

# nginx redirecting all subdomains (when it shouldn't)

Asked 3 years, 6 months ago Modified 1 year, 1 month ago Viewed 5k times



I have an nginx server running. I want it to redirect `http://www.example.com` to `https://www.example.com`, but not touch any other subdomains like `http://foo.example.com`.

2



For some reason, no matter what I add in the subdomain, it still gets rerouted. My webpage shows on [www.example.com](http://www.example.com) (as it should), but also on `foo.example.com` and `example.com` (as it shouldn't)



This is my `example.com` config file:



```
server {
    listen 80;
    server_name www.example.com;

    # For debug
    add_header X-debug-message "listen:80, server_name:www.example.com,
    redirect:https://$host$request_uri" always;

    # Rredirect
    return 301 https://$host$request_uri;
}

server {
    listen 443 ssl;
    server_name www.example.com;

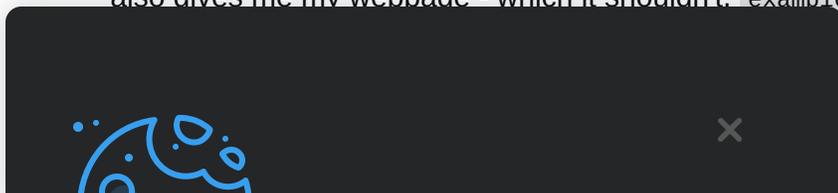
    # For debug
    add_header X-debug-message "listen:443, server_name:www.example.com,
    redirected:https://$host$request_uri" always;

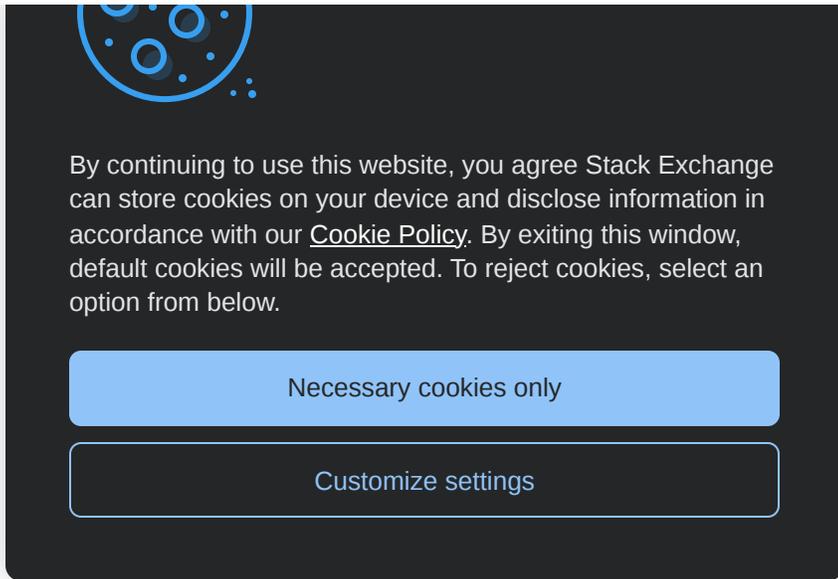
    # SSL
    ssl_certificate /etc/letsencrypt/live/example.com/fullchain.pem;
    ssl_certificate_key /etc/letsencrypt/live/example.com/privkey.pem;
    include /etc/letsencrypt/options-ssl-nginx.conf;
    ssl_dhparam /etc/letsencrypt/ssl-dhparams.pem;
    root /var/www/example.com;

    # Redirect
    location / {
        proxy_pass http://192.168.1.224:80;
    }
}
```

Going to `www.example.com` shows me my webpage as expected. But going to `foo.example.com` also gives me my webpage - which it shouldn't. `example.com` also gives me the webpage.

Showing http header (as expected):





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www.example.com,

Following http header (not as expected):

www.example.com,

m ?

proxy

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asked Mar 30, 2022 at 8:00



Chr1sCon

121 ● 2 ● 10

- 1 You do not have a `server` block for `foo.example.com` or `example.com`, so the only thing that Nginx can do is process the request using the `server` blocks you have provided. See [how Nginx processes a request](#). – Richard Smith Mar 30, 2022 at 8:46

## 4 Answers

Sorted by: Highest score (default) ▾



▲

2

▼

🔖

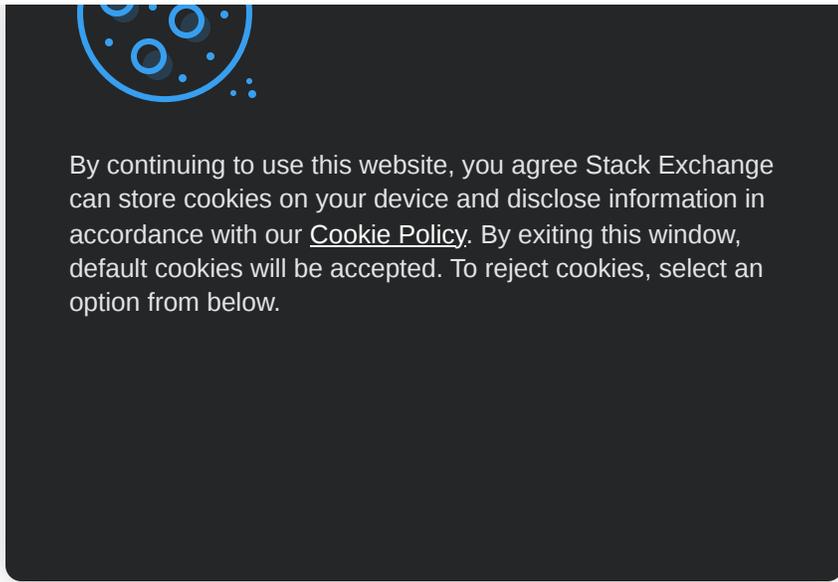
✓

🔄

1. Ensure that the dns record for `foo.yourdomain.com` is actually created with dns provider
2. Create a second server block for the subdomain 'foo.example.com' otherwise all request to port 80 will be redirected to available server block, which in your case [www.example.com](#) - the server block should look like this:

```
server {
    server_name foo.example.com;
    location / {
        root path/to/foo/index.html;
        index index.html index.htm;
        proxy_http_version 1.1;
        proxy_set_header Upgrade $http_upgrade;
        proxy_set_header Connection 'upgrade';
        proxy_set_header Host $host;
        proxy_cache_bypass $http_upgrade;
        try_files $uri $uri/ /index.html;
    }
}

listen 443 ssl; # managed by Certbot
    main.pem; # n
    ey.pem; # managed by
```



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inx.conf; # managed by

ms.pem; # managed by

command:

answered Mar 30, 2022 at 18:35



yaxx

655 ● 2 ● 9 ● 24

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## Comments

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2

Thank you for all the comments!

For other readers, and future reference, this is now my enlightened understanding.



nginx treats the first entry in it's enabled-sites conf as a default route. Thus, the first entry

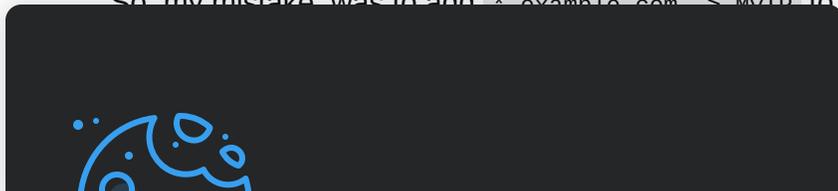


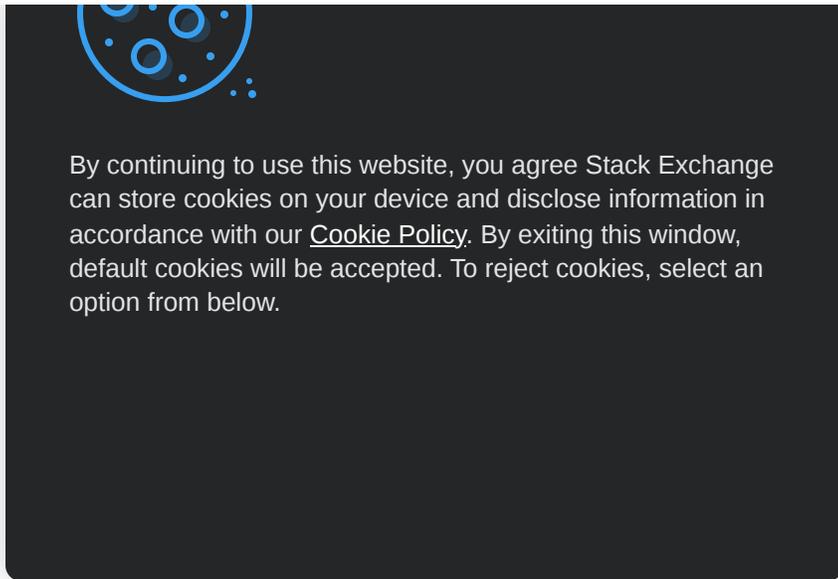
```
server {
  listen      80;
  server_name example.net www.example.net;
  ...
}
```

is in fact treated as

```
server {
  listen      80 default_server;
  server_name example.net www.example.net;
  ...
}
```

So my mistake was to add `*.example.com` to my DNS, and assuming nginx would just look for a route that matches that route.





domains I want routed, and I list all of them

example.com to my IP, and have nginx 404 don't understand.

flexible, as I need to update the DNS new service internally. But, I guess that is

answered Apr 3, 2022 at 6:14



**Chr1sCon**

121 ● 2 ● 10

### 1 Comment ▾



**Victor Hugo** Over a year ago

Did you add a DNS rule to accept all subdomains (e.g., \*.example.com) and configure Nginx to handle the subdomains, where any non-configured subdomains automatically redirect to a 404 page?

▲ 0

Reply



You need to make the first entry listen on 443 for HTTPS and server name \_ and return 404.



2

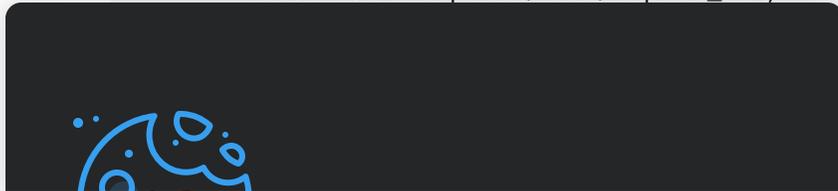


```
server {
    listen 443 ssl;
    server_name _;
    ssl_protocols      TLSv1 TLSv1.1 TLSv1.2;
    ssl_ciphers        HIGH:!aNULL:!MD5;
    ssl_certificate     /etc/nginx/certs/nginx-selfsigned.crt;
    ssl_certificate_key /etc/nginx/certs/nginx-selfsigned.key;

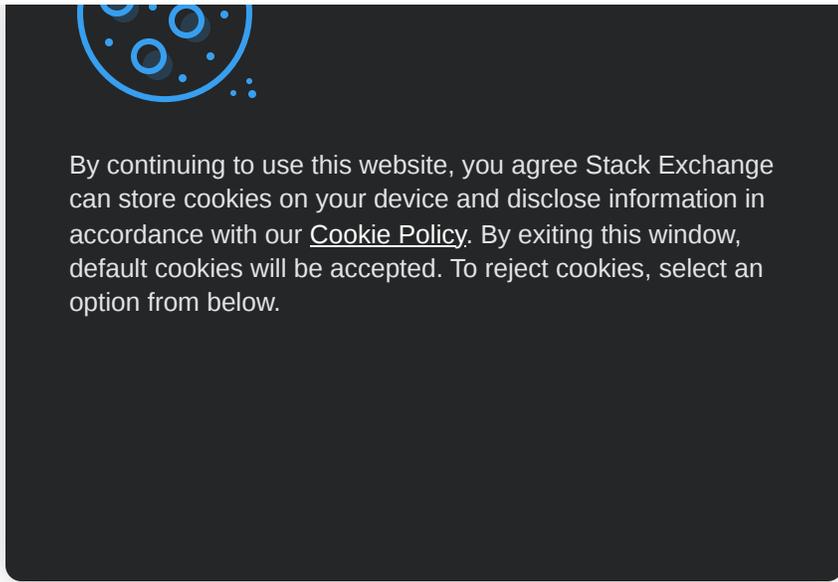
    location / {
        return 404;
    }
}
```

By having the typical HTTP to HTTPS redirect in the file (I have it as the last entry):

```
server {
    listen 80 default_server;
    server_name _;
    return 301 https://$host$request_uri;
}
```



underparts. Then, if you request a configuration file, it will default to the first



ains, and the root domain, if you have that

actical than having to add each

answered Apr 28, 2022 at 19:17

 [sdlsep](#)  
21 ● 1



To route all the subdomains but the specified ones to 404 you can use:

1

```
server {
    listen 443 ssl http2;
    server_name *.domain.com;

    location / {
        return 404;
    }
}
```



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edited Aug 27, 2024 at 8:23

answered Aug 4, 2024 at 19:07



[Atais](#)  
11.4k ● 7 ● 75 ● 115

## Comments

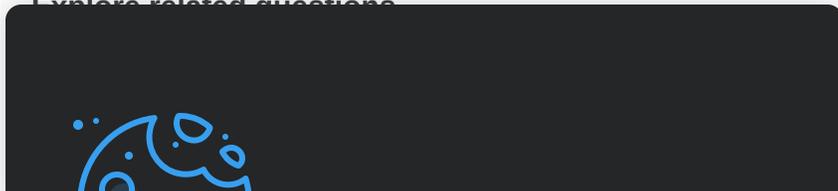
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