

# 1 Release Notes for BIND Version 9.12.2rc2

## 1.1 Introduction

This document summarizes changes since the last production release on the BIND 9.12 branch. Please see the `CHANGES` for a further list of bug fixes and other changes.

## 1.2 Download

The latest versions of BIND 9 software can always be found at <http://www.isc.org/downloads/>. There you will find additional information about each release, source code, and pre-compiled versions for Microsoft Windows operating systems.

## 1.3 Security Fixes

- When recursion is enabled but the **allow-recursion** and **allow-query-cache** ACLs are not specified, they should be limited to local networks, but they were inadvertently set to match the default **allow-query**, thus allowing remote queries. This flaw is disclosed in CVE-2018-5738. [GL #309]
- The `serve-stale` feature could cause an assertion failure in `rbtdb.c` even when `stale-answer-enable` was false. The simultaneous use of stale cache records and NSEC aggressive negative caching could trigger a recursion loop in the **named** process. This flaw is disclosed in CVE-2018-5737. [GL #185]
- A bug in zone database reference counting could lead to a crash when multiple versions of a slave zone were transferred from a master in close succession. This flaw is disclosed in CVE-2018-5736. [GL #134]

## 1.4 New Features

- **update-policy** rules that otherwise ignore the name field now require that it be set to "." to ensure that any type list present is properly interpreted. Previously, if the name field was omitted from the rule declaration but a type list was present, it wouldn't be interpreted as expected.
- **named** now supports the "root key sentinel" mechanism. This enables validating resolvers to indicate which trust anchors are configured for the root, so that information about root key rollover status can be gathered. To disable this feature, add **root-key-sentinel no;** to `named.conf`. [GL #37]
- Add the ability to not return a DNS COOKIE option when one is present in the request. To prevent a cookie being returned add **answer-cookie no;** to `named.conf`. [GL #173]  
**answer-cookie no** is only intended as a temporary measure, for use when **named** shares an IP address with other servers that do not yet support DNS COOKIE. A mismatch between servers on the same address is not expected to cause operational problems, but the option to disable COOKIE responses so that all servers have the same behavior is provided out of an abundance of caution. DNS COOKIE is an important security mechanism, and should not be disabled unless absolutely necessary.

## 1.5 Feature Changes

- BIND now can be compiled against `libidn2` library to add IDNA2008 support. Previously BIND only supported IDNA2003 using (now obsolete) `idnkit-1` library.
- **dig +noidn** can be used to disable IDN processing on the input domain name, when BIND is compiled with IDN support.

## 1.6 Bug Fixes

- **named** now rejects excessively large incremental (IXFR) zone transfers in order to prevent possible corruption of journal files which could cause **named** to abort when loading zones. [GL #339]

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## **1.8 End of Life**

The end-of-life date for BIND 9.12 has not yet been determined. However, it is not intended to be an Extended Support Version (ESV) branch; accordingly, support will end after the next stable branch (9.14) becomes available. Those needing a longer-lived branch are encouraged to use the current ESV, BIND 9.11, which will be supported until December 2021. See <https://www.isc.org/downloads/software-support-policy/> for details of ISC's software support policy.

## **1.9 Thank You**

Thank you to everyone who assisted us in making this release possible. If you would like to contribute to ISC to assist us in continuing to make quality open source software, please visit our donations page at <http://www.isc.org/donate/>.