BIND Logging
Content out of Chaos

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Why Do We Log?

• Consider the times that you look at log files
  • Something is new:
    • General overview of functionality
  • Services are broken or the network is on fire:
    • Specific logs related to a specific topic
    • Higher detail than normal
Why Do We Log?

• During normal operation, logging is mostly disregarded
  • Minimal disk usage
  • Minimal processing

• During network-on-fire events, logging is important
  • Lots of output surrounding the bits that are causing problems
  • Minimal processing – without changing configuration
Logging Methodology

• BIND logs **Categories** into **Channels**
  • Categories are pre-defined
    • Collection of messages around a common theme
  • Channels are (for the most part) administrator defined
    • Definitions provide location, content, detail level and size of output
    • Detail level may be dynamic – very useful!
Logging Categories

- client
- cname
- config
- database
- `default`
- delegation-only
- dispatch
- dnssec
- dnstap
- edns-disabled
- `general`
- lame_servers
- network
- notify
- nsid
- queries
- query-errors

- rate-limit
- resolver
- rpz
- security
- serve-stale
- spill
- trust-anchor-telemetry
- unmatched
- update
- update-security
- xfer-in
- xfer-out
- zoneload
Logging Channels

• Predefined channels are:

  default_syslog
  default_debug
  default_stderr
  null
  default_logfile (only created if BIND is started with -L)

• Others will be created by the administrator

• By default and before parsing named.conf logging goes to default_syslog
logging {
    category string { string; ... };
    channel string {
        buffered boolean;
        file quoted_string [ versions ( unlimited | integer ) ]
            [ size size ] [ suffix ( increment | timestamp ) ];
        null;
        print-category boolean;
        print-severity boolean;
        print-time ( iso8601 | iso8601-utc | local | boolean );
        severity log_severity;
        stderr;
        syslog [ syslog_facility ];
    }
};
Logging Severity

- `log_severity` is a set of levels

- Logging at a given level includes all of the levels below
Logging Samples

- Use default logging, but in addition, send \texttt{dnssec} logging to a file called \texttt{dnssec.log}
- Keep 5 copies (+ the active one) of 10MB each
- Record the time and severity

```bind
logging {
    channel dnssec_log {
        file "/var/log/bind/dnssec.log"
        versions 5
        size 10M;
        severity debug 10;
        print-time yes;
        print-severity yes;
    };
    category dnssec { dnssec_log; };
}
```
Logging Samples

• Log all queries to a file called `query.log`

• Keep 3 copies (+ the active one) of 10MB each

• This file will remain empty until we explicitly turn it on:

  • `$ rndc querylog on` or global option `querylog yes` in `named.conf`

```plaintext
logging {
    channel query_log {
        file "/var/log/bind/query.log" versions 3 size 10M suffix timestamp;
        print-time yes;
    };
    category queries { query_log; };
};
```
Logging Samples

Log queries to two channels, log three categories to a single channel dynamically

```plaintext
logging {
    channel query_log {
        file "/tmp/query.log" versions 5;
    };
    channel debug_log {
        file "/tmp/debug.log" size 100k;
        print-time yes;
        print-severity yes;
        print-category yes;
        severity dynamic;
    };
    category queries { query_log; debug_log; };
    category dnssec { debug_log; };
    category client { debug_log; };
}
```

Possible Errors here:
You probably want to specify both versions and size.
Deciphering the output

• Good luck!
  • Just kidding... to an extent
  • Most logging is for the ISC engineering team - not the mere mortal

29-Oct-2019 22:16:34.068 client: debug 3: client @0x712a4ab0 192.168.77.130#56722 (d.docs.live.net): send
29-Oct-2019 22:16:34.068 client: debug 3: client @0x712a4ab0 192.168.77.130#56722 (d.docs.live.net): sendto
29-Oct-2019 22:16:34.068 client: debug 3: client @0x712a4ab0 192.168.77.130#56722 (d.docs.live.net): senddone
29-Oct-2019 22:16:34.068 client: debug 3: client @0x712a4ab0 192.168.77.130#56722 (d.docs.live.net): next
29-Oct-2019 22:16:34.068 client: debug 3: client @0x712a4ab0 192.168.77.130#56722 (d.docs.live.net): endrequest
29-Oct-2019 22:16:34.068 client: debug 3: client @0x712a4ab0 192.168.77.130#56722 (d.docs.live.net): ns_client_detach: ref = 0
29-Oct-2019 22:16:34.068 client: debug 3: client @0x712a4ab0 192.168.77.130#56722 (d.docs.live.net): endrequest
29-Oct-2019 22:16:34.518 client: debug 3: client @0x71251370 192.168.77.1#50360: received DSCP 0
29-Oct-2019 22:16:34.519 client: debug 3: client @0x71251370 192.168.77.1#50360: using view '_default'
29-Oct-2019 22:16:34.519 client: debug 5: client @0x71251370 192.168.77.1#50360: using view '_default'
29-Oct-2019 22:16:34.519 queries: info: client @0x71251370 192.168.77.1#50360 (ccn.asdf.com): query: ccn.asdf.com IN A +E(0)K (192.168.77.1)

• One exception: query logging

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Deciphering Query Log Output

client @0x7129cc38 192.168.77.1#39584 (_http._tcp.mirror.os6.org): query: _http._tcp.mirror.os6.org IN SRV + (192.168.77.1)
client @0x6ff4c250 192.168.77.1#57515 (mirror.os6.org): query: mirror.os6.org IN AAAA + (192.168.77.1)
client @0x6ff287f8 192.168.77.1#57515 (mirror.os6.org): query: mirror.os6.org IN A + (192.168.77.1)
client @0x6fd12ce8 192.168.77.131#21399 (imap.gmail.com): query: imap.gmail.com IN A + (192.168.77.1)
client @0x712a4ab0 192.168.77.1#44466 (alan.clegg.com): query: alan.clegg.com IN A +E(0)DK (192.168.77.1)

• The word client

• A @0x followed by the client object identifier (nothing to do with the client address)

• The IP address and port number from which the query originated (the client address)

• The query (in parenthesis), a colon and the word "query" followed by a colon

(continued)
Deciphering the output

- The query (2\textsuperscript{nd} time, but without parenthesis) followed by the class and type of the query
- A set of flags:
  - If RD flag was set (+ if set, − if not set), if signed (S), if EDNS was in use with the EDNS version number (E (#)), if TCP was used (T), if DNSSEC Ok was set (D), if CD was set (C), if a valid DNS Server cookie was received (V), and whether a DNS cookie option without a valid Server cookie was present (K)

(continued)
Deciphering the output

client @0x7129cc38 192.168.77.1#39584 (_http._tcp.mirror.os6.org): query: _http._tcp.mirror.os6.org IN SRV + (192.168.77.1)
client @0x6ff4c250 192.168.77.1#57515 (mirror.os6.org): query: mirror.os6.org IN AAAA + (192.168.77.1)
client @0x6ff287f8 192.168.77.1#57515 (mirror.os6.org): query: mirror.os6.org IN A + (192.168.77.1)
client @0x6fd12ce8 192.168.77.131#21399 (imap.gmail.com): query: imap.gmail.com IN A + (192.168.77.1)
client @0x712a4ab0 192.168.77.1#44466 (alan.clegg.com): query: alan.clegg.com IN A +E(0)DK (192.168.77.1)

• The address to which the response is sent (in parenthesis)

• If any CLIENT-SUBNET option was present in the client query, it is included in square brackets in the format [ECS address/source/scope]
What about dnstap?

• *dnstap* is a flexible, structured binary log format for DNS software. It uses protocol buffers to encode events that occur inside DNS software in an implementation-neutral format.

There will be a future presentation on *dnstap*

• If you are in a hurry: [https://kb.isc.org/docs/aa-01342](https://kb.isc.org/docs/aa-01342)
Logging Warnings

• Logging respects `directory` option

• Logs reside within `chroot` if used

• High debug levels will cause headaches:
  • Huge output or rapidly moving files
  • Messages formatted differently (breaking parsers)

• **BIND may become slow in query processing due to being busy logging**
Logging Warnings

29-Oct-2019 20:34:50.510 database: debug 5: expiring v6 for name 0x703c2300
29-Oct-2019 20:34:50.511 database: debug 5: dns_adb_createfind: found AAAA for name circulum.clegg.com (0x703c2300)
;;;; HEADER op=QUERY, status=NOERROR, id= 54619
;;;; flags: qr aa; QUESTION: 1, ANSWER: 2, AUTHORITY: 9, ADDITIONAL: 1
;;;; OPT PSEUDOSECTION:
;; EDNS: version: 0, flags: do; udp: 512
;;;; QUESTION SECTION:
;alan.clegg.com.          IN      A

;;;; ANSWER SECTION:
;alan.clegg.com. 300 IN A 45.33.100.174
;alan.clegg.com. 300 IN RRSIG A 10 3 300 ( 20191108171106 20191009163235 40661 clegg.com. [;…] cGMsHqlqH8L5NoiqbYdX/wLIwyiA Psk= )

;;;; AUTHORITY SECTION:
clegg.com. 86400 IN NS ns7.dnsmadeeasy.com. [...]

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Additional Resources

• ISC Knowledge Base:
  • BIND Logging - some basic recommendations
    • https://kb.isc.org/docs/aa-01526

• Zytrax:
  • DNS BIND9 logging Clause
    • http://www.zytrax.com/books/dns/ch7/logging.html
Questions?

Comments?
https://www.isc.org