

Configuring a Domain to work with your Server

If you have a domain name registered with a third party and would like to use that domain with your Tagadab server (Virtual or Dedicated) then you have several options:

1. Modify the DNS zone records for individual sub-domains to point to your server (i.e. point www.your-domain.com only to the IP of your server with an A record). You can leave the nameservers for the domain as they are in this case.
2. Create a DNS zone for your domain on our name servers, setup DNS records that point to your server and get your domain's host to change the name servers for your domain to ours.
3. Setup nameservers on your server, create DNS records for the domain there and get the Domain registrar to update the nameservers.

The option you choose will depend entirely on your circumstances. If you are happy to keep the name servers of your domain registrar, then that is the simplest solution. If you are unable to keep your current name servers but don't want to manage your own, then using ours is the best solution. If you want your customers to see your name servers in the WHOIS records of the domains that you host, then you want to choose option 3.

1 – Individual DNS zone settings

If you are happy managing your domain DNS with your current host (or if you have a domain registered with us and want to use our name servers for it) then you can simply edit the DNS records for the domain using your host's DNS management control panel. Here are some example DNS records that you can use:

Record for:	Hostname:	Content:	Record Type:
Wild Card	*	<server IP address>	A
Web Traffic	www, @ or blank	<server IP address>	A
E-mail MX record	@ or blank	mail.domain.com.	MX
E-mail POP server	Pop	<server IP address>	A
E-mail SMTP server	Relay	<server IP address>	A
FTP	ftp	<server IP address>	A
Webmail	webmail	<server IP address>	A

You will need to use these values in your domain ISP's DNS control panel. Your domain ISP's support department should be able to assist you in entering these values. For information on how to make these changes for domains registered with Tagadab, please see:

http://www.tagadab.com/support_pdf/domains_03.pdf

Some notes on the example DNS records above:

- 'Record for': This is not part of the DNS record, and simply tells you what this hostname is normally used for. Note the **Wild Card** record can replace all of the other entries except the MX and blank records.
- 'Hostname': This is a suggested hostname to use for this record. The hostname is what users will type in before your domain name, i.e. if a user types in 'www.tagadab.com' the 'www' part is the hostname. As this part of the record is effectively just a label, it can actually be any mix of numbers and letters. For example if you wanted people to check their webmail on your domain by typing in 'mail.<your domain>' you could. The exception to this rule is the MX record, which should keep the hostname '@'.
- 'Content': This is the important part of the DNS record as it tells the traffic to your domain where it should go. Do not change this part of the record at all (and remember to include the '.' at the end of the URL, it's important).
- 'Record type': Again, this is important and should not be changed.
- MX records: This record is vital if you want to use e-mail with your domain. This specifies the mail server your domain uses. There is an extra attribute for this type of record, called 'priority'. The priority of an MX record is an integer that determines the order in which mails will attempt to be delivered to your servers. If you want to use our mail server as your primary means of receiving mail, then you should set a priority LOWER than that of any of your other servers. If you just want to use us as a backup in case your main mail server goes offline, you will want to set a priority HIGHER than your main mail server.
- Wild card records: There are two special hostname values that you may want to use. One of these is the wild card record. To use it, simply replace the hostname with an asterisk (*). A wild card record works for any sub-domain that is not set separately. For example if I set two DNS records, one an A record with a hostname of '*' and a content of my server's main IP address, and the other an A record with a hostname of 'webmail' and a content of my server's second IP address, then anyone typing anything other than 'webmail.' before my domain name will go to my website, and anyone typing 'webmail.' will instead go to the webmail page I could setup on the other IP.
- Blank records: The second type of special hostname is the blank record. This record is used if someone just enters 'http://tagadab.com' instead of 'http://www.tagadab.com' into their



web browser. To set one up to direct web traffic to your domain, just enter an A or CNAME record identical to the 'www' record, but leave the hostname blank.

That should be all the information you need to direct individual DNS records on an external domain to your Tagadab server. If you need any further assistance you can call our support team on 0845 045 1101 between 9am and 6pm, Monday to Saturday. Alternatively you can e-mail us at hosting@tagadab.com.

2 - Using Tagadab name servers with your external domain

If you want to use all of the features of your Tagadab hosting package with your domain, we recommend that rather than configuring a number of individual DNS records, you simply get your domain ISP to change the name servers for your domain.

Our Tagadab name servers are:

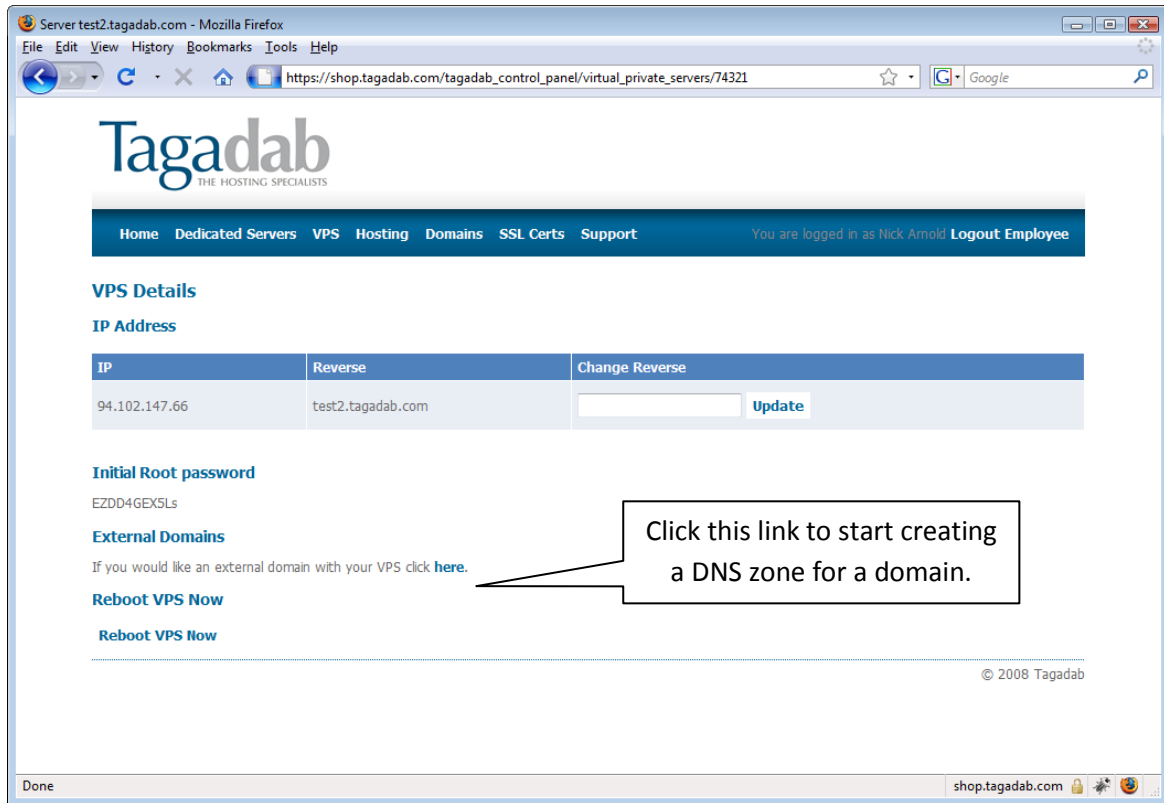
ns0-vh.tagadab.com – 195.245.201.53

ns1-vh.tagadab.com – 194.112.32.53

ns2-vh.tagadab.com – 195.8.69.53

Your domain ISP's support department should be able to either change these records for you, or will tell you how to make the changes yourself using their systems. As with all DNS changes, it will typically take up to 24 hours from when they make the change for the switch to our nameservers to be complete.

In the meantime you will want to create a DNS zone for your domain on our name servers. To do this, login to our online control panel, navigate to either the dedicated or virtual server section as needed, and then click on the IP address/hostname of the server you'd like to use the domain name with. This will take you to the management page for that server:



Click the 'here' link to start the DNS zone setup. This will take you to the following screen:



Enter the domain name you want to create a zone for (don't put 'www.!') and tick the box before clicking 'Add Domain'.

Once the changes have been made, you'll be able to manage your DNS using our control panel, just as if the domain was registered with us. See section 1 above for guidance on what those DNS records should be. When you know what records you want to enter, you can add them by navigating to the 'Domains' page in your Tagadab control panel and clicking the domain name that you wish to manage.

To add a new A record, simply fill out the fields with the desired hostname, content and TTL value. To add a CNAME or MX record, click the appropriate link above the hostname field, and then fill in the fields as with A records (adding a priority for MX records of course).

These links show you whether you are adding an A, CNAME or MX record.

Enter DNS record elements into these fields

Click one of these links to edit/delete the relevant DNS record.

DNS Records for lamel-test02.com - Mozilla Firefox
https://shop.tagadab.com/control_panel/service_groups/273/domains/1097/records

Tagadab THE HOSTING SPECIALISTS

Home Dedicated Servers Hosting Domains SSL Certs You are logged in as Nick Arnold Logout Employee

lamel-test02.com

This page allows you to view and edit the existing DNS records for your domain and/or add new records. Please note that it may take up to 24 hours to propagate across the internet. For more information about DNS changes, please see our Support page.

[Add A Record](#) [Add CNAME Record](#) [Add MX Record](#)

Hostname:

Content:

Time To Live:

[Submit](#)

Existing DNS records

Hostname	Type	Content	Priority	Time to live	
@	SOA	ns0-vh.tagadab.com hostmaster.tagadab.com 0 172800 3600 1728000 172800		18000	
@	NS	ns0-vh.tagadab.com		18000	
@	NS	ns1-vh.tagadab.com		18000	
@	NS	ns2-vh.tagadab.com		18000	
admin	CNAME	control-panel.tagadab.com	400		Edit Delete
admin	CNAME	control-panel.tagadab.com	400		Edit Delete

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Done shop.tagadab.com

You can also edit and delete existing records by using the appropriate links to the right of the page. When editing a record you can change the content, hostname and TTL of a record, but not its type. If you wish to change an A record to a CNAME record for example, you will have to delete the A record and create a new CNAME record.

After you make changes on this screen they are uploaded to our name servers. During this time you will see a 'pending' graphic in place of the edit and delete links. Once this graphic is replaced with those links the upload has occurred. Please be aware that all DNS changes can take up to 24 hours to propagate across the Internet.

3 - Setting up your own Name Servers

This option is quite complicated and there are many ways to implement it. As such this part of the article talks in general terms and you should only consider this approach if you have a good understanding of DNS and the software that you will use to manage DNS zones. The big positive with this approach is that any domains that you host will have your name servers listed instead of ours or the domain registrar. This is important if you want to offer a completely white-labelled service.

To setup your own name servers you will need a registered domain name for which you can change the name servers (usually your company's domain) and DNS software on your server which you can use to manage DNS zones. This could be BIND or you could use the DNS management tools of Plesk or Cpanel (which runs BIND but allows you to make changes in a GUI).

Firstly you'll want to use the DNS software on your server(s) to create a DNS zone for the domain that you will be hosting the name servers on. For example if you wanted to have ns1 and ns2.tagadab.com as name servers, you would first need to create a DNS zone for the tagadab.com domain on your server (or servers if you are running the name servers on separate machines). In that zone, at a minimum, you would need NS (name server) records for the domain with the content of ns1 & ns2.tagadab.com, and A records for the ns1 and ns2 hostnames that pointed to the IP address that the name server will be hosted on.

It is best practice to have a minimum of two name servers, with these being on separate physical machines in different networks. You can get away with running two name servers on one machine, but this is rather pointless and quite risky!

Once you have correctly configured DNS zones for your domain on all of the servers that will be acting as name servers, you can update the name servers for the domain with the domain registrar. If the domain is registered with us, the way to do that is to e-mail hostmaster@tagadab.com

If the domain is registered with a 3rd party, you'll need to contact them. The registrar will then update the name servers, adding 'glue records' (special A records for name servers that are used in their domain) and after the changes have propagated you will be good to go.

Now all you need to do is add DNS zones to all name servers for any domains that you want to handle the DNS for. Then you will just need to update the domains name servers to be yours and you will be able to manage DNS for that domain on your servers.