



## **Talk-101 User Guide**

### **DNSGate**

#### **What is DNSGate?**

DNSGate is a management interface to allow you to make DNS changes to your domain. The interface supports A, CNAME, MX and TXT records.

#### **What is DNS?**

DNS stands for Domain Name System.

DNS holds configuration information for domain names. Such configuration includes mapping domain names to IP addresses (for example [www.talk-101.com](http://www.talk-101.com) pointing to 80.74.241.131); and information on where e-mail for a domain should be directed.

For more information on what task each DNS record type performs, please refer to Appendix A at the end of this document.

# Contents

1. Logging into the DNSGate system
2. Managing DNS
  - a. Creating a New DNS Record
  - b. Updating an existing DNS Record
  - c. Deleting a DNS Record
3. Further Information
4. Appendixes
  - a. Appendix A – DNS Record Types

# 1. Logging into the DNSGate system

When your domain has been configured for DNS Management through DNSGate you will be supplied with a DNSGate password. This password allows you to log into the DNSGate interface and make any necessary changes to the DNS for your domain.

To login to the DNSGate system, use a web browser to go to <http://dnsgate.talk-101.com/>

Once on the login screen, enter your domain name and DNSGate password, and then click the **'Login'** button.



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: Hosting Management :

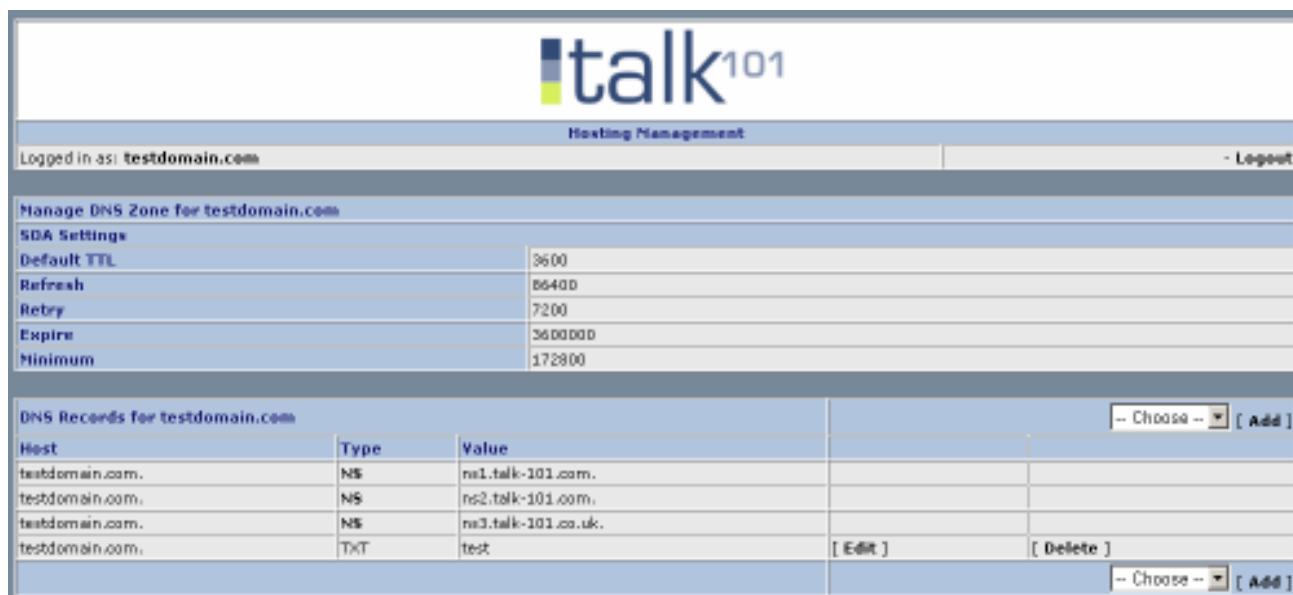
Username:

Password:

Login >>

If you require access please contact our support department:  
0870 754 1012 or email: support@talk-101.com

Once you have logged in, you will be presented with the DNS Configuration for your domain and a list of DNS Records that are associated with your domain.



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Hosting Management

Logged in as: testdomain.com - Logout

Manage DNS Zone for testdomain.com

**SDA Settings**

Default TTL	3600
Refresh	66400
Retry	7200
Expire	3600000
Minimum	172800

DNS Records for testdomain.com -- Choose -- [ Add ]

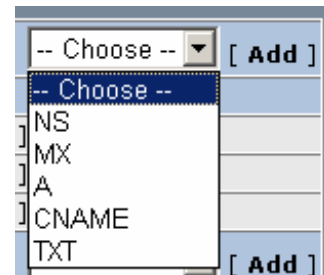
Host	Type	Value		
testdomain.com.	NS	ns1.talk-101.com.		
testdomain.com.	NS	ns2.talk-101.com.		
testdomain.com.	NS	ns3.talk-101.co.uk.		
testdomain.com.	TXT	test	[ Edit ]	[ Delete ]

-- Choose -- [ Add ]

## 2. Managing DNS

### Creating a new DNS Record

To create a new DNS record, choose the record type you wish to create from the drop-down list, which is at the top and the bottom of the DNS record list; and click the '**Add**' link.



You will then be asked to enter the details for that record. The information required will depend on the record type you select.

<b>NS</b>	For a Name Server (NS) record, you will be asked to enter the zone and the name server. The zone will default to the domain name followed by a full-stop. You should not need to modify the Zone unless you are delegating control of a subdomain to other name server(s).
<b>MX</b>	For an MX record you are asked to enter the Host, Priority and Mail Server. The Host will default to the domain, and does not need to be changed unless you are setting up email for a subdomain within the zone. The Priority will be a number. The lower the number, the higher the priority the mail server will receive. The Mail Server is the FQDN (Fully Qualified DNS Name) for the server you wish to receive email for the Host.  Note: If the mail server is outside of the zone (i.e. not within the same domain), it must be terminated with a full-stop; otherwise it will be considered to be within the zone, and mail will not work. (See Appendix A for further information).
<b>A</b>	An A record requires two pieces of information. The first is the Host, which is the name (e.g. www) that you wish to point. The second is the IP address which is where you wish to point the name.
<b>CNAME</b>	A CNAME record requires an Alias Name and the Host you wish to point the alias to.
<b>TXT</b>	A TXT require requires the Host to which you wish the TXT record be associated. (You should not need to change this unless you are adding a TXT record for a subdomain within the zone); and the Text part of the field. The text field can be a maximum of up to 255 characters.

Once you have finished entering the required information, click 'Add DNS Record'.

For further information on DNS record types, see Appendix A.

**Note:**

All changes may take a few moments to take effect on our DNS servers. Propagation across the Internet can take 24-72 hours.

## Updating an existing DNS Record

To update an existing DNS record, click the '**Edit**' link next to the DNS record you wish to update. Make the required changes to the record (for further information on the details required, see **Creating a New DNS Record**). Once you have finished making your changes, click the '**Update DNS Record**' button, and your changes will be submitted.

**Note:** You may not be able to change your NS records. If this is the case, then please email us with what changes you are trying to make and we will advise and make the necessary changes for you.

**Note:**

All changes may take a few moments to take effect on our DNS servers. Propagation across the Internet can take 24-72 hours.

## Deleting a DNS Record

To remove an existing DNS record, click the '**Delete**' link next to the record you wish to delete. You will be asked to confirm that you want to delete the record. If you are sure, click '**OK**'; otherwise click '**Cancel**'.

**Note:**

All changes may take a few moments to take effect on our DNS servers. Propagation across the Internet can take 24-72 hours.

## 3. Further Information

If you require any further assistance in using the DNSGate system, or have found any issues with the system, please contact a member of the Talk-101 technical support team on 0845 310 1012 or by emailing [support@talk-101.com](mailto:support@talk-101.com)

## Appendix A – DNS Record Types

Record Type	Purpose
A	<p>An 'A' record points a DNS name (domain) to an IP address.</p> <p>For example, to point <a href="http://www.talk-101.com">www.talk-101.com</a> to an IP address of 80.74.241.131, you would add the following record:</p> <pre>www IN A 80.74.241.131</pre>
CNAME	<p>A 'CNAME' record (Canonical Name) holds aliases of names.</p> <p>A single IP address could hold many domain names, and you could create an A record for every name. This would however be impractical, and instead a CNAME can be created to alias a name onto another.</p> <p>For example, to point news.talk-101.com to the same IP address as <a href="http://www.talk-101.com">www.talk-101.com</a> you would create the following record (within the talk-101.com zone)</p> <pre>news IN CNAME www</pre> <p>If you were creating a CNAME onto a host outside the zone (e.g. news.talk-101.com onto news.bbc.co.uk); then you must specify the full name followed by a full-stop. E.g.</p> <pre>news IN CNAME news.bbc.co.uk.</pre> <p>Failing to put the full-stop at the end of the name would result in news.talk-101.com pointing to news.bbc.co.uk.talk-101.com.</p>

MX	<p>An MX record (Mail Exchange) provides two pieces of information about where mail for a domain name should be pointed to.</p> <p>The first is the priority, which is specified as a number. The lower the number, the higher the priority of mail server.</p> <p>The second is the name of the mail server itself. As per CNAME records, if the name is outside of the zone itself, it must end with a full-stop.</p> <p>For example, to provide email for talk-101.com, where mail should go to mail.talk-101.com (127.0.0.1) first, but if that fails, go to backupmail.talk-101.co.uk we would specify the following:</p> <pre>talk-101.com.  IN  MX  10 mail talk-101.com.  IN  MX  20 backupmail.talk-101.co.uk. mail          IN  A   127.0.0.1</pre> <p><b>Note:</b> Notice that "talk-101.com." is put at the front of the MX records. These specify that the mail is for talk-101.com, although they can also appear as an empty field (when the origin of the zone is talk-101.com), OR as a '@' symbol.</p>
TXT	<p>A TXT record is a textual record. By standards it has been an informational, rather than a functional record; however SPF records are now a functional use of a TXT record.</p> <p>TXT records can provide up to 255 characters of text. Multiple TXT records are permitted, but when a lookup is performed their order is not necessarily retained.</p>
SPF	<p>An SPF record is actually a TXT record (see above). For more information on SPF records, please visit <a href="http://www.openspf.org/">http://www.openspf.org/</a></p>