

Re: Query a DNS in C

Source: <http://unix.derkeiler.com/Newsgroups/comp.unix.programmer/2004-04/0314.html>

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On 14 Apr 2004 16:22:53 GMT Jens.Toerring@physik.fu-berlin.de wrote:

| Christian <cgregoir99@yahoo.com> wrote:

> I want to query a DNS within a C program to get the mail server associated
> to a domain name, ie, the equivalent of the command 'host -t mx
> <domain_name>'.

> I've had a look at the bind-utils sources, and also run 'host' under gdb but
> giving that it runs multiple threads, i'm lost.

> Can anyone point any explicit doc (that is, not the RFC 1035), or the
> specific source files inside the bind-utils tree that manage the
> request-response stuff ?

| While I can send you some (not very well tested) source code that does
| that I guess it would be completely incomprehensible without understand-
| ing RFC 1035 (and possibly a few related RFC, like 974 and 1123). I
| would say that the RFCs are the most explicit documentation you can
| find. What else are you looking for exactly?

I think what the OP is really wanting is a simple set of tools (e.g. that do this function and not much else) that encapsulates the details (what is in RFC 1035) and lets the caller use a simple API to send queries and read the results. Whether that API would simply be a "build and breakdown" API for DNS datagrams, or a more sophisticated system that waits for multiple events and does timeout, would be a design decision.

I have been thinking of writing just such a set of functions myself, but it is still in the "surveying what others might need" phase for now (which this thread might well contribute to).

I think BIND's tools are overkill for what the OP wants.

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