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DNS through the API: adding, changing and deleting records, and restoring a zone backup

Domains & DNS

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DNS through the API: adding, changing and deleting records, and restoring a zone backup

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The short answer: the API reads and changes the DNS zone of the active domains in your account that have **DNS switched on** (you switch it on in Meu MozOut). With `dns:read` you read; with `dns:write` you add, change and delete records. Before every change a **zone backup** is kept, and the last 20 per domain are stored.

The operations

Operation	What it does
`GET /v1/domains/{domain}/dns`	Lists the records. Those with `read_only` set to `true`, such as the root NS, cannot be changed here.
`POST /v1/domains/{domain}/dns`	Adds a record: `name`, `type`, `value` and, optionally, `ttl` and `priority`.
`POST /v1/domains/{domain}/dns/validate`	Checks a record without saving it. `dns:read` is enough.
`PUT /v1/domains/{domain}/dns/{record_id}`	Changes a record.
`DELETE /v1/domains/{domain}/dns/{record_id}`	Deletes a record.
`GET /v1/domains/{domain}/dns/backups`	Lists the zone backups.
`POST /v1/domains/{domain}/dns/backups/{id}/restore`	Restores a backup.
`POST /v1/domains/{domain}/dns/reset`	Empties the zone of your records. Needs the domain name in `confirm`.

The accepted types are A, AAAA, CNAME, MX, TXT, NS, SRV and CAA. Nameservers are changed in the domains part: see **domains through the API**.

Example: a TXT verification record

1. **Check it first** with `POST /v1/domains/{domain}/dns/validate`, using the same body you will save.
2. **Save it** with `POST /v1/domains/{domain}/dns`. Use `@` as the name for the domain itself.
3. **Read the answer:** it shows what ended up in the zone, which is what counts.

```
curl https://api.mozout.co.mz/v1/domains/asuaempresa.co.mz/dns -X POST \
-H "Authorization: Bearer $RLX_API_KEY" \
-H "Content-Type: application/json" \
-d '{"name": "@", "type": "TXT", "value": "verification=abc123", "ttl": 14400}'
```

Quotes in a TXT:
Quotes around the whole value are removed; quotes or backslashes in the middle of the text answer `422`, because the DNS server would store a different value. And a CNAME cannot share its name with other records: that answers `409` with `cname_conflict`.

A record's id changes

A record's `id` **changes when its name, type, value or priority changes**; changing only the `ttl` keeps the same `id`. Always use the `id` from the latest list, or the next change answers `404`. An AAAA address comes back in its short form.

The domain of the account e-mail

If the e-mail you sign in with, or that of one of your users, is on this domain (or a subdomain of it), the API refuses, with `409 account_email_domain` and in Sandbox too, anything that decides where the mail goes: the MX records for that name; the A, AAAA, CNAME and NS records of the name the MX points to (or, without MX, of the name itself); resetting the zone and restoring a backup that touches these records. Make those changes in Meu MozOut. All other records can still be changed through the API.

Backups and limits

What	How it works
Zone backups	One before every change; the last 20 per domain are kept.
Incomplete restore	If `complete` comes back `false`, a record in the backup could not be put back exactly as it was: check the list.

What	How it works
Changes	20 per minute, per account, on top of the general limit.
Zone reads	30 per minute, per account. The list may come from a copy up to 60 seconds old, which does not count towards that limit.

What you change through the API shows at once; what you change in Meu MozOut can take up to 60 seconds to show in the API.
Before a big change, list the backups: if something goes wrong, restoring is a single request.

RECOMMENDED

Want to automate the DNS of your domains? See the API page and test with a Sandbox key, which simulates the changes.

See the API page →

SEE ALSO

- Domains through the API: checking a name, registering, renewing and transferring with credit →
- Hosting e-mail through the API: mailboxes, passwords, quotas, forwarders and the default address →
- Hosting through the API: subdomains, databases, cron jobs, SSL, PHP options and FTP →
- API request limits: per key, per account and per task, the headers and what to do after a 429 →
- Our API's error codes: what each one means, and which ones are worth retrying →
- API Sandbox or Production: what each key really does, and moving your program to production →

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