

# How to set DNS nameserver in Ubuntu Server 18.04

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```
nameserver 8.8.4.4
nameserver 8.8.8.8
```

But, like everything else, technology is always growing. Developers are always trying to change the way people manage things for decades. This is true for open source technology.

That is the case of DNS on Ubuntu Server. Although the `/etc/resolv.conf` file still exists, it is no longer the place you configure your DNS nameserver. Network changes continue to be made public. But, to be fair, the DNS configuration is actually incomplete (at least not permanently) in `resolv.conf` files for quite some time. In fact, before Ubuntu 18.04, the DNS nameserver has been configured in `/etc/network/interfaces`. In this file, the following item will help you get out of your LAN:

```
dns-addresses 8.8.4.4.8.8.8.8
```

Log in to server 18.04 and find the file `/etc/network/interfaces`. However, you can configure all you want, but they won't work. Why? That's because Netplan, a new networking block for Ubuntu. Now, users can configure DNS nameserver via Netplan.

Why does Canonical make this change? According to official documents, the reason is: Netplan has been deployed to simplify complex network configurations, as well as solve some of the current limitations of `ifupdown`. Netplan provides a simple and beautiful `yaml` configuration format with support for many backend providers.

In other words, everything has been simplified (especially when considering the popularity of the `.yaml` format).

## New configuration

Although many people don't like to change, switching to Netplan is definitely the right step. With this change, the user's network configuration is handled in a single location (each interface has its own configuration file). Configuration files are found in `/etc/netplan`. The file name will be in the form `01-netcfg.yaml`. One of the most important aspects of this file is to be aligned consistently (otherwise they will not load). In these files, the user will configure all aspects of the network interface (including IP addresses, ports, DNS, etc.). For DNS configuration, this is done with two lines of code. For example, if you use Google's DNS server, enter the command like in the image below.

```
nameservers:  
  addresses: [8.8.4.4,8.8.8.8]
```

DNS servers are separated by commas. To keep things neat, you should combine the related servers together as shown in the image below.

```
nameservers:  
  addresses: [8.8.4.4,8.8.8.8]  
  addresses: [1.1.0.0,1.1.1.1]
```

Of course, you can also set all DNS server addresses on one line.

```
nameservers:  
  addresses: [8.8.4.4,8.8.8.8,1.1.0.0,1.1.1.1]
```

As long as they are separated by commas or even add spaces after each comma.

```
nameservers:  
  addresses: [8.8.4.4, 8.8.8.8, 1.1.0.0, 1.1.1.1]
```

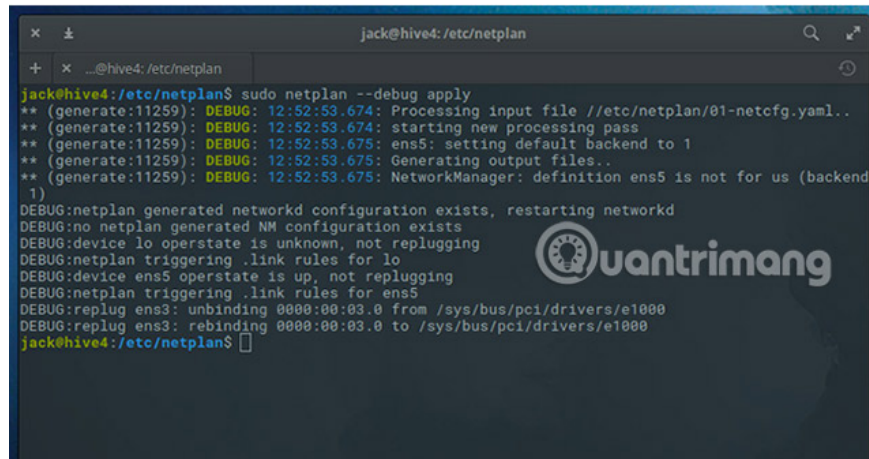
Now, everything is more neat and readable. Once you've made the configuration changes, save and close the file, then enter the following command:

```
sudo netplan apply
```

The configuration will be read and will be valid, as long as it is in the appropriate format. If something goes wrong, you can add the debug switch as follows:

```
sudo netplan --debug apply
```

The above command will provide all the necessary output to troubleshoot the network configuration.

A terminal window titled 'jack@hive4: /etc/netplan' showing the execution of 'sudo netplan --debug apply'. The output includes several debug messages: 'Processing input file //etc/netplan/01-netcfg.yaml..', 'starting new processing pass', 'ens5: setting default backend to 1', 'Generating output files..', and 'NetworkManager: definition ens5 is not for us (backend 1)'. It also shows messages about networkd and NM configuration existing, and link rules being triggered for 'lo' and 'ens5'. Finally, it shows 'replug ens3' with details about unbinding and rebinding IP addresses. The prompt returns to 'jack@hive4: /etc/netplan\$'.

```
jack@hive4: /etc/netplan$ sudo netplan --debug apply
** (generate:11259): DEBUG: 12:52:53.674: Processing input file //etc/netplan/01-netcfg.yaml..
** (generate:11259): DEBUG: 12:52:53.674: starting new processing pass
** (generate:11259): DEBUG: 12:52:53.675: ens5: setting default backend to 1
** (generate:11259): DEBUG: 12:52:53.675: Generating output files..
** (generate:11259): DEBUG: 12:52:53.675: NetworkManager: definition ens5 is not for us (backend
1)
DEBUG:netplan generated networkd configuration exists, restarting networkd
DEBUG:no netplan generated NM configuration exists
DEBUG:device lo operstate is unknown, not replugging
DEBUG:netplan triggering .link rules for lo
DEBUG:device ens5 operstate is up, not replugging
DEBUG:netplan triggering .link rules for ens5
DEBUG:replug ens3: unbinding 0000:00:03.0 from /sys/bus/pci/drivers/e1000
DEBUG:replug ens3: rebinding 0000:00:03.0 to /sys/bus/pci/drivers/e1000
jack@hive4: /etc/netplan$
```



Whether you like it or not, this is currently the Ubuntu network configured. Make sure you are catching up with new changes in the Ubuntu world, otherwise you will be increasingly frustrated about why your network is constantly experiencing problems. Netplan is here to make things easier.

Good luck!

See more:

1. [How to configure DNS Server on Ubuntu Server 11.04](#)
2. [Instructions for installing Ubuntu Web Server on remote host](#)
3. [Instructions for installing BIKALIMS Inkosi on Ubuntu Server](#)

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