

Automatically Updating Your IP Address

If you do not have a static IP for your gateway you must obtain the new IP every time it changes and re-publish any links to your register page etc. A big problem is that you can't log in to your gateway remotely until you visit the site to get the new IP. You can use a dynamic DNS service and install an update client to alleviate these problems.

Sign up for a free account at DynDNS: <https://www.dyndns.com/>. Create a Dynamic DNS service. For account name use your repeater call. Instructions are here: <http://www.dyndns.com/services/dns/dyndns/howto.html>

Use the repeater call for your Hostname. Select a domain from the list. We used homedns.org but you can use whatever one you want. Select the service type "Host with IP address". Enter the current IP address of your gateway in the IP box. If you do this from your gateway IP you can click the link "Auto-detected IP" to fill the form field with the shown IP.

After your account is working you can use your new host name for links to your Dplus dashboard and to your register page such as <https://w8xxx.homedns.org/> and <https://w8xxx.homedns.org/Dstar.do> and to remotely log into the gateway with putty.

You will have to update your IP at DynDNS whenever it changes and in order to keep your DynDNS account active you must update it once a month. You can make these changes automatic by installing an update client. Update clients monitor your IP for changes, and send the new address to the Dynamic DNS service whenever a change occurs. This keeps your host automatically up-to-date with your network's address, no matter how often it changes.

The update client information at DynDns is at <http://www.dyndns.com/support/clients/>

We installed ddclient on our Centos gateway using the following method:

```
wget http://cdn.dyndns.com/ddclient.tar.gz
tar -xzf ddclient.tar.gz
cd ddclient-3.7.3/
mkdir /etc/ddclient
mkdir /var/cache/ddclient
cp ddclient /usr/local/sbin #make sure to copy to the directory that your
                           #other executables are in.
cp sample-etc_ddclient.conf /etc/ddclient/ddclient.conf
cp sample-etc_rc.d_init.d_ddclient /etc/rc.d/init.d/ddclient
chkconfig --add ddclient
cd ..
rm -rf ddclient-3.7.3/
```

Now edit the /etc/ddclient/ddclient.conf file:

so that it contains:

```
## ddclient configuration file
daemon=600                # check every 600 seconds
syslog=yes                # log update msgs to syslog
mail-failure=[external email address] # Mail failed updates to user
pid=/var/run/ddclient.pid # record PID in file.

## Detect IP with our CheckIP server
use=web, web=checkip.dyndns.com/, web-skip='IP Address'

## DynDNS username and password here
login=your dyndns login name
password=your password

## Default options
protocol=dyndns2
server=members.dyndns.org
## Dynamic DNS hosts
w8xxx.homedns.org #whatever name and domain you selected
```

Now start the ddclient daemon:

```
/etc/init.d/ddclient start
```

You can check status and troubleshoot using:

```
/etc/init.d/ddclient status
/etc/init.d/ddclient stop
tail /var/log/messages
```

After installing ddclient we found that to make everything work correctly we had to change the order in which programs start on the system. These are the steps we took to accomplish that:

```
[root@localhost ~]# cd /etc/rc5.d
[root@localhost rc5.d]# ls
```

These are some of the files you will see:

```
S65ddclient
S74dplus
S75dsm
S80sendmail
S85gpm
S87named
S90dstar_gw
```

Rename the above files so that 2 digit numbers after the "S" are in numerical order. i.e.:

```
mv s20dstar_gw S90dstar_gw
```

When finished, exit putty or whatever telnet client you are using and you should be good to go.

If you have any problems, let us know at w8shi-dstar@charter.net