf.wiredtree.com


SPF Records

Sender Policy Framework (SPF) are records that are put in DNS zones which allows software to identify emails that are not authorized to use the domain name in question. WiredTree has its own SPF wizard in the client portal which will add SPF records to your DNS zones on our nameservers. cPanel/WHM also supports adding SPF records to your DNS zones on your server's nameservers.

Example SPF Entry:

example.com. IN TXT "v=spf1 a mx ~all"

Using WiredTree's DNS

Using WiredTree's nameservers is rather easy to setup and start using from the moment you get your welcome email. We recommend that you use our DNS if you plan on hosting only a few websites on your server. If you plan on hosting numerous websites on your server you might want to skip down to the next section. The first thing you want to do is log into our client portal located at https://grove.wiredtree.com with your WiredTree username and password.
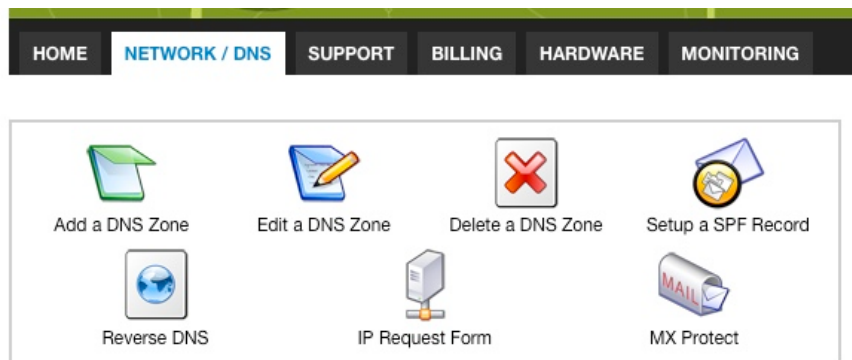
Once this done you will want to goto the Network/DNS tab and then click on the Add a DNS Zone link. From there you will enter in your domain name that you wish to add to our nameservers and the IP address it should be pointing to. Make sure you enter in the domain name without any www. or any other subdomains appended to the front of the domain name. If you don't know the IP address you can always log into your server's WHM and get it from the List Accounts link on the left hand menu.

Once you click the Add Zone button it will launch the DNS Edit page so you can and any extra DNS entries to your zone file. If you need to make changes do so now and save the zone. If you don't need to make any changes you may close this page. After this is done you will want to change your nameservers at your registrar to ns1.wiredtree.com and ns2.wiredtree.com and wait for DNS to propagate over the internet. This can take up to 24 to 48 hours.

| HOME | NETWORK / DNS | SUPPORT | BILLING | HARDWARE | MONITORING | logged in: **yellowcord** | logout |

The domain was added successfully.

SOA: thisisjoestestzone.org
Refresh: 10800
Retry: 3600
Expire: 404800
TTL: 14400

Name Servers

Host	Address	TTL
thisisjoestestzone.org.	ns1.wiredtree.com.	86400
thisisjoestestzone.org.	ns2.wiredtree.com.	86400

Host Records (A records)

Host	Address	TTL	Delete
localhost.thisisjoestestzo	127.0.0.1	24 hrs	☐
thisisjoestestzone.org.	10.10.10.10	24 hrs	☐
host	10.10.10.10	24 hrs	☐
*	10.10.10.10	24 hrs	☐
mail	10.10.10.10	24 hrs	☐
		5 min	

CNAMES

Host	Points To	TTL	Delete
ftp	thisisjoestestzone.org.	24 hrs	☐
www	thisisjoestestzone.org.	24 hrs	☐
		5 min	

MX Records

Priority	Host	Address	TTL	Delete
10	thisisjoestestzone.c	mail.thisisjoestestzo	24 hrs	☐

Using Your Own DNS

Creating your own nameservers provides you with greater functionality and control when you create new accounts on your server. You should use your own nameservers if you plan on hosting a lot of domains on your server or you wish to not have WiredTree's nameservers in your domain name's whois information. WiredTree auto creates nameservers (ns1 and ns2) for the main domain that is on your server when you sign up. The following instructions are just detailed out as if you were setting up your nameserver entries from scratch.

To utilize your nameservers you will have to just register the IPs at your registrar for ns1 and ns2 and wait for DNS it propagate. We have flash demos for most popular registrars that cover registering your nameserver IPs. You can check them out on our customer documentation page (http://www.wiredtree.com/docs/demos/privatednsdemos.php). Once that is done you can use your nameservers on domain names. Again the following instructions are as if you were setting up your nameservers from scratch.

The first step to creating your own nameservers is to give them names and assign IP addresses to ns1.yourserver.com and ns2.yourserver.com. This is done in the WHM under the Basic CPanel/WHM Setup link on the left hand menu. You will click the Assign IP Address button for each nameserver. This will assign the first two IP addresses that are on your server. If you have a dedicated server please ensure that it doesn't assign the private network IP address that starts with 172.x.x.x since that does not route out onto the Internet. If it does assign the backup address as one of your nameserver IP Addresses please contact WiredTree support for assistance.

Please note that if you currently have these nameservers set with the IP Addresses of your old provider this step will not assign IP Addresses from your servers. You will either need to assign them manually by editing the zone DNS zone through WHM or update your nameservers at your registrar to the IP addresses you wish to use on your new server and reassign them as detailed above. Overall, each WiredTree server is setup to use the first two IP Addresses on your server when you get your welcome email. If this isn't the case please contact WiredTree support and we can take care of making sure the correct IP addresses are assigned to your nameservers.

After you have set the IP addresses for your nameservers in WHM you will need to create the cPanel account for the main server domain name then add three A entries. These A entries are for the main server hostname (normally WiredTree defaults your server's hostname to host.yourserver.com) and an entry for each nameserver.

To add the A entry for your server's hostname simply click on the Hostname link under the Networking Setup section of the WHM and set your hostname.

Change Hostname
New Hostname: host.yourserver.com   [Change]

Once you do that it will ask you if you want to add the A entry for the new hostname. Just click the Add An A Entry for your hostname button and follow the instructions to add it to your DNS zone for the domain name in question.

Hostname Changed to: host.yourserver.com

Updating Internal cPanel Information.... . Done

You should probably [Add An A Entry for your hostname] if you don't already have one.

To set the A entries for your nameservers you would do this under the basic cPanel/WHM Setup link on the left hand menu and click on the Add an A entry for this nameserver button.

Hostname
* The server's current hostname. This value should be a fully qualified domain name and will need to resolve properly. Changing this value does not set the server's current hostname. **To change the server's current hostname, use the Change Hostname function under Server Setup.**

host.yourserver.com

Primary Nameserver
* Enter the hostname of the primary nameserver (normally, the name of this server) you wish to use when creating new domains or subdomains.

[Assign Ip Address] [Add an A entry for this nameserver]

ns1.yourserver.com

Examples: ns.myhost.com, ns1.myhost.com, dns1.mydomain.com

Secondary Nameserver
* Enter the hostname of the secondary nameserver you wish to use when creating new domains or subdomains.

[Assign Ip Address] [Add an A entry for this nameserver]

ns2.yourserver.com

Examples: ns.myhost.com, ns1.myhost.com, dns1.mydomain.com

Once this is done you will want to goto your domain name's registrar and create (also known as registering) your nameservers. This step lets the rest of the internet know that ns1.yourserver.com and ns2.yourserver.com are located at the two IP addresses you assigned in your WHM. If you need assistance with this step please contact your domain name registrar for help or check out our flash demos on our documentation page (http://www.wiredtree.com/docs/demos/privatednsdemos.php) to see if we have one for your registrar.

After this is done you should be able to set the nameservers to your newly created nameservers for any domain name that you wish to host on your server. Again, if you have any questions about this process please open a ticket through Grove so we can help you get your DNS setup correctly on your new server.