
getdns Documentation

Release 0.2.1

Melinda Shore, Gowri Visweswaran

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“getdns” is an implementation of Python language bindings for the [getdns](#) API. getdns is a modern, asynchronous DNS API that simplifies access to advanced DNS features, including DNSSEC. The [API specification](#) was developed by Paul Hoffman. getdns is built on top of the [getdns](#) implementation developed as a joint project between [Verisign Labs](#) and [NLnet Labs](#).

We have tried to keep this interface as Pythonic as we can while staying true to the [getdns](#) architecture. With this release we are moving towards a design that is more consistent with Python object design.

Dependencies

This version of `getdns` has been built and tested against Python 2.7. We also expect these other prerequisites to be installed:

- `libgetdns`, version 0.1.2 or later
- `libldns`, version 1.6.11 or later
- `libunbound`, version 1.4.16 or later
- `libexpat` (needed for unbound)
- `libidn` version 1
- `libevent` version 2.0.21 stable

n.b.: `libgetdns` *must* be built with the `libevent` extension, as follows:

```
./configure --with-libevent
```

This release has been tested against `libgetdns` 0.1.5.

Building

The code repository for getdns is available at: <https://github.com/getdnsapi/getdns-python-bindings>. If you are building from source you will need the Python development package for Python 2.7. On Linux systems this is typically something along the lines of “python-dev” or “python2.7-dev”, available through your package system. On Mac OS we are building against the python.org release, available in source form [here](#).

For the actual build, we are using the standard Python [distutils](#). To build and install:

```
python setup.py build
python setup.py install
```

Using getdns

3.1 Contexts

All getdns queries happen within a resolution *context*, and among the first tasks you'll need to do before issuing a query is to acquire a Context object. A context is an opaque object with attributes describing the environment within which the query and replies will take place, including elements such as DNSSEC validation, whether the resolution should be performed as a recursive resolver or a stub resolver, and so on. Individual Context attributes may be examined directly, and the overall state of a given context can be queried with the `Context.get_api_information()` method.

See section 8 of the [API specification](#)

3.2 Examples

In this example, we do a simple address lookup and dump the results to the screen:

```
import getdns, pprint, sys

def main():
    if len(sys.argv) != 2:
        print "Usage: {0} hostname".format(sys.argv[0])
        sys.exit(1)

    ctx = getdns.Context()
    extensions = { "return_both_v4_and_v6" : getdns.GETDNS_EXTENSION_TRUE }
    results = ctx.address(name=sys.argv[1], extensions=extensions)
    if results["status"] == getdns.GETDNS_RESPSTATUS_GOOD:
        sys.stdout.write("Addresses: ")

        for addr in results["just_address_answers"]:
            print " {0}".format(addr["address_data"])
        sys.stdout.write("\n\n")
        print "Entire results tree: "
        pprint.pprint(results)
    if results["status"] == getdns.GETDNS_RESPSTATUS_NO_NAME:
        print "{0} not found".format(sys.argv[1])

if __name__ == "__main__":
    main()
```

In this example, we do a DNSSEC query and check the response:

```
import getdns, sys

dnssec_status = {
    "GETDNS_DNSSEC_SECURE" : 400,
    "GETDNS_DNSSEC_BOGUS" : 401,
    "GETDNS_DNSSEC_INDETERINATE" : 402,
    "GETDNS_DNSSEC_INSECURE" : 403,
    "GETDNS_DNSSEC_NOT_PERFORMED" : 404
}

def dnssec_message(value):
    for message in dnssec_status.keys():
        if dnssec_status[message] == value:
            return message

def main():
    if len(sys.argv) != 2:
        print "Usage: {0} hostname".format(sys.argv[0])
        sys.exit(1)

    ctx = getdns.Context()
    extensions = { "return_both_v4_and_v6" : getdns.GETDNS_EXTENSION_TRUE,
                  "dnssec_return_status" : getdns.GETDNS_EXTENSION_TRUE }
    results = ctx.address(name=sys.argv[1], extensions=extensions)
    if results["status"] == getdns.GETDNS_RESPSTATUS_GOOD:
        sys.stdout.write("Addresses: ")
        for addr in results["just_address_answers"]:
            print " {0}".format(addr["address_data"])
        sys.stdout.write("\n")

        for result in results["replies_tree"]:
            if "dnssec_status" in result.keys():
                print "{0}: dnssec_status: {1}".format(result["canonical_name"],
                                                       dnssec_message(result["dnssec_status"]))

    if results["status"] == getdns.GETDNS_RESPSTATUS_NO_NAME:
        print "{0} not found".format(sys.argv[1])

if __name__ == "__main__":
    main()
```

Known issues

- “userarg” currently only accepts a string. This will be changed in a future release, to take arbitrary data types

Contents:

4.1 getdns reference

4.1.1 getdns contexts

This section describes the *getdns* Context object, as well as its methods and attributes.

class `getdns.Context` (`[set_from_os]`)

Creates a *context*, an opaque object which describes the environment within which a DNS query executes. This includes namespaces, root servers, resolution types, and so on. These are accessed programmatically through the attributes described below.

`Context()` takes one optional constructor argument. `set_from_os` is an integer and may take the value either 0 or 1. If 1, which most developers will want, *getdns* will populate the context with default values for the platform on which it’s running.

The `Context` class has the following public read/write attributes:

resolution_type

Specifies whether DNS queries are performed with nonrecursive lookups or as a stub resolver. The value is either `getdns.GETDNS_RESOLUTION_RECURSING` or `getdns.GETDNS_RESOLUTION_STUB`.

If an implementation of this API is only able to act as a recursive resolver, setting *resolution_type* to `getdns.GETDNS_RESOLUTION_STUB` will throw an exception.

namespaces

The *namespaces* attribute takes an ordered list of namespaces that will be queried. (*Important: this context setting is ignored for the `getdns.general()` function; it is used for the other functions.*) The allowed values are `getdns.GETDNS_NAMESPACE_DNS`, `getdns.GETDNS_NAMESPACE_LOCALNAMES`, `getdns.GETDNS_NAMESPACE_NETBIOS`, `getdns.GETDNS_NAMESPACE_MDNS`, and `getdns.GETDNS_NAMESPACE_NIS`. When a normal lookup is done, the API does the lookups in the order given and stops when it gets the first result; a different method with the same result would be to run the queries in parallel and return when it gets the first result. Because lookups might be done over different mechanisms because of the different namespaces, there can be information leakage that is similar to that seen with POSIX *getaddrinfo()*. The default is determined by the OS.

dns_transport

Specifies what transport is used for DNS lookups. The value must be one

of `getdns.GETDNS_TRANSPORT_UDP_FIRST_AND_FALL_BACK_TO_TCP`, `getdns.GETDNS_TRANSPORT_UDP_ONLY`, `getdns.GETDNS_TRANSPORT_TCP_ONLY`, or `getdns.GETDNS_TRANSPORT_TCP_ONLY_KEEP_CONNECTIONS_OPEN`.

limit_outstanding_queries

Specifies *limit* (an integer value) on the number of outstanding DNS queries. The API will block itself from sending more queries if it is about to exceed this value, and instead keep those queries in an internal queue. The a value of 0 indicates that the number of outstanding DNS queries is unlimited.

follow_redirects

Specifies whether or not DNS queries follow redirects. The value must be one of `getdns.GETDNS_REDIRECTS_FOLLOW` for normal following of redirects though CNAME and DNAME; or `getdns.GETDNS_REDIRECTS_DO_NOT_FOLLOW` to cause any lookups that would have gone through CNAME and DNAME to return the CNAME or DNAME, not the eventual target.

dns_root_servers

The value of *dns_root_servers* is a list of dictionaries containing addresses to be used for looking up top-level domains. Each dict in the list contains two key-value pairs:

- address_data*: a string representation of an IPv4 or IPv6 address
- address_type*: either the string “IPv4” or “IPv6”

For example, the addresses list could look like

```
>>> addr = [ { 'address_data': '2001:7b8:206:1::4:53', 'address_type': 'IPv6' },
...          { 'address_data': '65.22.9.1', 'address_type': 'IPv4' } ]
>>> mycontext.dns_root_servers = addr
```

append_name

Specifies whether to append a suffix to the query string before the API starts resolving a name. Its value must be one of `getdns.GETDNS_APPEND_NAME_ALWAYS`, `getdns.GETDNS_APPEND_NAME_ONLY_TO_SINGLE_LABEL_AFTER_FAILURE`, `getdns.GETDNS_APPEND_NAME_ONLY_TO_MULTIPLE_LABEL_NAME_AFTER_FAILURE`, or `getdns.GETDNS_APPEND_NAME_NEVER`. This controls whether or not to append the suffix given by *suffix*.

suffix

Its value is a list of strings to be appended based on *append_name*. The list elements must follow the rules in [RFC 4343](#)

dnssec_trust_anchors

Its value is a list of DNSSEC trust anchors, expressed as RDATA from DNSKEY resource records.

dnssec_allowed_skew

Its value is the number of seconds of skew that is allowed in either direction when checking an RRSIG's Expiration and Inception fields. The default is 0.

edns_maximum_udp_payload_size

Its value must be an integer between 512 and 65535, inclusive. The default is 512.

edns_extended_rcode

Its value must be an integer between 0 and 255, inclusive. The default is 0.

edns_version

Its value must be an integer between 0 and 255, inclusive. The default is 0.

edns_do_bit

Its value must be an integer valued either 0 or 1. The default is 0.

timeout

Its value must be an integer specifying a timeout for a query, expressed in milliseconds.

upstream_recursive_servers

A list of dicts defining where a stub resolver will send queries. Each dict in the list contains at least two names: `address_type` (whose value is a bindata; it is currently either “IPv4” or “IPv6”) and `address_data` (whose value is a bindata). It might also contain `port` to specify which port to use to contact these DNS servers; the default is 53. If the stub and a recursive resolver both support TSIG (RFC 2845), the `upstream_list` entry can also contain `tsig_algorithm` (a bindata) that is the name of the TSIG hash algorithm, and `tsig_secret` (a bindata) that is the TSIG key.

The `Context` class includes public methods to execute a DNS query, as well as a method to return the entire set of context attributes as a Python dictionary. `Context` methods are described below:

general (*name*, *request_type* [, *extensions*] [, *userarg*] [, *transaction_id*] [, *callback*])

`Context.general()` is used for looking up any type of DNS record. The keyword arguments are:

- `name`: a representation of the query term; usually a string but must be a dict (as described below) in the case of a PTR record lookup
- `request_type`: a DNS RR type as a getdns constant (listed here)
- `extensions`: optional. A dictionary containing attribute/value pairs, as described below
- `userarg`: optional. A string containing arbitrary user data; this is opaque to getdns
- `transaction_id`: optional. An integer.
- `callback`: optional. This is a function name. If it is present the query will be performed asynchronously (described below).

address (*name* [, *extensions*] [, *userarg*] [, *transaction_id*] [, *callback*])

There are three critical differences between `Context.address()` and `Context.general()` beyond the missing `request_type` argument:

- In `getdns.address()`, the `name` argument can only take a host name.
- `Context.address()` always uses all of namespaces from the context (to better emulate `getaddrinfo()`), while `Context.general()` only uses the DNS namespace.

hostname (*name* [, *extensions*] [, *userarg*] [, *transaction_id*] [, *callback*])

The address is given as a dictionary. The dictionary must have two names:

- `address_type`: must be a string matching either “IPv4” or “IPv6”
- `address_data`: a string representation of an IPv4 or IPv6 IP address

service (*name* [, *extensions*] [, *userarg*] [, *transaction_id*] [, *callback*])

`name` must be a domain name for an SRV lookup. The call returns the relevant SRV information for the `name`

get_api_information ()

Retrieves context information. The information is returned as a Python dictionary with the following keys:

- `version_string`
- `implementation_string`
- `resolver_type`
- `all_context`

`all_context` is a dictionary containing the following keys:

- `append_name`
- `dns_transport`
- `dnssec_allowed_skew`

- `edns_do_bit`
- `edns_extended_rcode`
- `edns_maximum_udp_payload_size`
- `edns_version`
- `follow_redirects`
- `limit_outstanding_queries`
- `namespaces`
- `suffix`
- `timeout`
- `upstream_recursive_servers`

The `getdns` module has the following read-only attribute:

`getdns.__version__`
Specifies the version string for the `getdns` python module

4.1.2 Extensions

Extensions are Python dictionaries, with the keys being the names of the extensions. The definition of each extension describes the values that may be assigned to that extension. For most extensions it is a Boolean, and since the default value is “False” it will most often take the value `getdns.GETDNS_EXTENSION_TRUE`.

The extensions currently supported by `getdns` are:

- `dnssec_return_status`
- `dnssec_return_only_secure`
- `dnssec_return_validation_chain`
- `return_both_v4_and_v6`
- `add_opt_parameters`
- `add_warning_for_bad_dns`
- `specify_class`
- `return_call_debugging`

Extensions for DNSSEC

If an application wants the API to do DNSSEC validation for a request, it must set one or more DNSSEC-related extensions. Note that the default is for none of these extensions to be set and the API will not perform DNSSEC validation. Note that getting DNSSEC results can take longer in a few circumstances.

To return the DNSSEC status for each DNS record in the `replies_tree` list, use the `dnssec_return_status` extension. Set the extension’s value to `getdns.GETDNS_EXTENSION_TRUE` to cause the returned status to have the name `dnssec_status` added to the other names in the record’s dictionary (“header”, “question”, and so on). The potential values for that name are `getdns.GETDNS_DNSSEC_SECURE`, `getdns.GETDNS_DNSSEC_BOGUS`, `getdns.GETDNS_DNSSEC_INDETERMINATE`, and `getdns.GETDNS_DNSSEC_INSECURE`.

If instead of returning the status, you want to only see secure results, use the `dnssec_return_only_secure` extension. The extension’s value is set to `getdns.GETDNS_EXTENSION_TRUE` to cause only records that the

API can validate as secure with DNSSEC to be returned in the `replies_tree` and `replies_full` lists. No additional names are added to the dict of the record; the change is that some records might not appear in the results. When this context option is set, if the API receives DNS replies but none are determined to be secure, the error code at the top level of the `response` object is `getdns.GETDNS_RESPSTATUS_NO_SECURE_ANSWERS`.

Applications that want to do their own validation will want to have the DNSSEC-related records for a particular response. Use the `dnssec_return_validation_chain` extension. Set the extension's value to `getdns.GETDNS_EXTENSION_TRUE` to cause a set of additional DNSSEC-related records needed for validation to be returned in the `response` object. This set comes as `validation_chain` (a list) at the top level of the `response` object. This list includes all resource record dicts for all the resource records (DS, DNSKEY and their RRSIGs) that are needed to perform the validation from the root up.

If a request is using a context in which stub resolution is set, and that request also has any of the `dnssec_return_status`, `dnssec_return_only_secure`, or `dnssec_return_validation_chain` extensions specified, the API will not perform the request and will instead return an error of `getdns.GETDNS_RETURN_DNSSEC_WITH_STUB_DISALLOWED`.

Returning both IPv4 and IPv6 responses

Many applications want to get both IPv4 and IPv6 addresses in a single call so that the results can be processed together. The `address()` method is able to do this automatically. If you are using the `general()` method, you can enable this with the `return_both_v4_and_v6` extension. The extension's value must be set to `getdns.GETDNS_EXTENSION_TRUE` to cause the results to be the lookup of either A or AAAA records to include any A and AAAA records for the queried name (otherwise, the extension does nothing). These results are expected to be usable with Happy Eyeballs systems that will find the best socket for an application.

Setting up OPT resource records

For lookups that need an **OPT** resource record in the Additional Data section, use the `add_opt_parameters` extension. The extension's value (a dict) contains the parameters; these are described in more detail in [RFC 2671](#). They are:

- `maximum_udp_payload_size`: an integer between 512 and 65535 inclusive. If not specified it defaults to the value in the `getdns` context.
- `extended_rcode`: an integer between 0 and 255 inclusive. If not specified it defaults to the value in the `getdns` context.
- `version`: an integer between 0 and 255 inclusive. If not specified it defaults to 0.
- `do_bit`: must be either 0 or 1. If not specified it defaults to the value in the `getdns` context.
- `options`: a list containing dictionaries for each option to be specified. Each dictionary contains two keys: `option_code` (an integer) and `option_data` (in the form appropriate for that option code).

It is very important to note that the OPT resource record specified in the `add_opt_parameters` extension might not be the same the one that the API sends in the query. For example, if the application also includes any of the DNSSEC extensions, the API will make sure that the OPT resource record sets the resource record appropriately, making the needed changes to the settings from the `add_opt_parameters` extension.

Getting Warnings for Responses that Violate the DNS Standard

To receive a warning if a particular response violates some parts of the DNS standard, use the `add_warning_for_bad_dns` extension. The extension's value is set to `getdns.GETDNS_EXTENSION_TRUE` to cause each reply in the `replies_tree` to contain an additional

name, `bad_dns` (a list). The list is zero or more values that indicate types of bad DNS found in that reply. The list of values is:

`getdns.GETDNS_BAD_DNS_CNAME_IN_TARGET`

A DNS query type that does not allow a target to be a CNAME pointed to a CNAME

`getdns.GETDNS_BAD_DNS_ALL_NUMERIC_LABEL`

One or more labels in a returned domain name is all-numeric; this is not legal for a hostname

`getdns.GETDNS_BAD_DNS_CNAME_RETURNED_FOR_OTHER_TYPE`

A DNS query for a type other than CNAME returned a CNAME response

Using other class types

The vast majority of DNS requests are made with the Internet (IN) class. To make a request in a different DNS class, use, the `specify_class` extension. The extension's value (an int) contains the class number. Few applications will ever use this extension.

Extensions relating to the API

An application might want to see debugging information for queries, such as the length of time it takes for each query to return to the API. Use the `return_call_debugging` extension. The extension's value is set to `getdns.GETDNS_EXTENSION_TRUE` to add the name `call_debugging` (a list) to the top level of the response object. Each member of the list is a dict that represents one call made for the call to the API. Each member has the following names:

- `query_name` is the name that was sent
- `query_type` is the type that was queried for
- `query_to` is the address to which the query was sent
- `start_time` is the time the query started in milliseconds since the epoch, represented as an integer
- `end_time` is the time the query was received in milliseconds since the epoch, represented as an integer
- `entire_reply` is the entire response received
- `dnssec_result` is the DNSSEC status, or `getdns.GETDNS_DNSSEC_NOT_PERFORMED` if DNSSEC validation was not performed

4.2 getdns response data

4.2.1 Response data from queries

A response object is always a dict containing at least three names: `replies_full` (a list) `replies_tree` (a list), and `status` (an integer constant). `replies_full` is a list of DNS replies as they appear on the wire. `replies_tree` is a list of DNS replies (each is a dictionary) with the various part of the reply parsed out. `status` is a status code for the query.

Because the API might be extended in the future, a `response` object could also contain names other than `replies_full`, `replies_tree`, and `status`. Similarly, any of the dicts described here might be extended in later versions of the API. Thus, an application using the API must not assume that it knows all possible names in a dict.

The following lists the status codes for response objects. Note that, if the status is that there are no responses for the query, the lists in `replies_full` and `replies_tree` will have zero length.

`getdns.GETDNS_RESPSTATUS_GOOD`

At least one response was returned

`getdns.GETDNS_RESPSTATUS_NO_NAME`

Queries for the name yielded all negative responses

`getdns.GETDNS_RESPSTATUS_ALL_TIMEOUT`

All queries for the name timed out

`getdns.GETDNS_RESPSTATUS_NO_SECURE_ANSWERS`

The context setting for getting only secure responses was specified, and at least one DNS response was received, but no DNS response was determined to be secure through DNSSEC.

The top level of `replies_tree` can optionally have the following names: `canonical_name`, `intermediate_aliases` (a list), `answer_ipv4_address`, `answer_ipv6_address`, and `answer_type` (an integer constant.).

- The value of `canonical_name` is the name that the API used for its lookup. It is in FQDN presentation format.
- The values in the `intermediate_aliases` list are domain names from any CNAME or unsynthesized DNAME found when resolving the original query. The list might have zero entries if there were no CNAMEs in the path. These may be useful, for example, for name comparisons when following the rules in RFC 6125.
- The value of `answer_ipv4_address` and `answer_ipv6_address` are the addresses of the server from which the answer was received.
- The value of `answer_type` is the type of name service that generated the response. The values are:

`getdns.GETDNS_NAMETYPE_DNS`

Normal DNS ([RFC 1035](#))

`getdns.GETDNS_NAMETYPE_WINS`

The WINS name service (some reference needed)

If the call was `address()`, the top level of `replies_tree` has an additional name, `just_address_answers` (a list). The value of `just_address_answers` is a list that contains all of the A and AAAA records from the `answer` sections of any of the replies, in the order they appear in the replies. Each item in the list is a dict with at least two names: `address_type` (a string whose value is either “IPv4” or “IPv6”) and `address_data` (whose value is a string representation of an IP address). Note that the `dnssec_return_only_secure` extension affects what will appear in the `just_address_answers` list. Also note if later versions of the DNS return other address types, those types will appear in this list as well.

The API can make service discovery through SRV records easier. If the call was `service()`, the top level of `replies_tree` has an additional name, `srv_addresses` (a list). The list is ordered by priority and weight based on the weighting algorithm in [RFC 2782](#), lowest priority value first. Each element of the list is a dictionary that has at least two names: `port` and `domain_name`. If the API was able to determine the address of the target domain name (such as from its cache or from the Additional section of responses), the dict for an element will also contain `address_type` (whose value is currently either “IPv4” or “IPv6”) and `address_data` (whose value is a string representation of an IP address). Note that the `dnssec_return_only_secure` extension affects what will appear in the `srv_addresses` list.

Structure of DNS `replies_tree`

The names in each entry in the `replies_tree` list for DNS responses include `header` (a dict), `question` (a dict), `answer` (a list), `authority` (a list), and `additional` (a list), corresponding to the sections in the DNS

message format. The `answer`, `authority`, and `additional` lists each contain zero or more dicts, with each dict in each list representing a resource record.

The names in the header dict are all the fields from [RFC 1035](#). They are: `id`, `qr`, `opcode`, `aa`, `tc`, `rd`, `ra`, `z`, `rcode`, `qdcOUNT`, `ancOUNT`, `nscOUNT`, and `arCOUNT`. All are integers.

The names in the question dict are the three fields from [RFC 1035](#): `qname`, `qtype`, and `qclass`.

Resource records are a bit different than headers and question sections in that the RDATA portion often has its own structure. The other names in the resource record dictionaries are `name`, `type`, `class`, `tTL`, and `rdata` (which is a dict); there is no name equivalent to the RLENGTH field. The OPT resource record does not have the `class` and the `tTL` name, but instead provides `udp_payload_size`, `extended_rcode`, `version`, `do`, and `z`.

The `rdata` dictionary has different names for each response type. There is a complete list of the types defined in the API. For names that end in “-obsolete” or “-unknown”, the data are the entire RDATA field. For example, the `rdata` for an A record has a name `ipv4_address`; the `rdata` for an SRV record has the names `priority`, `weight`, `port`, and `target`.

Each `rdata` dict also has a `rdata_raw` element. This is useful for types not defined in this version of the API. It also might be of value if a later version of the API allows for additional parsers. Thus, doing a query for types not known by the API still will return a result: an `rdata` with just a `rdata_raw`.

It is expected that later extensions to the API will give some DNS types different names. It is also possible that later extensions will change the names for some of the DNS types listed above.

For example, a response to a `getdns_address()` call for `www.example.com` would look something like this:

```
{
  # This is the response object
  "replies_full": [ <bindata of the first response>, <bindata of the second response> ],
  "just_address_answers":
  [
    {
      "address_type": <bindata of "IPv4">,
      "address_data": <bindata of 0x0a0b0c01>,
    },
    {
      "address_type": <bindata of "IPv6">,
      "address_data": <bindata of 0x3344556633445566334455663344556633445566>
    }
  ],
  "canonical_name": <bindata of "www.example.com">,
  "answer_type": GETDNS_NAME_TYPE_DNS,
  "intermediate_aliases": [],
  "replies_tree":
  [
    {
      # This is the first reply
      "header": { "id": 23456, "qr": 1, "opcode": 0, ... },
      "question": { "qname": <bindata of "www.example.com">, "qtype": 1, "qclass": 1 },
      "answer":
      [
        {
          "name": <bindata of "www.example.com">,
          "type": 1,
          "class": 1,
          "ttl": 33000,
          "rdata":
          {
            "ipv4_address": <bindata of 0x0a0b0c01>
            "rdata_raw": <bindata of 0x0a0b0c01>
          }
        }
      ]
    }
  ]
}
```

```

|     }
|   ],
|   "authority":
|   [
|     {
|       "name": <bindata of "ns1.example.com">,
|       "type": 1,
|       "class": 1,
|       "ttl": 600,
|       "rdata":
|       {
|         "ipv4_address": <bindata of 0x65439876>
|         "rdata_raw": <bindata of 0x65439876>
|       }
|     }
|   ]
|   "additional": [],
|   "canonical_name": <bindata of "www.example.com">,
|   "answer_type": GETDNS_NAME_TYPE_DNS
| },
| { # This is the second reply
|   "header": { "id": 47809, "qr": 1, "opcode": 0, ... },
|   "question": { "qname": <bindata of "www.example.com">, "qtype": 28, "qclass": 1 },
|   "answer":
|   [
|     {
|       "name": <bindata of "www.example.com">,
|       "type": 28,
|       "class": 1,
|       "ttl": 1000,
|       "rdata":
|       {
|         "ipv6_address": <bindata of 0x33445566334455663344556633445566>
|         "rdata_raw": <bindata of 0x33445566334455663344556633445566>
|       }
|     }
|   ],
|   "authority": [ # Same as for other record... ]
|   "additional": [],
| },
| ]
| }

```

In DNS responses, domain names are treated special. [RFC 1035](#) describes a form of name compression that requires that the entire record be available for analysis. The API deals with this by converting compressed names into full names when returning names in the `replies_tree`. This conversion happens for `qname` in `question`; `name` in the `answer`, `authority`, and `additional`; and in domain names in the data in `names` under `rdata` where the response type is AFSDB, CNAME, MX, NS, PTR, RP, RT, or SOA.

4.2.2 Return Codes

The return codes for all the functions are:

```
getdns.GETDNS_RETURN_GOOD
    Good
```

```
getdns.GETDNS_RETURN_GENERIC_ERROR
```

Generic error

`getdns.GETDNS_RETURN_BAD_DOMAIN_NAME`

Badly-formed domain name in first argument

`getdns.GETDNS_RETURN_BAD_CONTEXT`

The context has internal deficiencies

`getdns.GETDNS_RETURN_CONTEXT_UPDATE_FAIL`

Did not update the context

`getdns.GETDNS_RETURN_UNKNOWN_TRANSACTION`

An attempt was made to cancel a callback with a `transaction_id` that is not recognized

`getdns.GETDNS_RETURN_NO_SUCH_LIST_ITEM`

A helper function for lists had an `index` argument that was too high.

`getdns.GETDNS_RETURN_NO_SUCH_DICT_NAME`

A helper function for dicts had a `name` argument that for a name that is not in the dict.

`getdns.GETDNS_RETURN_WRONG_TYPE_REQUESTED`

A helper function was supposed to return a certain type for an item, but the wrong type was given.

`getdns.GETDNS_RETURN_NO_SUCH_EXTENSION`

A name in the extensions dict is not a valid extension.

`getdns.GETDNS_RETURN_EXTENSION_MISFORMAT`

One or more of the extensions have a bad format.

`getdns.GETDNS_RETURN_DNSSEC_WITH_STUB_DISALLOWED`

A query was made with a context that is using stub resolution and a DNSSEC extension specified.

`getdns.GETDNS_RETURN_MEMORY_ERROR`

Unable to allocate the memory required.

`getdns.GETDNS_RETURN_INVALID_PARAMETER`

A required parameter had an invalid value.

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