Domain Connect Update
(regext)

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A bit of history

• First presentation in regext by IETF 96 (2016)
• The draft hasn't been updated after 2018 and the original authors moved to other areas since then
• ... but it’s more living than you think
What it is

• An application-level protocol to allow service providers the ability to setup appropriate zone records to integrate with their products
• Makes DNS setup to integrate 3rd party products way less complicated for end users
• Template based allowing both static and dynamic variables
• Provide a customer experience that is simple, integrated and seamless
• Operational gains for both service and DNS providers
How it works

1. connect foo.com

Service Provider

2. Lookup _domainconnect.foo.com

DNS

3. Discover end-points & template support

DNS Provider

4. Redirect user to DNS setup flow (template+variables in URL)

(5) - Authenticate user
- Authorize changes
- Setup DNS
Features

• Templates that define the API contract between the providers
• 2 flows:
  • One-off synchronous flow
  • Recurrent asynchronous flow using O Auth
• Conflict resolution on RR level
• Merging of SPF TXT records from different services
• Support for ephemeral records (like ownership verification)
• URL proteted with signature
Implementation status

• DNS Providers
  • ~20 providers, incl. GoDaddy, IONOS, Cloudflare, Squarespace Domains (former Google), Wordpress.com or Plesk
  • 35% of the .com zone (May’24)

• Service Providers
  • 300 templates from over 120 providers, incl. O365, Google Workspace, Apple Cloud+, Weebly, Squarespace...

The specification is quite stable now, but still some providers reluctant to adopt a non-standard.
The way forward

• A refreshed draft [draft-kowalik-regext-domainconnect](draft-kowalik-regext-domainconnect)
• Get feedback from the working group
• Get guidance how to proceed for Standard track