

AUTHORITATIVE ONLY SERVER

The term **Authoritative Only** is normally used to describe two concepts:

1. The server will deliver Authoritative Responses - it is a zone master or slave for one or more domains.
2. The server will NOT cache.

There are two configurations in which Authoritative Only servers are typically used:

1. As the public or external server in a Stealth (a.k.a. DMZ or Hidden Master) DNS used to provide perimeter security.
2. High Performance DNS servers. In this context general purpose DNS servers such as BIND may not provide an ideal solution and there are a number of Open Source Alternatives some of which specialise in high performance Authoritative only solutions.

You cannot completely turn off caching in BIND but you can control it and provide the functionality described above by simply turning off recursion in the 'option' section of named.conf as shown in the example below.

```
// options section fragment of named.conf

// recursion no = limits caching

options {
    directory "/var/named";
    version "not currently available";
    recursion no;
};

// zone file sections

....
```

BIND provides three more parameters to control caching, max-cache-size and max-cache-ttl neither of which will have much effect on performance in this particular case and recursion which uses a list of hosts that are permitted to use recursion (all others are not).

Source: <http://www.zytrax.com/books/dns/ch4/>