

December 18, 2024

Domain Name System (DNS) Protection Enforcement in QualityNet (QNet) Cloud

Summary: To strengthen security and meet Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) security mandates, we will begin enforcement of a policy that will block DNS requests to external untrusted resolvers from within QNet.

What is Changing: Currently, DNS lookups within QNet can be resolved through external public DNS resolvers without restriction. This practice is in violation of policy, sidesteps security controls, compromises compliance with mandates to utilize trusted DNS resolvers, and increases the potential for security risks.

On Monday, January 6, 2025, the QNet Cloud team will implement configurations to:

- Block all outbound DNS queries sent to external internet DNS resolvers.
 - This includes publicly available services such as Google's DNS (e.g., 8.8.8.8) and others.
- Require all systems and services within QNet to use the default DNS configurations:
 - Microsoft AD-DNS servers for Windows-based operating systems.
 - Route53 VPC .2 for non-Windows-based operating systems and services.

When is This Happening: Monday, January 6, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. ET.

Who Will Be Impacted: All Application Development Organizations (ADOs) and QNet Cloud users.

What is the Impact:

- All outbound DNS queries directed to external public DNS resolvers will be blocked.
- DNS resolution will be restricted to the default DNS configurations within the QNet Cloud.
- To prevent disruptions, users and applications must verify that their systems and services are properly configured to use the QNet default DNS resolvers.
- Explicit DNS lookups using tools such as nslookup and similar utilities will continue to function, provided they are not configured to use an external DNS resolver.

Support and Questions:

For questions or additional support, reach out through the following channels:

- Slack Channel: [#help-cloud](#)
- See [QNet Network Security Mandate - DNS Updates](#)

If you need additional information, contact us:

Phone: 1-866-288-8914
Slack: [#help-service-center-sos](#)

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