

## Lab exercises 5 - RNDC

Objective: Be able to use RNDC to securely send control messages to a name server either remotely or locally.

1. Use RNDC for the lab master name server. Under `/var/named/master` generate the RNDC key using `rndc-confgen` and update `named.conf` to use it.

```
% rndc-confgen
```

2. Cut the first part the of statement to `rndc.conf` and the second part which has a comment (hash) to `named.conf`. Make sure to remove the comment starting from the "key" statement before using it.

You could also place the second part to a file then use "include" statement in your `named.conf` to specify that file.

Example:

```
include "/var/named/master/myrndc-key.txt";
```

3. Run primary name server using `-g` flag and try the following statement on a different terminal.

```
%rndc -s <server ip> -c rndc.conf reload (reload config & all zones)
%rndc -s <server ip> -c rndc.conf reload pcx.net (reload single zone)
```

```
%rndc -s <server ip> -c rndc.conf status
%rndc -s <server ip> -c rndc.conf stop
%rndc -s <server ip> -c rndc.conf trace [level] ( activate debugging )
%rndc -s <server ip> -c rndc.conf flush (flushes the server's cache)
```

\*the following feature will be available in Bind 9.3

```
%rndc -s <server ip> -c rndc.conf freeze (suspend dynamic updates)
%rndc -s <server ip> -c rndc.conf unfreeze (Resume dynamic updates)
```