

The Complete DNS Health Check Checklist

A printable DNS audit worksheet for site owners

Use this checklist after DNS changes, hosting migrations, nameserver updates or as part of a quarterly DNS review.

Domain	DNS Provider	Date Checked	Checked By
_____	_____	_____	_____

Group 1: Web Traffic Records

- A record for root domain (@) exists and points to the correct current hosting server IP address
- A record for root domain does not point to an old hosting IP from a previous provider
- www record exists: either a CNAME pointing to the root domain or an A record pointing to the correct hosting IP
- www and root domain both resolve to the same destination (or intentional redirect is in place)
- AAAA record for IPv6 exists and points to the correct IPv6 address (if applicable)
- Site loads correctly over HTTPS with no SSL warnings after confirming A record is correct
- No duplicate A records for the root domain or www pointing to different IPs unintentionally

Notes:

Group 2: Email Records

- MX record exists and points to the correct mail server hostname (not a bare IP address; per RFC 5321, MX records must point to hostnames)
- MX record priority value is correct per your email provider's documentation
- If multiple MX records exist, priority order matches your email provider's recommended configuration
- Exactly one SPF TXT record exists starting with v=spf1 (duplicate SPF records break deliverability)

DNS Health Check Checklist | Verify records, email routing and propagation | Read disclaimer on last page before use

- SPF record includes all authorised sending sources: email provider, hosting server if applicable, any third-party tools that send email on your behalf
- DKIM TXT record exists at the correct selector subdomain as specified by your email provider
- DKIM record value contains the correct public key matching your email provider's current configuration
- DMARC TXT record exists at `_dmarc.yourdomain.com` with at minimum a `p=none` policy
- Test email sent from domain address to external inbox and received without spam filtering
- Test reply sent back to domain address and received correctly

Notes:

Group 3: Nameservers and TTL

- Nameserver values in registrar dashboard exactly match nameservers returned by a live NS lookup
- Both nameservers are responding to queries (no lame delegations)
- No leftover nameserver entries from previous DNS providers
- A record TTL is set to an appropriate value: 3600 seconds for stable records; 300 seconds if a change is planned within 24 to 48 hours
- MX record TTL is set to an appropriate value (3600 is typical)
- No records have TTL values of 86400 or higher unless they are highly stable records that will not need to change quickly

Notes:

Group 4: Housekeeping and Propagation

- No A records pointing to old hosting server IPs from previous providers
- All CNAME records reviewed: every destination hostname is confirmed active and under your control
- No dangling CNAME records pointing to decommissioned third-party service hostnames
- No MX records from previous email providers remaining alongside current provider's records
- SPF record does not include sending sources for email services no longer in use
- Old DKIM records from previous email providers removed
- TXT verification records for cancelled third-party services reviewed and removed if no longer needed
- DNS propagation checked from multiple geographic locations using DNSChecker.org or equivalent
- A record returns consistent results from multiple regions
- MX record returns consistent results from multiple regions
- Nameserver records return consistent results from multiple regions
- Results consistent from both Google public DNS (8.8.8.8) and Cloudflare DNS (1.1.1.1)

Notes:

Disclaimer

This checklist is for general informational and organizational purposes only. It is not legal, financial, or professional advice. It should not replace a personalized plan, provider documentation or licensed professional guidance, and it must be adapted to the user's situation.

DNS settings, record values, nameserver requirements, registrar dashboards and hosting provider procedures vary by provider and can change over time. Always verify current record values and configuration requirements directly with your DNS provider, domain registrar and hosting provider before making changes.

If this checklist is reprinted or republished online, please credit Web Hosting Services at webhostingservices.co.

For complex DNS configurations or situations where incorrect changes could cause significant downtime, email disruption or business risk, consider engaging a qualified hosting or DNS professional.

Web Hosting Services | webhostingservices.co



Website: <https://webhostingservices.co>
Email: support@webhostingservices.co
Support: <https://webhostingservices.co/contact-us>

Web Hosting Services helps individuals and businesses find, set up and manage shared hosting, VPS, managed environments and cloud infrastructure with straightforward guidance and honest recommendations. Our Education Center publishes in-depth articles, practical guides and free checklists covering every stage of the hosting journey, from choosing your first plan to migrating an established site. We also publish the best web hosting coupons, deals and verified discount codes updated regularly, so you can get the hosting you need at the right price.