



SimpleDNS Configuration Guide

How to configure SimpleDNS for use with Helm

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Using Helm with SimpleDNS

Helm uses the HTTP interface into SimpleDNS. By default SimpleDNS will not allow Helm to call its HTTP interface, so some additional configuration of SimpleDNS will be required.

To configure SimpleDNS to be controlled by Helm you will need to make some small amendments to the SimpleDNS configuration file.

Navigate to the SimpleDNS install folder, and open the **sdnsplus.ini** file in any text editor. This file can be found in the root installation folder for SimpleDNS. One section of the initialisation file is called "[HTTP-Command]". Within this section there a number of options:

HTTPBind: This is the local IP address that the HTTP interface is listening to. By default this is set to '*'. This is a wildcard and will work fine, but for better security ensure that the IP address that Helm uses to call the DNS service is entered here instead. If you have an internal and external network you should enter the internal network IP address. This will stop possible connections from outside of your network.

HTTPPort: By default SimpleDNS will be listening on port 8053. There is no reason to change this although changing this to a less known port can help against more service scan attempts.

HTTPAcl: Enter into this the IP address of the Helm control server. If SimpleDNS is on the Helm Control server then you need to set this IP address as the same IP as the HTTPBind address. This ensures that only the control server can send requests to the DNS server. You should also add 127.0.0.1 to this line as SimpleDNS may need to communicate locally from this IP. So if your IP is 1.2.3.4, the full line would read: **HTTPAcl=127.0.0.1 1.2.3.4** (note the space between IPs).

HTTPPW : If you are using Simple DNS 4, it defaults with a password being set. This will cause issues, so if you are using this version you should **delete** this line from the sdnsplus.ini file.

You will now have to restart the SimpleDNS service in order for these changes to be made. You can test that the configuration is correct by access <http://1.2.3.4:8053/status> where 1.2.3.4 should be replaced with the communication IP you have specified in Helm for the DNS server.

If you have trouble getting Helm to work with SimpleDNS, ensure the following:

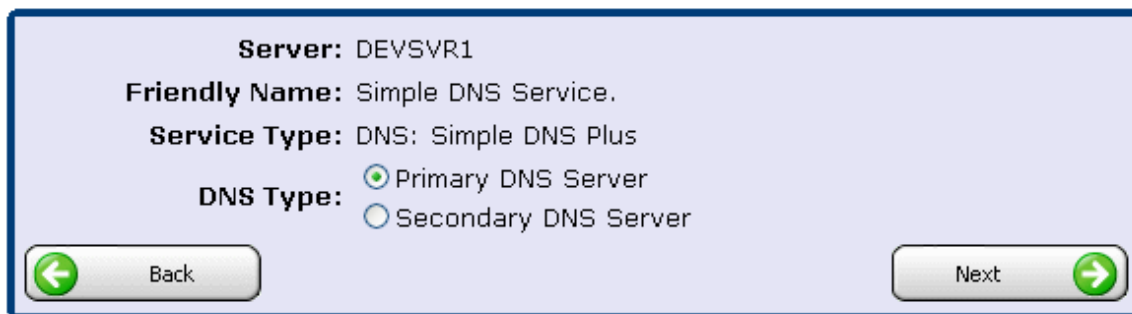
- Make sure the IP address specified to communicate with the SimpleDNS service is correct, and resolves.
- The SimpleDNS service is running and has not crashed.
- The ACL list in the SimpleDNS configuration file contains the IP address that the control server is communicating from (as outlined above).
- MS XML 4 has been installed on the server. You can tell this is the case because you can access the SimpleDNS service through the web browser on the server, but Helm still has problems.

Setting up a SimpleDNS Service in Helm

In Helm, go to:

Home > System Settings > Servers > [Your Server] > Services

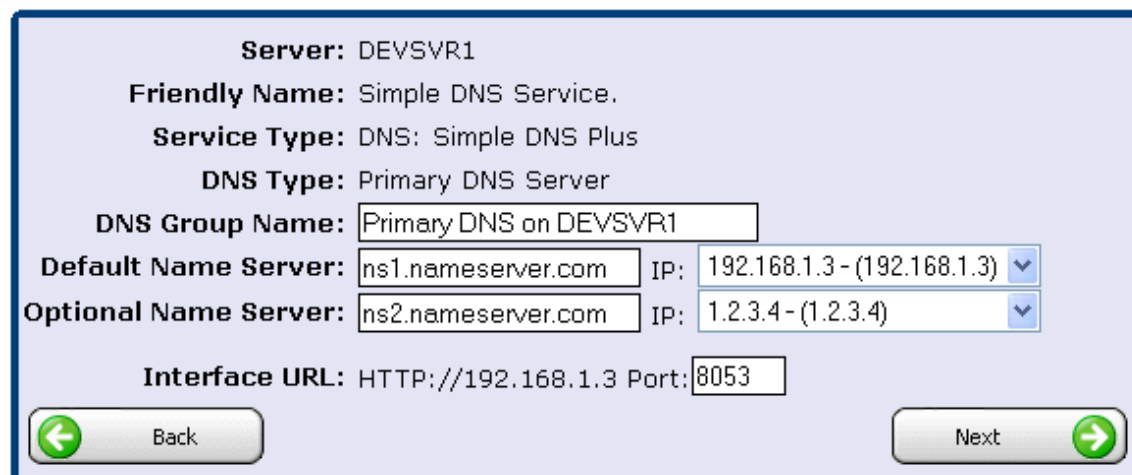
Create a new service, give it a name and select Simple DNS Plus from the dropdown box. You will then be presented with the following screen:



Server: DEVSVR1
Friendly Name: Simple DNS Service.
Service Type: DNS: Simple DNS Plus
DNS Type: Primary DNS Server
 Secondary DNS Server

Back Next

If you are configuring SimpleDNS to be the Primary server, choose this option. You will now have the ability to configure the nameservers with their names, and the IPs you wish them to be on. You can choose the port that you want to run Simple DNS on – this is 8053 by default, but if you are running SimpleDNS on another port, you will need to change it in Helm too.



Server: DEVSVR1
Friendly Name: Simple DNS Service.
Service Type: DNS: Simple DNS Plus
DNS Type: Primary DNS Server
DNS Group Name: Primary DNS on DEVSVR1
Default Name Server: ns1.nameserver.com IP: 192.168.1.3 - (192.168.1.3)
Optional Name Server: ns2.nameserver.com IP: 1.2.3.4 - (1.2.3.4)
Interface URL: HTTP://192.168.1.3 Port: 8053

Back Next

Once done, click Next to save the service.

If you already have a Primary DNS server and instead wish to configure SimpleDNS to be a Secondary DNS Server, then choose the second option – Secondary DNS Server:

Server: DEVSVR1
Friendly Name: Simple DNS Service.
Service Type: DNS: Simple DNS Plus
DNS Type: Secondary DNS Server
Primary DNS Group: Default DNS Service on DEVSVR1
Default Name Server: ns2.nameserver.com IP: 1.2.3.4 - (1.2.3.4)
Interface URL: HTTP://192.168.1.3 Port: 8053

You can select the primary DNS group you wish to link the secondary server to, and you can add your secondary nameserver and IP here as well. Again, you can also choose the port that you want to run SimpleDNS on.

Once you have selected your options, click Next to save the service. If you now go back into the DNS Service, you will see some more options:



Edit Service

Use the form below to edit the details for a service. Some details can not be updated, others can not be updated if the service has been assigned to a plan or package.

Server Name: DEVSVR1
Friendly Name: Default DNS Service
Service Type: Simple DNS Plus
DNS Type: Primary DNS Server
DNS Group Name: Default DNS Service on DEVSVR1
Refresh Interval: 3600 seconds
Retry Delay: 900 seconds
Expire Limit: 604800 seconds
Minimum Time To Live: 14400 seconds
Default Zone Administrator:
Interface URL: HTTP://192.168.1.3 Port: 8053
Interface Password:

Name Servers

Address	Type	IP Address
ns1.webhost.net	*Default*	192.168.1.3

Refresh Interval/Retry Delay/Expire Limit/Minimum Time To Live: Altering these settings will mean domains created from then on will have these new time settings specified in their zone files in Simple DNS.

Default Zone Administrator: Whatever is specified in this field will replace the "hostmaster.domain.com" address in the SOA tab (under "responsible person") for newly created Simple DNS zones.

Interface URL: This specifies the URL that Simple DNS can be contacted on, along with the port. If you wish to change the port number, you can do so in the box provided.

Interface Password: Simple DNS gives you the ability to specify a password to log in to its interface – this is specified in the sdnplus.ini file. If you have set it to use a password, then that password needs to be entered in this field.

Name Servers: Here you can add more name servers by clicking "Add New". If specified as Default, these will be added to all new domains that are created.

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Setting up a SimpleDNS Resource in Helm

If this is a Secondary DNS service (i.e. you already have a DNS service in Helm), then your configuration is now complete.

If this is a Primary DNS service (i.e. you have never added a DNS service into Helm before), then you now need to create a DNS Resource so that Helm will use it when creating DNS zones.

To do this, go to:

Home > System Settings > Resource Setup

Click "Add New" on this screen to go through the wizard to add one - choose a friendly Resource name (such as "DNS Resource") and choose a Resource Type of "DNS". Leave the Distribution Type set to "Balanced". Once saved, you will see "There are no services in this resource" at the bottom of the resource:



Resource Details

Use the form below to update the selected resource. Updating the resource will affect any NEW domains that are set up using this resource. Previous domains will remain unaffected.

Default DNS Service

Resource Name:

Resource Type: DNS

Distribution Type:

Priority distribution to web server (recommended)

Service Name

There are no services in this resource

Click "Add New" to add a new DNS service to this resource. You now need to select the DNS service you just added and click Save:



Add Service Group

Use the form below to add a new service group to the selected resource. Updating the resource will affect any NEW domains that are set up using this resource. Previous domains will remain unaffected.

Default DNS Service

Resource Type: DNS

Service Group:

You will now need to propagate the resource down through all of your plans and packages by going into each plan and going to Resource Limits, then DNS Resources. You then need to make sure that the resource is both **enabled** and **selected** from the dropdown box, as below:



Plan Resources

Below are the resources that have been assigned to this plan. All packages that created from this plan will inherit the values below.

Sample Reseller Plan

Enable DNS Resource

System Resource:

DNS Zone Editor:

You can set the options to be whatever you desire for that plan. Once you've done this for all of your plans and packages, configuration is complete.