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An Proxy Use Case of DNS over HTTPS
draft-ietf-dnsop-dns-wireformat-http-02

Abstract

   This memo introduces a DNS proxy use case to tunnel DNS query and
   response over HTTPs using DOH, a newly proposed DNS transport. This
   is useful in some situation where DNS is not working properly and DOH
   is not widely available for many stub-resolvers.

Status of This Memo

   This Internet-Draft is submitted in full conformance with the
   provisions of BCP 78 and BCP 79.

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   This Internet-Draft will expire on September 22, 2018.

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1. Introduction

RFC 1035 [RFC1035] specifies the wire format for DNS messages. It also specifies DNS transport on UDP and TCP on port 53, which is still used today. To enhance the availability of honest DNS, a new DNS transport DOH is proposed which transport DNS over HTTPs [I-D.ietf-doh-dns-over-https], in a way to cure DNS's long-time suffering from on-path attack by spoofing and blocking.

This memo introduces a DNS proxy use case to leverage the DOH protocol as a substrate to tunnel DNS data over HTTPs which is called called DOH proxy in the rest of the document. It is useful especially when most DNS stub-resolvers and servers are not aware the new DOH protocol, but a public or private proxy using DOH can be deployed and offer DOH capacity to users to bypass the networks where DNS is not working properly.

Just as a normal DNS proxy described in [RFC5625], DOH proxy works as a simple DNS forwarder keeping the transparency principle, so any "hop-by-hop" mechanisms or newly introduced protocol extensions operate as if the proxy were not there. The only difference is DOH proxy consist two part, a proxy client as a initiator of DOH tunnel and a proxy server as a terminator.

In order to keep the transparency of DOH proxy, a new media type is required in DOH proxy use case to allow the proxy client and proxy server use the same transport (UDP or TCP) connecting sub-resolver and far-end server.

May REMOVE BEFORE PUBLICATION: Comparing using a general VPN, the DOH proxy can work on an actual HTTP server, so it can be hosted on a machine that also serves web pages. This means that DNS over HTTP is slightly more "stealthy" than a VPN, in that it can be indistinguishable from normal web traffic.

2. Use case description

   As mentioned in introduction, DOH proxy is a special use case to
   provide to end users with better DNS availability by leveraging the
   DOH protocol. The proxy client and proxy server speak DOH which
   served as a tunnel for DNS query and response.

   The typical scenario is that a DOH proxy sitting between stub-
   resolver and the recursive server. The stub-resolver is configured
   sending DNS query to a proxy client and expected reply from the same
   proxy client. If proxy client receives the query via UDP, then it
   will carry the media type "application/dns-udpwireformat" in the HTTP
   request and includes the DNS query as the message body as defined in
   DOH protocol. If proxy client receives the query via TCP, then it
   will carry a new media type defined in this document "application/
   dns-tcpwireformat" and speak DOH with proxy server with the same DNS
   query without the two-byte length field defined in DNS over TCP
   [section 4.2.2 in [RFC1035]].

   The proxy server MUST be able to process both "application/dns-
   udpwireformat" and "application/dns-tcpwireformat" request messages
   and forward the query to a configured recursive server using the same
   transport between sub-resolver and proxy client. The response will
   be delivered back to sub-resolver accordingly. In DOH proxy use
   case, each DNS query-response pair is mapped into a DOH query-
   response pair. And the transport for DNS query and response MUST be
   the same.

   It is possible that a proxy client as a module can be deployed in the
   same host with the sub-client listening to a loop-back address. A
   proxy server can be implemented that way to host a recursive DNS
   process as well. The can be combined to form four deployment
   scenarios of DOH proxy use case.

   It is also possible to use the proxy server as a regular web server
   at the same time that is acting as a proxy server.

   Note that the proxy client will face the same bootstrapping problem
   described in DOH when the HTTPs request needs to resolve the name of
   server and send the request to on IP address. The strategy is either
   use the IP directly or use another resolver (like the normal DHCP-
   supplied resolver) to lookup the IP of the server.

3. Security Considerations

   The DOH proxy use case does not introduce new protocol and any new
   security considerations since it is built on the DNS over HTTPS

protocols. All security considerations and recommendations apply in DOH proxy use case.

Since DOH proxy is a also a special DNS proxy, the security recommendations of DNS proxy RFC 5625 [RFC5625] also apply in DOH proxy use case.

Note that the ability to perform DNS queries in this way may allow users to bypass local DNS policy. This may be problematic in any environment where administrators need to enforce specific DNS behavior, such as an enterprise environment. The protocol outlined here does not introduce any new capabilities in this area, but by creating a more standardized way of doing this it may cause operational problems for enterprise administrators.

4. IANA considerations

4.1. Registration of application/dns-tcpwireformat Media Type

To: ietf-types@iana.org
Subject: Registration of MIME media type
         application/dns-tcpwireformat

MIME media type name: application

MIME subtype name: dns-tcpwireformat

Required parameters: n/a

Optional parameters: n/a

Encoding considerations: This is a binary format. The contents are a
DNS message as defined in RFC 1035. The format used here is for DNS
over UDP, which is the format defined in the diagrams in RFC 1035.

Security considerations: The security considerations for carrying
this data are the same for carrying DNS without encryption.

Interoperability considerations: None.

Published specification: This document.

Applications that use this media type:
  Systems that want to ship DNS messages via HTTP.

Additional information:

Magic number(s): n/a

File extension(s): n/a

Macintosh file type code(s): n/a

Person & email address to contact for further information:
    Linjian Song, songlinjian@gmail.com

Intended usage: COMMON

Restrictions on usage: n/a

Author: Linjian Song, songlinjian@gmail.com

Change controller: IESG

5. Acknowledgments

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6. References

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