

How to Set Up Vanity DNS on Vultr

Learn how to configure vanity DNS on Vultr to use custom nameservers for your domain. Step-by-step guide for improved branding and professional web presence.

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Introduction

Vanity DNS is also known as branded DNS or white-label DNS. It allows you to use your own domain name as the nameserver for your domain names. By setting up vanity DNS, you can use `ns1.example.com` and `ns2.example.com` as the nameservers for your domain name instead of using the default Vultr nameservers.

This article demonstrates the steps to set up vanity DNS using the Vultr DNS service.

Prerequisites

Before you begin, you should:

- Have access to the domain control panel.
- [Add your domain name to Vultr DNS.](#)

Set Up Glue Records on Domain Registrar

Glue records are also known as child nameserver records, host records, or nameserver hostname records, depending on the domain registrar. These records are used to resolve the nameservers and the IP addresses of the nameservers associated with your domain name.

To mask the default Vultr nameservers, you need to add **A** records associated with the IPv4 addresses of the default nameservers to your domain name. The instructions to add glue records vary depending on the domain registrar.

The following are the instructions to add glue records on the popular domain registrars.

- [GoDaddy](#)
- [Namecheap](#)
- [Name.com](#)

Add Glue Records

Add the following **A** records to your domain name.

```
A      ns1      173.199.96.96
A      ns2      173.199.96.97
```

These are the IPv4 addresses of the default Vultr nameservers. The **ns1** and **ns2** are the nameserver hostname records. These IP addresses are the same for all Vultr customers and use AnyCast routing to provide fast DNS resolution and high availability.

Verify Glue Record Changes

Fetch the TLD nameserver.

```
$ dig +short com NS
```

Replace `com` with your TLD.

The output should contain nameservers for the TLD.

```
a.gtld-servers.net.
b.gtld-servers.net.
c.gtld-servers.net.
...
```

Fetch the A records of your domain name using the TLD nameserver.

```
$ dig @a.gtld-servers.net. example.com A
```

Replace `a.gtld-servers.net.` with the TLD nameserver.

The output should contain the **A** records that you added.

```
;; ADDITIONAL SECTION:
example.com.      3600    IN      A       173.199.96.96
example.com.      3600    IN      A       173.199.96.97
```

If the output does not match, wait for the DNS propagation to complete and try again. It may take up to 24 hours for the DNS propagation to complete.

Set Up DNS Records on Vultr

Vultr DNS is a managed DNS service that provides a simple interface to add, edit, and remove DNS records. It is a free service that is available to all Vultr customers. It uses AnyCast technology to provide fast DNS resolution and high availability.

Manage DNS Records

Navigate to the DNS management page.

1. Log in to the [customer portal](#).
2. Navigate to **Network > DNS**.
3. Click the domain name.

Mask the Default Nameservers

Mask the default Vultr nameservers by adding the following DNS records to your domain name.

```
A      ns1      173.199.96.96
A      ns2      173.199.96.97
AAAA   ns1      2001:19f0:ccc::1
AAAA   ns2      2001:19f0:ccc::2
```

The **A** and **AAAA** records are used to resolve the IPv4 and IPv6 addresses of the default nameservers. The **ns1** and **ns2** are the nameserver hostname records. These IP addresses are the same for all Vultr customers and use AnyCast routing to provide fast DNS resolution and high availability.

Change the Existing Nameservers

Change the existing nameserver records to point to the new nameserver hostname records.

```
NS    ns1.example.com
NS    ns2.example.com
```

Verify DNS Changes

Fetch the DNS records of your domain name using the Vultr nameservers.

```
$ dig @ns1.vultr.com. ns1.example.com A
$ dig @ns1.vultr.com. ns2.example.com A
$ dig @ns1.vultr.com. ns1.example.com AAAA
$ dig @ns1.vultr.com. ns2.example.com AAAA
```

If the output does not match, wait for the DNS propagation to complete and try again. It may take up to 24 hours for the DNS propagation to complete.

Change Nameservers on Domain Registrar

After adding the glue records and updating the DNS records on Vultr DNS, you can now change the nameservers on the domain registrar. The instructions to change the nameservers vary depending on the domain registrar.

The following are the instructions to change the nameservers on the popular domain registrars.

- [GoDaddy](#)
- [Namecheap](#)
- [Name.com](#)

Change the nameservers on the domain registrar to point to the new nameserver hostname records.

```
ns1.example.com  
ns2.example.com
```

Verify the nameserver changes using the following command.

```
$ dig +short example.com NS
```

If the output does not match, wait for the DNS propagation to complete and try again. It may take up to 24 hours for the DNS propagation to complete.

Conclusion

This article demonstrated the steps to set up vanity DNS using the Vultr DNS service. By setting up vanity DNS, you can use `ns1.example.com` and `ns2.example.com` as the nameservers for your domain name instead of using the default Vultr nameservers. For more information, refer to the [Introduction to Vultr DNS](#).



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