dig DNS lookups

Your machine dig → query → **Resolver** @server or resolv.conf → +trace skips it → **Root / TLD** delegations → refers to → **Authoritative** the final answer

CONCEPTS

dig talks to the DNS server directly and ignores /etc/hosts, so it can differ from what your applications resolve.

Options starting with + change a query; options starting with - change dig itself. Order is free: name, type and @server may come anywhere.

BASIC QUERIES

`dig <name>`
Query A records

`dig <name> <type>`
Query a record type

`dig -t <type> <name>`
Same, with the type as a flag

`dig <name> AAAA`
IPv6 address

`dig <name> MX`
Mail servers

`dig <name> NS`
Name servers of a zone

`dig <name> TXT`
Text records (SPF, verification)

`dig <name> CNAME`
Alias target

BASIC QUERIES (cont.)

`dig <name> SOA`
Zone start of authority and serial

`dig <name> SRV`
Service location records

`dig <name> ANY`
Request all types

CHOOSE THE SERVER

`dig @<server> <name>`
Ask this resolver or server

`dig @1.1.1.1 <name>`
Use a public resolver

`dig @<ns> <name> +norecurse`
Ask without recursion

`dig +tcp <name>`
Query over TCP

OUTPUT CONTROL

`dig +short <name>`
Print only the answer data

`dig +noall +answer <name>`
Answer section only, with TTLs

`dig +noall +answer +ttlunits <name>`
TTLs as 1h30m style

OUTPUT CONTROL (cont.)

`dig +nocmd <name>`
Hide the command banner

`dig +multiline <name> SOA`
Expand records over lines

`dig +short -x <ip>`
Reverse lookup, name only

REVERSE AND TRACING

`dig -x <ip>`
Reverse (PTR) lookup

`dig +trace <name>`
Walk from the root servers down

`dig +nssearch <zone>`
Ask every authoritative server for the SOA

`dig NS <zone> +short`
List the zone's name servers

DNSSEC AND EDNS

`dig +dnssec <name>`
Request signatures (RRSIG)

TIMING AND RELIABILITY

`dig +timeout=<sec> <name>`
Per-try timeout (default 5)

TIMING AND RELIABILITY (cont.)

`dig +tries=<n> <name>`
UDP attempts (default 3)

BATCH AND CONFIG

`dig -f <file>`
Run lookups listed in a file

READING THE OUTPUT

Header flags

Item	Meaning
`status: NOERROR`	Query succeeded (answer may be empty)
`status: NXDOMAIN`	Name does not exist
`status: SERVFAIL`	Server could not answer
`status: REFUSED`	Server will not answer you
`flags: qr`	This is a response
`flags: aa`	Authoritative answer
`flags: rd ra`	Recursion asked / available
`flags: ad`	DNSSEC validated
`flags: tc`	Truncated, retry over TCP

READING THE OUTPUT (cont.)

Answer line

Field	Example
name	example.com.
TTL (seconds)	300
class	IN
type	A
data	93.184.216.34

NOERROR with an empty answer means the name exists but has no record of that type. NXDOMAIN means the name does not exist at all.

A falling TTL on repeated queries to a resolver shows the answer comes from its cache.

RECIPES

Compare resolvers

```
for s in 1.1.1.1 8.8.8.8 9.9.9.9; do
  echo "$s: $(dig +short @$s <name>)"
done
```

Check each authoritative server

```
for ns in $(dig +short NS <zone>); do
  dig +short @$ns SOA <zone>
done
# differing serials mean zone replication lag
```