

Apex Domains

<https://campus.barracuda.com/doc/96025390/>

An apex domain, also known as a root, bare, or naked domain, is essentially a domain *without a fully qualified domain name* or FQDN (e.g., `example.com`). Most organizations have an apex domain, like `barracuda.com`. Apex domains cannot have CNAME records; they can only have A Records.

For more information about Apex domains, why they cannot have CNAME records, and require redirects, refer to [CNAME at the apex of a zone](#) – an article by the ISC (International Systems Consortium), which is responsible for the BIND DNS server.

Notes:

- An apex domain can only ever point to a single application.
- If you do not have a fully qualified domain name (FQDN), you must change the configuration of your webserver (in WordPress, for example), to use an FQDN (`www.example.com`) instead of the apex domain (`example.com`).

To set a location for an apex domain for your application:

1. On the **Applications** page, click the link for the target application.
2. On the **Endpoints** page, if they do not already exist, create both your:
 - apex domain
 - fully qualified domain name (FQDN)
3. Review any existing redirects for the domain on the web server. If there is already a redirect rule for the apex domain, you must disable or delete that rule before continuing.
Important: Having more than one active redirect rule for an apex domain can lead to a redirect loop and cause a service outage until it is fixed.
4. Navigate to the **URL Access & Redirects** page. If it is not already set, switch **Enable URL Access & Redirects** to **On**.
5. Add a new URL rule to redirect from your apex domain to another, non-apex domain. Barracuda Networks recommends using this form of URL redirect rule, being sure to include the `%s`: `https://www.example%s`
Refer to this example for creating your URL redirect rule. Refer to [URL Access and Redirects](#) for more information.

Edit Rule

Name	<input type="text" value="redirect_apex"/>	i
Enable Rule	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ON	i
Host Match	<input type="text" value="apex.com"/>	i
URL Match	<input type="text" value="/*"/>	i
Extended Match Condition	<input type="text" value="*"/>	i
Action	<input type="text" value="Temporary Redirect/Permanent Redire..."/>	i
Redirect Type	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Temporary <input type="radio"/> Permanent	i
Redirect URL	<input type="text" value="https://www.apex.com%s"/>	i

6. Wait about five minutes for the URL rule to take effect.
7. Optionally test the configuration. For example, in Linux, in your `/etc/hosts` file, set your domain to point to `20.55.103.191`.
Check that the redirect works as expected before continuing with the next step.
8. Return to the **Endpoints** page. Copy the CNAME value.
9. In your DNS management panel, set the CNAME of non-apex domains to the CNAME value you copied in the previous step. Set the A record for the apex domain to the following IP address: `20.55.103.191`. Note that this IP address will be the same for all applications.

Figures

1. RedirectRuleApex.png

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