ENTRADA: The Impact of a TTL Change at the TLD Level

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• Domain name registry for the .nl ccTLD of the Netherlands

- 5,6 million domain names
- .nl is the largest DNSSEC signed zone in the world in absolute numbers
- SIDN Labs is the R&D team of SIDN



TTL Change for .nl

Why?

- We changed the zone file update frequency from 2 hours to 1 hour
- Requested by our registrars

Changes:

- Delegation TTL from 7200 to 3600 seconds
- SOA NXDOMAIN TTL from 900 to 600 seconds

Impact: What effects does this policy change have on DNS traffic?

- We used ENTRADA to measure the effects
- We examined the impact on volume, QTYPE, NXDOMAIN and domainer activity



ENTRADA





ENTRADA@SIDN Labs

- Operational for 2 years
- Capturing data for 2 .nl name servers
- 130 Billion rows (DNS query+response pairs)
- 17 TB of data



Effect #1: Increase in Number of Queries



Effect #1: Query Increase Last Year

NS1: 7%

Same period last year we see a smaller increase





Effect #2: Data Volume

NS1+NS2 Request: +156% Response: +47%

Volume



Effect #2: Data Volume



Effect #3: Qtype Distribution

NS1:



Effect #3: Qtype Distribution

NS2:



MX: +13%



ABS

Effect #4: Increase in NXDOMAIN Responses



Effect #4: Increase in NXDOMAIN Responses

NS2: ~ +24%



Effect #5: Domainer Activity



Domainers cause more traffic peaks

Conclusions and Discussion

- No significant impact on the operational DNS infrastructure
 - TLD-level TTL is most likely overruled by TTL from authoritatives
 - Total data volume has not doubled
 - NS QTYPE shows largest increase
 - Small NXDOMAIN increase
 - Doubled domainer query peaks
- ENTRADA proved to be very useful for measuring the effect of DNS policy changes
- We are interested in the experiences of other DNS operators and registries



Now Available as Open Source!



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