

# Testing Wikileaks DNS mirrors

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<https://www.bortzmeyer.org/testing-wikileaks.html>

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Among the efforts to prevent censorship to take down WikiLeaks, several persons have set up DNS mirrors. They are names that point, not to one Web server but to a list of IP addresses which host a Web mirror. These lists can be quite long and it is better to have an automatic tool to test them.

There is a technical reason why you cannot put the IP address of any WikiLeaks Web mirror <<http://www.wikileaks.ch/mirrors.html>> in a DNS record for `wikileaks.anything.example`: the HTTP protocol expects a `Host:` header in the query and dispatches the request to the proper virtual host, depending on this header. If the header is missing or wrong, you are sent to the "default" virtual host, which may be quite different from what you expect. So, you cannot just take a list of Web mirrors and add their IP addresses, you need to test.

The program (en ligne sur <https://www.bortzmeyer.org/files/test-wikileaks.py>), written in Python, does exactly that: it takes the IP addresses from a name, and performs a HTTP connection to this address, retrieves a page and searches if it looks like a correct Wikileaks page. If not, it complains:

```
% test-wikileaks.py wikileaks.jmp.net
Wrong data in http://88.80.13.160/cablegate.html, not a Wikileaks mirror?
```

Note well that it does not mean that `wikileaks.jmp.net` is wrong, just that it is not a DNS mirror, you cannot copy its addresses blindly.

If you want more details, you can use the `-v` option:

```
% test-wikileaks.py -v wikileaks.jmp.net

Testing http://46.59.1.2/cablegate.html...
1269 cables

Testing http://88.80.13.160/cablegate.html...
Wrong data in http://88.80.13.160/cablegate.html, not a Wikileaks mirror?

Testing http://213.251.145.96/cablegate.html...
1269 cables
```

It shows also the current number of diplomatic cables uploaded on this mirror. This is important because some mirrors are really behind. Here is a test on a large mirror, `wklk.eu.org` : (en ligne sur `https://www.bortzmeyer.org/files/wklk.eu.org-test-2010-12-10.txt`). Thanks to Pierre Beyssac for his contributions to this program.

Oh, by the way, my DNS mirrors are `wikileaks.bortzmeyer.fr` (a small subset) and `all-wikileaks.bortzmeyer.org` (a larger set, which may create problems with some DNS resolvers <`https://www.bortzmeyer.org/size-dns-wikileaks.html`>).