

Network Working Group
Internet-Draft
Updates: [RFC7788](#) (if approved)
Intended status: Standards Track
Expires: January 4, 2018

P. Pfister
Cisco Systems
T. Lemon
Nominum, Inc.
July 3, 2017

Special Use Domain '.home.arpa'
draft-ietf-homenet-dot-09

Abstract

This document specifies the behavior that is expected from the Domain Name System with regard to DNS queries for names ending with '.home.arpa.', and designates this domain as a special-use domain name. 'home.arpa' is designated for non-unique use in residential home networks. Home Networking Control Protocol (HNCP) is updated to use the '.home.arpa' domain instead of '.home'.

Status of This Memo

This Internet-Draft is submitted in full conformance with the provisions of [BCP 78](#) and [BCP 79](#).

Internet-Drafts are working documents of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF). Note that other groups may also distribute working documents as Internet-Drafts. The list of current Internet-Drafts is at <http://datatracker.ietf.org/drafts/current/>.

Internet-Drafts are draft documents valid for a maximum of six months and may be updated, replaced, or obsoleted by other documents at any time. It is inappropriate to use Internet-Drafts as reference material or to cite them other than as "work in progress."

This Internet-Draft will expire on January 4, 2018.

Copyright Notice

Copyright (c) 2017 IETF Trust and the persons identified as the document authors. All rights reserved.

This document is subject to [BCP 78](#) and the IETF Trust's Legal Provisions Relating to IETF Documents (<http://trustee.ietf.org/license-info>) in effect on the date of publication of this document. Please review these documents carefully, as they describe your rights and restrictions with respect to this document. Code Components extracted from this document must include Simplified BSD License text as described in [Section 4](#).e of

the Trust Legal Provisions and are provided without warranty as described in the Simplified BSD License.

Table of Contents

1.	Introduction	2
2.	Requirements Language	3
3.	General Guidance	3
4.	Domain Name Reservation Considerations	3
5.	Updates to Home Networking Control Protocol	5
6.	Security Considerations	5
7.	Delegation of 'home.arpa'	7
8.	IANA Considerations	7
9.	Acknowledgments	7
10.	References	7
10.1.	Normative References	7
10.2.	Informative References	8
	Authors' Addresses	8

[1.](#) Introduction

Users and devices within a home network (hereafter "homenet") require devices and services to be identified by names that are unique within the boundaries of the homenet [[RFC7368](#)]. The naming mechanism needs to function without configuration from the user. While it may be possible for a name to be delegated by an ISP, homenets must also function in the absence of such a delegation. A default name with a scope limited to each individual homenet needs to be used.

This document corrects an error in [[RFC7788](#)], replacing '.home' with '.home.arpa' as the default domain-name for homenets. '.home' had been selected as the most user-friendly option. However, there are existing uses of '.home' that may be in conflict with this use: evidence indicates that '.home' queries frequently leak out and reach the root name servers [[ICANN1](#)] [[ICANN2](#)].

In addition, it's necessary, for compatibility with DNSSEC ([Section 6](#)), that an unsigned delegation be present for the name. There is an existing process for allocating names under '.arpa' [[RFC3172](#)]. No such process is available for requesting a similar delegation in the root at the request of the IETF, which does not administer that zone. As a result, the use of '.home' is deprecated.

This document registers the domain '.home.arpa.' as a special-use domain name [[RFC6761](#)] and specifies the behavior that is expected from the Domain Name System with regard to DNS queries for names whose rightmost non-terminal labels are '.home.arpa'. Queries for names ending with '.home.arpa.' are of local significance within the

scope of a homenet, meaning that identical queries will result in different results from one homenet to another. In other words, a name ending in '.home.arpa' is not globally unique.

Although this document makes specific reference to [RFC7788](#), it is not intended that the use of '.home.arpa' be restricted solely to networks where HNCP is deployed; it is rather the case that '.home.arpa' is the correct domain for uses like the one described for '.home' in [RFC7788](#): local name service in residential homenets.

2. Requirements Language

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "NOT RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in [BCP 14](#) [[RFC2119](#)] [[RFC8174](#)] when, and only when, they appear in all capitals, as shown here.

3. General Guidance

The domain name '.home.arpa.' is to be used for naming within residential homenets. Names ending with '.home.arpa.' reference a locally-served zone, the contents of which are unique only to a particular homenet, and are not globally unique. Such names refer to nodes and/or services that are located within a homenet (e.g., a printer, or a toaster).

DNS queries for names ending with '.home.arpa.' are resolved using local resolvers on the homenet. Such queries MUST NOT be recursively forwarded to servers outside the logical boundaries of the homenet.

Some service discovery user interfaces that are expected to be used on homenets conceal information such as domain names from end users. However, it is still expected that in some cases, users will need to see, remember, and even type, names ending with '.home.arpa.'. It is therefore desirable that users identify the domain and understand that using it expresses the intention to connect to a service that is specific to the homenet to which they are connected. Enforcing the fulfillment of this intention is out of scope for this document.

4. Domain Name Reservation Considerations

This section defines the behavior of systems involved in domain name resolution when resolving queries for names ending with '.home.arpa.' (as per [[RFC6761](#)]).

1. Users can use names ending with '.home.arpa.' just as they would use any other domain name. The '.home.arpa' name is chosen to be

readily recognized by users as signifying that the name is addressing a service on the homenet to which the user's device is connected.

2. Application software SHOULD NOT treat names ending in '.home.arpa' differently than other names. In particular, there is no basis for trusting names that are subdomains of '.home.arpa' (see [Section 6](#)).
3. Name resolution APIs and libraries MUST NOT recognize names that end in '.home.arpa.' as special and MUST NOT treat them differently. Name resolution APIs MUST send queries for such names to a recursive DNS server that is configured to be authoritative for the '.home.arpa' zone appropriate to the homenet. One or more IP addresses for recursive DNS servers will usually be supplied to the client through router advertisements or DHCP. If a host is configured to use a resolver other than one that is authoritative for the appropriate '.home.arpa' zone, the client may be unable to resolve, or may receive incorrect results for, names in sub domains of '.home.arpa'.
4. Unless configured otherwise, recursive resolvers and DNS proxies MUST behave as described in Locally Served Zones ([\[RFC6303\]](#) [Section 3](#)). Recursive resolvers that can be used in a homenet MUST be configurable with a delegation to an authoritative server for that particular homenet's instance of the domain '.home.arpa', and, when so configured, MUST NOT attempt to look up a delegation for '.home.arpa' in the public DNS. Of course, from an implementation standpoint it may be that a hybrid name server acts as a caching resolver or DNS proxy for non-local domains and as an authoritative server for '.home.arpa' and other locally served zones, responding directly to queries for subdomains of '.home.arpa' rather than using a delegation.
5. No special processing of '.home.arpa' is required for authoritative DNS server implementations. However, it is possible that an authoritative DNS server might attempt to validate the delegation for a zone before answering authoritatively for that zone. In this situation, it would find an invalid delegation, and would not answer authoritatively. A server that implements this sort of check MUST be configurable so that either it does not do this check for the 'home.arpa' domain, or it ignores the results of the check.
6. DNS server operators MAY configure an authoritative server for '.home.arpa' for use in homenets and other home networks. The operator for the DNS servers authoritative for '.home.arpa' in

the global DNS will configure any such servers as described in [Section 7](#).

7. 'home.arpa' is a subdomain of the 'arpa' top-level domain, which is operated by IANA under the authority of the Internet Architecture Board according to the rules established in [\[RFC3172\]](#). There are no other registrars for .arpa.

5. Updates to Home Networking Control Protocol

The final paragraph of Home Networking Control Protocol [\[RFC7788\]](#), [section 8](#), is updated as follows:

OLD:

Names and unqualified zones are used in an HNCP network to provide naming and service discovery with local significance. A network-wide zone is appended to all single labels or unqualified zones in order to qualify them. ".home" is the default; however, an administrator MAY configure the announcement of a Domain-Name TLV ([Section 10.6](#)) for the network to use a different one. In case multiple are announced, the domain of the node with the greatest node identifier takes precedence.

NEW:

Names and unqualified zones are used in an HNCP network to provide naming and service discovery with local significance. A network-wide zone is appended to all single labels or unqualified zones in order to qualify them. '.home.arpa' is the default; however, an administrator MAY configure the announcement of a Domain-Name TLV ([Section 10.6](#)) for the network to use a different one. In case multiple are announced, the domain of the node with the greatest node identifier takes precedence.

The '.home.arpa' special-use name does not require a special resolution protocol. Names for which the rightmost two labels are '.home.arpa' are resolved using the DNS protocol [\[RFC1035\]](#).

6. Security Considerations

A DNS record that is returned as a response to a query for an FQDN in the domain '.home.arpa.' is expected to have local significance. It is expected to be returned by a server involved in name resolution for the homenet the device is connected in. However, such response MUST NOT be considered more trustworthy than would be a similar response for any other DNS query.

Because '.home.arpa' is not globally scoped and cannot be secured using DNSSEC based on the root domain's trust anchor, there is no way to tell, using a standard DNS query, in which homenet scope an answer belongs. Consequently, users may experience surprising results with such names when roaming to different homenets. To prevent this from happening, it may be useful for the resolver to identify different homenets on which it has resolved names, but this is out of scope for this document.

It is not possible to install a trust anchor for this zone in the '.arpa' zone. The reason for this is that in order to do so, it would be necessary to have the key-signing key for the zone ([\[RFC4034\] Section 5](#)). Since the zone is not globally unique, no one key would work.

An alternative would be to install a authenticated denial of existence ([\[RFC4033\] Section 3.2](#)). However, this assumes that validation is being done on a caching resolver that is aware of the special local meaning of '.home.arpa'. If a host stub resolver attempts to validate a name in '.home.arpa', an authenticated denial of existence of 'home' as a subdomain of 'arpa.' would cause the validation to fail. Therefore, the only delegation that will allow names under '.home.arpa' to be resolved is an unsigned delegation.

Consequently, unless a trust anchor for the particular instance of the '.home.arpa' zone being validated is manually configured on the validating resolver, DNSSEC signing of names within the '.home.arpa' zone is not possible.

Although in principle it might be useful to install a trust anchor for a particular instance of '.home.arpa', it's reasonable to expect that a host with such a trust anchor might from time to time connect to more than one network with its own instance of '.home.arpa'. Such a host would be unable to access services on any instance of '.home.arpa' other than the one for which a trust anchor was configured.

It is in principle possible to attach an identifier to an instance of '.home.arpa' that could be used to identify which trust anchor to rely on for validating names in that particular instance. However, the security implications of this are complicated, and such a mechanism, as well as a discussion of those implications, is out of scope for this document.

7. Delegation of 'home.arpa'

In order to be fully functional, there must be a delegation of 'home.arpa' in the '.arpa' zone [[RFC3172](#)]. This delegation MUST NOT be signed, MUST NOT include a DS record, and MUST point to one or more black hole servers, for example BLACKHOLE-1.IANA.ORG and BLACKHOLE-2.IANA.ORG. The reason that this delegation must not be signed is that not signing the delegation breaks the DNSSEC chain of trust, which prevents a validating stub resolver from rejecting names published under 'home.arpa' on a homenet name server.

8. IANA Considerations

IANA is requested to record the domain name '.home.arpa' in the Special-Use Domain Names registry [[SUDN](#)]. IANA is requested, with the approval of IAB, to implement the delegation requested in [Section 7](#).

9. Acknowledgments

The authors would like to thank Stuart Cheshire for his prior work on '.home', as well as the homenet chairs: Mark Townsley and Ray Bellis. We would also like to thank Paul Hoffman for providing review and comments on the IANA considerations section and Suzanne Woolf and Ray Bellis for their detailed review comments.

10. References

10.1. Normative References

- [RFC2119] Bradner, S., "Key words for use in RFCs to Indicate Requirement Levels", [BCP 14](#), [RFC 2119](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC2119, March 1997, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc2119>>.
- [RFC3172] Huston, G., Ed., "Management Guidelines & Operational Requirements for the Address and Routing Parameter Area Domain ("arpa")", [BCP 52](#), [RFC 3172](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC3172, September 2001, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc3172>>.
- [RFC6303] Andrews, M., "Locally Served DNS Zones", [BCP 163](#), [RFC 6303](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC6303, July 2011, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc6303>>.
- [RFC6761] Cheshire, S. and M. Krochmal, "Special-Use Domain Names", [RFC 6761](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC6761, February 2013, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc6761>>.

- [RFC8174] Leiba, B., "Ambiguity of Uppercase vs Lowercase in [RFC 2119](#) Key Words", [BCP 14](#), [RFC 8174](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC8174, May 2017, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc8174>>.

[10.2](#). Informative References

- [ICANN1] "New gTLD Collision Risk Mitigation", October 2013, <<https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/new-gtld-collision-mitigation-05aug13-en.pdf>>.
- [ICANN2] "New gTLD Collision Occurrence Management", October 2013, <<https://www.icann.org/en/system/files/files/resolutions-new-gtld-annex-1-07oct13-en.pdf>>.
- [RFC1035] Mockapetris, P., "Domain names - implementation and specification", STD 13, [RFC 1035](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC1035, November 1987, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc1035>>.
- [RFC4033] Arends, R., Austein, R., Larson, M., Massey, D., and S. Rose, "DNS Security Introduction and Requirements", [RFC 4033](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC4033, March 2005, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc4033>>.
- [RFC4034] Arends, R., Austein, R., Larson, M., Massey, D., and S. Rose, "Resource Records for the DNS Security Extensions", [RFC 4034](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC4034, March 2005, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc4034>>.
- [RFC7368] Chown, T., Ed., Arkko, J., Brandt, A., Troan, O., and J. Weil, "IPv6 Home Networking Architecture Principles", [RFC 7368](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC7368, October 2014, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7368>>.
- [RFC7788] Stenberg, M., Barth, S., and P. Pfister, "Home Networking Control Protocol", [RFC 7788](#), DOI 10.17487/RFC7788, April 2016, <<http://www.rfc-editor.org/info/rfc7788>>.
- [SUDN] "Special-Use Domain Names Registry", July 2012, <<http://www.iana.org/assignments/special-use-domain-names/special-use-domain-names.xhtml>>.

Authors' Addresses

Pierre Pfister
Cisco Systems
Paris
France

Email: pierre.pfister@darou.fr

Ted Lemon
Nominum, Inc.
800 Bridge Parkway
Redwood City, California 94065
United States of America

Phone: +1 650 381 6000
Email: ted.lemon@nominum.com

