

# SVCB (and HTTPS)

**Service binding and parameter specification via the DNS**

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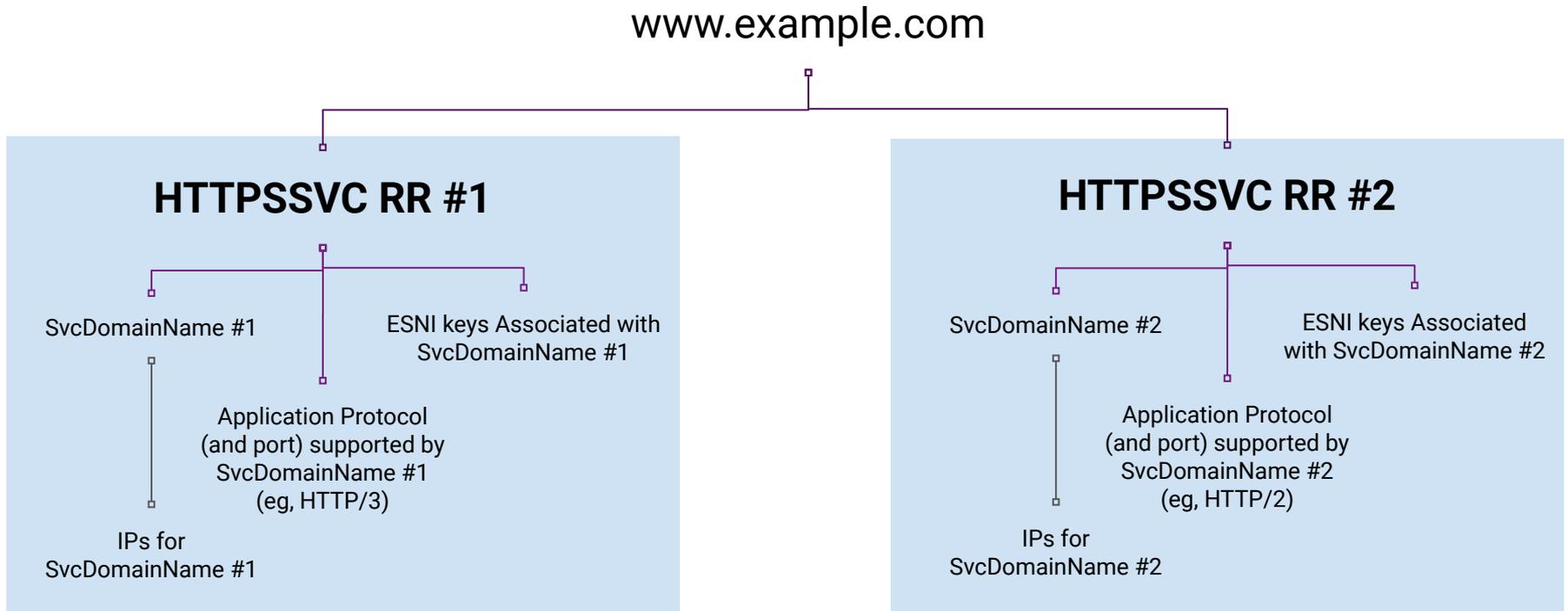
<https://tools.ietf.org/html/draft-ietf-dnsop-svcb-httpsvc-01>

# SVCB Overview

- Goal: bootstrap optimal connections from a single DNS query
- In “AliasForm”, it acts like CNAME but can be at the apex
- In “ServiceForm” it is an extensible service description, currently supporting:
  - TLS ALPN
  - Port
  - Encrypted SNI configuration
  - IP hints
- HTTPSSVC is an SVCB-compatible RR type specialized for HTTPS
  - Indicates origin defaults to HTTPS
  - Avoids underscore prefixes
    - Improves compatibility with wildcard domains
    - Compatible with existing CNAME delegations

# Example: HTTPSSVC and Multi-CDN hosting

*Clients may end up on one or more service endpoints (i.e. sets of servers) which may have different capabilities and keys, such as on different CDNs. HTTPSSVC provides a way to tie these together.*



# AliasForm (SvcFieldPriority=0)

- Covers many “SRV” and “ANAME” use-cases



# Service Form (SvcFieldPriority>0)

- Covers ESNI use case and other protocol improvements

 Lower SvcFieldPriority means preferred

svc.example.net. 7200 IN HTTPSSVC **2** svc3.example.net. alpn=h3 port=8003 \ esniconfig=...

SvcFieldValue encodes protocol, port, ESNI keys, and other params



svc.example.net. 7200 IN HTTPSSVC **3** svc2.example.net. alpn=h2 port=8003 \ esniconfig=...

*“Please use QUIC to UDP svc3.example.net:8003 with this ESNI configuration, or use HTTP/2 to TCP svc2.example.net:8002 with this other ESNI configuration.”*

# Changes since IETF 105

- Support non-HTTP protocols by generalizing from HTTPSSVC to SVCB
  - SVCB uses `_port._scheme` prefixes to support arbitrary protocols
- Changed from Alt-Svc syntax to a new key=value syntax with its own IANA registry
- Adopted by the working group
- Made AliasForm vs. ServiceForm implicit based on SvcFieldPriority
- Many minor changes
  - Relaxed IP hint handling requirements
  - Added and removed descriptions of various optional optimizations
  - Reduced emphasis on conversion to and from Alt-Svc
  - Terminology updates and other clarifications

# Major remaining design questions

- How to balance ESNI strictness against reliability and misconfiguration ([#73](#))
  - Current requirements prevent fallback from ESNI to non-ESNI unless the server specifically indicates that this is allowed, potentially creating a “footgun” for server admins who don’t realize that not all networks allow QUIC.
- How should we limit the alias chain length? ([#57](#))
  - Current text has a rough suggestion of “8”, but there’s (almost?) no need for more than 1.

# Major remaining bikeshed questions



- Should we remove the “0” in AliasForm? ([#63](#))
  - Would make AliasForm’s presentation format look like CNAME, by moving SvcFieldPriority after SvcDomainName and declaring that it is 0 if absent.
  - Moving SvcFieldPriority after SvcDomainName would break the numbers-first pattern of SRV, URI, MX, NAPTR for ServiceForm.
- What to name the RRTYPEs ([#80](#))
  - SVCB, SRV2, B, SRVB, ALT, ...
  - HTTPSSVC, SVCHTTPS, SRVHTTP, HTTPSRV, HTTPB, ALTHHTTP, ...

# Next steps...

- Continue refining requirements with potential implementers
- Work on clarity and remove TODOs
- Hoping to be ready for WGLC before IETF 107

Current workspace:

<https://github.com/MikeBishop/dns-alt-svc>

Editor's draft:

<https://mikebishop.github.io/dns-alt-svc/draft-ietf-dnsop-svcb-httpssvc.html>

Feedback on mailing list(s) and to authors most welcome!

# FAQs

- Why are there IP hints?
  - The IP hints are a performance optimization that avoids one DNS roundtrip when
    - the recursive resolver is not SVCB-aware, AND
    - the record is in ServiceForm, AND
    - SvcDomainName != ".", i.e. there is a layer of indirection
      - This is only necessary when there are multiple SvcDomainNames or the record publisher doesn't control the IP addresses
  - Avoiding a DNS roundtrip in this case has been a strong requirement from ESNI
- Why not have two RR types for AliasForm and ServiceForm?
  - AliasForm and ServiceForm could be separate RR types, but
    - This would significantly increase load on client, recursive, and authoritative servers
    - Clients would be incentivized to only implement the RR corresponding to ServiceForm

# Comparison between SVCB & ANAME

(for the “zone apex CNAME” issue)

## SVCB

Pros:

- Doesn't require any changes to DNS servers

Cons:

- Only respected by compliant clients
- Adds a roundtrip if the recursive is not cooperating

## ANAME

Pros:

- Doesn't require any changes to clients

Cons:

- Requires complex changes to participating authoritative servers, especially when DNSSEC or ECS is also in use

*Neither may fully replace the need or use-cases for the other.*