

**NAME**

**metazone** — convert BIND configuration to/from a DNS zone

**SYNOPSIS**

**metazone** [ **-dn**] [ **-f** *file*] <zone> [*serial* [*server*]]

**metazone** [ **-f** *file*] <zone> *named.zones.\**

**DESCRIPTION**

A “metazone” is a DNS zone that describes the configuration of other DNS zones.

Metazones allow you to use standard DNS mechanisms - AXFR, IXFR, NOTIFY, UPDATE - to control the configuration of multiple name servers, instead of using a separate out-of-band distribution system.

The **metazone** program converts between metazones and *named.conf* fragments in either direction.

**OPTIONS**

**-d** Extra diagnostics about loading the zone.

**-f** *file*

The file to use when reading or writing the metazone.

If the **-f** option is omitted in *metazone-to-named.zones.\** mode then the zone is obtained by AXFR.

If the **-f** option is omitted in *named.zones.\*-to-metazone* mode then the zone is written to stdout.

**-n** Do not run `rndc reload` when a *named.zones.\** file has changed.

**DETAILS**

The format of a metazone is described in *metazone(5)*.

A metazone can contain multiple “views” each of which corresponds to a *named.conf* fragment written to the file:

```
named.zones.<view>
```

If you are using multiple views, your main *named.conf* will typically include each *named.zones.<view>* file in the corresponding view clause. However it is not required for your metazone views to correspond to your BIND views.

A number of view names are reserved; see *metazone(5)* for details.

**metazone to named.zones.\***

The **metazone** program is designed to work with **nsnotifyd**. You can run it with a command like:

```
nsnotifyd metazone <zone>
```

When the **nsnotifyd** daemon detects that the *zone* has changed, it runs **metazone** with the name of the zone, its serial number, and optionally the address of the name server that notified us of the change.

When the **-f** option is not given, **metazone** will AXFR the zone from the server (or *localhost* if none is specified). It will then convert the zone to a set of *named.zones.<view>* files, written to the current directory. If any of the files has changed, **metazone** runs **rndc reconfig** to inform the name server (unless you give the **-n** option).

**named.zones.\* to metazone**

To convert a set of *named.zones.<view>* files to a metazone, run

```
metazone <zone> named.zones.*
```

The zone will be printed to the standard output unless the **-f** option is given. The view names in the zone are taken from the file names.

Your provisioning system can generate named.conf fragments on your master server, then you can update your metazone with the following command, and the changes will be propagated automatically to your slave servers.

```
$ metazone _metazone named.zones.* |
  nspatch -- _metazone /dev/stdin -- -l
```

## EXAMPLE

To configure a slave server to reconfigure itself automatically using a metazone, run:

```
$ nsnotifyd -p 5300 metazone _metazone
```

You need to configure **named** to slave the metazone from your master server, and notify **nsnotifyd** when it changes.

You need to ensure the named.zones.\* files are present (empty is OK) so they can be included in the main named.conf.

When **named** first starts, it will transfer the metazone, notify **nsnotifyd** which will run **metazone** which will generate the rest of the configuration and tell **named** to reconfigure itself.

```
options {
    # ...
};
view int {
    match-clients { 192.0.2.0/24; };
    recursion yes;
    zone _metazone {
        type slave;
        file "db.metazone";
        masters { 192.0.2.1; };
        also-notify { 127.0.0.1 port 5300; };
    };
    include "named.zones.int";
};
view external {
    match-clients { any; };
    recursion no;
    include "named.zones.ext";
};
```

## SEE ALSO

metazone(5), named.conf(5), named(8), nsnotifyd(1), nspatch(1), rndc(8).

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