

# What is a PTR record?

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The correlation between domain names and IP addresses is facilitated by the Domain Name System (DNS). Within the DNS framework, a DNS pointer record, commonly referred to as PTR, plays a crucial role in associating a domain name with an IP address. In contrast to the 'A' record, which supplies the IP address linked to a domain name, the DNS PTR record functions as its exact opposite.

Reverse DNS lookups heavily rely on DNS PTR records. Typically, when a user enters a domain name into their browser, a DNS lookup takes place, matching the domain name to its corresponding IP address. In contrast, a reverse DNS lookup operates in an inverse manner. It commences with an IP address and queries the DNS to retrieve the corresponding domain name.

## What are the main uses for PTR records?

Reverse DNS lookups utilize PTR records, used in various applications, including:

- **Anti-spam:** Reverse DNS plays a role in combating spam emails. Email anti-spam filters employ reverse DNS to inspect the domain names associated with email addresses. By verifying whether the corresponding IP addresses are commonly used by legitimate email servers, these filters can assess the credibility of incoming emails.
- **Troubleshooting email delivery issues:** Issues with email delivery can arise when PTR records are misconfigured or missing. Since anti-spam filters rely on reverse DNS checks, a domain without a PTR record or one with an incorrect PTR record may face email blocking by certain email services. Addressing PTR record discrepancies is essential for ensuring smooth email communication.
- **Logging:** System logs usually capture IP addresses alone, which might not be readily understandable to users. Reverse DNS lookups come into play by converting these IP addresses into domain names. By incorporating domain names into logs, the information becomes more human-readable, facilitating easier analysis and interpretation.

For more information on this topic, please see:

- <https://learn.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/dns/dns-reverse-dns-hosting#create-a-dns-ptr-record>
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reverse\\_DNS\\_lookup](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reverse_DNS_lookup)
- <https://www.cloudns.net/wiki/article/40/>
- <https://www.okta.com/identity-101/ptr-record/>

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[Release History](#)

[What is a PTR record?](#)

[What are the main uses for PTR records?](#)

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