



Service Discovery Using IPAM and DNS

Avi Technical Reference (v20.1)

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Avi Vantage can be configured to provide automatic IP address allocation for virtual services and to provide authoritative DNS resolution for their virtual IP addresses. Use this article to learn:

- [What IPAM and/or DNS provider choices exist, on a per-cloud-type basis](#)
- [General configuration workflow](#)
- [Provider-specific IPAM/DNS profile configuration](#)
- [How to use these profiles in a virtual service configuration](#)

Note: Starting with Avi Vantage version 20.1.3, GCP IPAM on GCP is not supported.

IPAM/DNS Support for Cloud Infrastructure

Note: The interpretation of the Infoblox columns changes with release 18.2.5. Prior to 18.2.5, choosing Infoblox as the IPAM provider forced one to choose Infoblox as the DNS provider, and conversely. Starting with 18.2.5, this restriction is relaxed. One can choose Infoblox for one function and some other provider for the other.

Provider ----->	Infoblox		Avi Vantage Internal		Cloud-native	
	IPAM	DNS	IPAM	DNS	IPAM	DNS
Cloud Infrastructure	IPAM	DNS	IPAM	DNS	IPAM	DNS
VMware vCenter	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	N/A
OpenStack	No	No	No	Yes	Yes (default)	N/A (not used)
Amazon Web Services	No	No	No	Yes	Yes (default)	Yes (default)
Google Cloud Platform	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No
Azure (as of 18.2.5)	No	No	No	Yes	Yes (default)	Yes (default)
Containers (Mesos/Kubernetes/Rancher/Docker UCP)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Linux Server (bare metal)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
No access cloud	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

The following hold true for all 18.2.x releases

- When creating virtual services in OpenStack or AWS cloud, a separate configuration for IPAM is not needed/allowed, since the cloud configuration has support for IPAM natively in Avi Vantage.
 - "Default" means Avi accepts the cloud's IPAM/DNS support without additional action on the part of the Avi Vantage admin.
 - Avi Vantage supports Route 53 when AWS is the cloud provider configuration in Avi.
 - "Not used" means, although the cloud supports DNS, Avi Vantage does not use it.
- When creating a virtual service in "Linux Server" cloud in AWS/GCP environment, you can use the cloud-native IPAM solution of AWS/GCP.
- Avi Vantage DNS service can be used with all these clouds.

General Configuration Workflow

Initial configuration is common to both IPAM and DNS. This section lists the steps for configuring IPAM and DNS support. The configuration fields differ among the infrastructure types and the provider (Avi Vantage, Infoblox, AWS, GCP, and OpenStack). See the sections following this one for detailed steps.

1. Navigate to Templates > Profiles.
2. Click on IPAM/DNS Profile.
3. Click on Create and select the provider.
4. Fill in the displayed fields. (Detailed steps are provided in the sections below.)
5. Click on Save. The profile appears in the list.
6. Navigate to Infrastructure > Clouds, and edit the cloud setting.
7. Select the IPAM and DNS providers from the pull-down list. Either one or both need to be selected, based on the provider selected.
For example, in releases prior to 18.2.5, if Infoblox is the IPAM provider, it must be the DNS provider as well.
8. (Optional) For east-west virtual services in this cloud, you need to additionally select east-west IPAM and DNS providers from the pull-down list. Either one or both can be selected.
9. Click on Save.

The screenshot shows a configuration window titled "New Cloud: test-cloud" with a close button (x) in the top right corner. The window is divided into two steps: "Step 1: Select Cloud" (indicated by a green dot) and "Step 2: DHCP Settings" (indicated by a blue arrow). Under "Step 2: DHCP Settings", there are three toggle switches, each with a red minus sign and a help icon (i):
- "Use DHCP" (disabled)
- "Enable VIP Static Routes" (disabled)
- "Prefer Static Routes" (disabled)
Below the toggles are two dropdown menus:
- "IPAM Profile" with a help icon (i), currently showing "avi-ipam", a close button (x), a dropdown arrow (v), and an edit button (pencil).
- "DNS Profile" with a help icon (i), currently showing "avi-dns", a close button (x), a dropdown arrow (v), and an edit button (pencil).
At the bottom of the window, there are three buttons: "Cancel" (grey), "Previous" (green with a left arrow), and "Save" (green).

Sample cloud configuration with IPAM & DNS from steps 1 through 9

Configuring the IPAM/DNS Profiles by Provider Type

IPAM and/or DNS profiles can be configured to use the following providers:

- [Avi Vantage IPAM](#)
- [Avi Vantage DNS](#)
- [AWS IPAM](#)
- [GCP IPAM](#)
- [Infoblox IPAM and DNS](#)
- [OpenStack IPAM](#)

Using IPAM/DNS in a VS Configuration

The following examples are cloud-independent.

IPAM only. With IPAM in play, selecting the Auto Allocate checkbox causes the Network for VIP Address Allocation selection box to appear. From a list of displayed networks and subnets a choice can be made; in this case, either ipam-nw1 or ipam-nw2 can be selected. From the selected network (ipam-nw1) an address for the VIP will be auto-allocated.

The screenshot shows the 'New Virtual Service: vs' configuration page. It features a progress bar at the top with four steps: Step 1: Settings (active), Step 2: Policies, Step 3: Analytics, and Step 4: Advanced. The main configuration area includes:

- Name:** vs
- Enabled:** Checked (green toggle)
- Virtual Hosting VS:** Unchecked
- VIP Address:** sub.corp.com <or> 10.0.0.1, with the **Auto Allocate** checkbox checked.
- Network for VIP Address Allocation:** A dropdown menu showing 'ipam-nw1 - 10.160.160.0/24' selected. A search box below it lists 'ipam-nw1 - 10.160.160.0/24' and 'ipam-nw2 - 10.160.161.0/24'.
- Application Profile:** System-HTTP
- TCP/UDP Profile:** System-TCP-Proxy
- Service Port:** 80, with an **SSL** checkbox.
- Pool:** Radio buttons for **Pool** (selected) and **Pool Group**. A dropdown menu for 'Pool' is set to 'Select a Pool'.
- Ignore network reachability constraints for the server pool:** Unchecked.

At the bottom, there are 'Cancel' and 'Next' buttons.

IPAM is the only option for this virtual service.

DNS only. With DNS in play, no list of networks is offered. Instead, one of several domains is offered. By selecting `.test.avi` from the list and accepting the default prefix (`vs`) in the Fully Qualified Domain Name field, the user is specifying `vs.test.avi` as the final FQDN.

The screenshot shows the configuration interface for a new virtual service named 'vs'. It is currently on Step 1: Settings. The 'Name' field contains 'vs', and the 'Enabled' toggle is turned on. There is an unchecked checkbox for 'Virtual Hosting VS'. The 'VIP Address' section shows a VIP Address of '10.160.160.99'. The 'Profiles' section has 'System-HTTP' selected for the Application Profile and 'System-TCP-Proxy' for the TCP/UDP Profile. In the 'Pool' section, the 'Pool' radio button is selected. The 'Fully Qualified Domain Name' field contains 'vs', and a dropdown menu is open showing '.test.avi' as the selected domain. Below this, a 'Services' dropdown menu is open, showing '80' as the selected port and a list of services: '.test.avi', '.test2.avi', and '.test3.avi'. At the bottom of the form, there are 'Cancel' and 'Next' buttons.

DNS is the only option for this virtual service.

IPAM and DNS. With both IPAM and DNS available, the user can both specify a network from which to auto-allocate a VIP address and the FQDN (`vs.test.avi`) to which it will be associated.

The screenshot shows the configuration interface for a new virtual service named 'vs'. It is currently on Step 1: Settings. The 'Name' field contains 'vs', and the 'Enabled' toggle is turned on. There is an unchecked checkbox for 'Virtual Hosting VS'. The 'VIP Address' section shows a VIP Address of '10.0.0.1' and a checked checkbox for 'Auto Allocate'. The 'Profiles' section has 'System-HTTP' selected for the Application Profile. The 'Fully Qualified Domain Name' field is empty. The 'Services' field is empty. At the bottom of the form, there are 'Cancel' and 'Next' buttons.

Both IPAM and DNS are options for this virtual service.

Note:

1. If a DNS profile is configured under a cloud where the virtual service is being created, then the virtual service's IP cannot be determined from a fully qualified domain name; the user is expected to enter an IP address or select the Auto Allocate checkbox.
2. In the case of Infoblox, if there is a list of usable_subnets/usable_domains configured (refer to section for Infoblox above in this article), then the dropdown will consist only of those entries. If no such configuration is found, Avi Vantage will display the entire list of available subnets/domains from Infoblox.

Related Reading

- [Oracle Cloud Infrastructure IPAM Support on Avi Vantage](#)
- [Azure IPAM for OpenShift](#)