

What Is an A Record in DNS and How It Works

WHAT IS THE A RECORD?

A records can be used to assign computers to domain names using IP addresses. A record is an abbreviation for Address. When you visit a web site or send an email, you can use the client name resolution to find the IP address for that domain name. Subsequently, the client sends the request to the IP address specified in record A.

For example, you need to enter `dotroll.com` in the browser to access the DotRoll website. During the name resolution, the server for `dotroll.com` sends the record back to the name server, which in this case will be `185.33.52.64`, and the browser will forward the commands for retrieving the contents of the web page to the `185.33.52.64` IP address.

Records are the simplest DNS records and one of the primary records used in DNS servers.

In fact, more records can be given for a domain name, thus ensuring redundancy. Of course, several domain names may show the same IP address.

QUERYING A RECORD

For example, you can use the `nslookup` command in Windows to access record A, while under Linux the `host` command.

Example of a Windows-based `nslookup` query:

```
nslookup -q=A dotroll.com
Server: google-public-dns-a.google.com
Address: 8.8.8.8

Non-authoritative answer:
Name: dotroll.com
Address: 185.33.52.64
```

Example of Linux based `host` query:

```
host -t A dotroll.com
```

```
dotroll.com has address 185.33.52.64
```

A RECORD FORMAT

Fields name	Description
Name	this field contains the domain or subdomain name.
TTL	this field contains record lifetime in seconds. This is the time until the entry is stored in the resolver.
IPv4 Address	this field contains an IPv4 address separated by dots (<code>185.33.52.64</code>).

ADDING A RECORD

1. Sign in with <https://admin.dotroll.com> with your username and password
2. In the top menu bar, click the **Domains / My Domains** menu.
3. Select the domain name for which you want to make the change and then click on it.
4. In the **Manage** box on the left, select **Manage DNS**.
5. At the bottom of the page, click **Add**.
 - In the first field, you can enter a subdomain name, or leave blank
 - the TTL value can be selected in the second field, but typically the default is 1 hour
 - select **A** from the next drop-down list.
 - enter the IP address in the last field.
6. Then click **Save Changes**.

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