

No Dynamic Updates for Static Zones

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SOA MNAME

- The SOA MNAME field specifies the “original or primary source of data for the zone” [RFC 1035]
- RFC 1035 is otherwise largely silent on the use of the field

NOTIFY

- The MNAME data is referred to as the “Primary Master” [RFC 1996]
- The “Primary Master” is intended to be excluded from the set of servers to which NOTIFYs should be sent

UPDATE

- “Primary Master” nomenclature again in RFC 2136 (same author as RFC 1996)
- DNS UPDATE clients by default send updates to the zone’s “Primary Master”

Static Zones

- For many zones, it is never desirable to receive DNS UPDATE traffic
 - root zone, TLD zones
 - many (most?) other zones
- In the past it has been observed that many DNS UPDATE clients use label stripping as a reaction to a denied update

Proposal

- draft-jabley-dnsop-missing-mname-00
- Specify an empty MNAME field in zones which do not welcome DNS UPDATE traffic
- indicated in canonical zone format as a bare .

Possible Impact

- Increased “.IN A?” and “.IN AAAA?” traffic to root servers
- but negative caching would mitigate that in a way that DNS UPDATE traffic cannot

Alternatives

- Do nothing
- Consciously specify a fall guy
(PRISONER.IANA.ORG?)
- Something else?

Opinions?

- Adopt draft-jabley-dnsop-missing-mname-00 as a working group document?