WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method, comprising:

receiving a first domain name service (DNS) query for a first domain;

determining that the first domain is within a first group of domains, each domain of the first group being a sub-domain of a second domain;

determining that the first domain does not exist;

in response to determining that the first domain does not exist, transitioning a first DNS resolver to a partially disabled state, for the first group;

receiving, in the partially disabled state, a second DNS query, for a third domain;

determining that the third domain is within the first group; and

treating, based on determining that the third domain is in within the first group, the third domain as unavailable in responding to the second DNS query.

2. The method of claim 1, further comprising, in response to determining that the first domain does not exist, incrementing a counter associated with the first group, wherein the transitioning to a partially disabled state is further in response to determining that the counter has exceeded a threshold.

3. The method of claim 2, further comprising:

receiving a third DNS query for a fourth domain;

determining that the fourth domain is within the first group of domains;

determining that the fourth domain does exist; and

in response to determining that the fourth domain does exist, decrementing the counter.

4. The method of claim 2 or 3, further comprising:

determining that the counter has fallen below a second threshold, and

in response to determining that the counter has fallen below the second threshold, transitioning to a normal state.

5. The method of any preceding claim, further comprising:

determining that a first amount of time has elapsed since the transitioning to the partially disabled state; and

in response to determining that a first amount of time has elapsed since the transitioning to the partially disabled state, transitioning to a normal state.

6. The method of any preceding claim, further comprising, in response to determining that the first domain does not exist, updating a cache of valid domains.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the updating of the cache of valid domains comprises requesting, by the first DNS resolver, from a second DNS resolver, a list of valid domains in the first group and a list of corresponding IP addresses.

8. The method of any preceding claim, wherein:

the second domain is a second-level domain;

the determining that the first domain does not exist comprises determining, by the first DNS resolver, that the first domain is in a list, cached in the first DNS resolver, of domains that do not exist;

the determining that the first domain does not exist comprises: forwarding the first DNS query to an authoritative name server; and receiving, from the authoritative name server, an NXDOMAIN response code, wherein treating the third domain as unavailable comprises returning a failure code in response to the second DNS query without forwarding the first DNS query to the authoritative name server; and/or

the method further comprising receiving, in the partially disabled state, a third DNS query, for the third domain; determining that the third DNS query meets a criterion for an exception to processing subject to the partially disabled state; and forwarding the first DNS query to an authoritative name server.

9. The method of any preceding claim, wherein treating the third domain as nonexistent comprises a returning a response to the second DNS query indicating that an Internet Protocol address for the third domain in not available.

10. The method of any preceding claim, wherein the first group is one of a set of groups of domains, the set of groups encompassing all subdomains of the second domain, the set of groups including at least five groups and no more than 1000 groups.

11. A system, comprising:

a processing circuit; and

one or more memories, operatively connected to the processing circuit and storing instructions that, when executed by the processing circuit, cause the system to perform a method, the method comprising:

receiving a first domain name service (DNS) query for a first domain;

determining that the first domain is within a first group of domains, each domain of the first group being a sub-domain of a second domain;

determining that the first domain does not exist;

in response to determining that the first domain does not exist, transitioning a first DNS resolver to a partially disabled state, for the first group;

receiving, in the partially disabled state, a second DNS query, for a third domain;

determining that the third domain is within the first group; and

treating, based on determining that the third domain is in within the first group, the third domain as unavailable in responding to the second DNS query.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein:

the second domain is a second-level domain; and/or

the system comprises a domain name service (DNS) resolver and an authoritative name server, the DNS resolver being configured to perform the method.

13. The system of claim 11 or 12, the method further comprising, in response to determining that the first domain does not exist, incrementing a counter associated with the first group, wherein the transitioning to a partially disabled state is further in response to determining that the counter has exceeded a threshold.

14. The system of claim 13, the method further comprising:

receiving a third DNS query for a fourth domain; determining that the fourth domain is within the first group of domains; determining that the fourth domain does exist; and in response to determining that the fourth domain does exist, decrementing the counter; and/or

determining that the counter has fallen below a second threshold, and in response to determining that the counter has fallen below the second threshold, transitioning to a normal state.

15. The method of claim 11, the method further comprising:

determining that a first amount of time has elapsed since the transitioning to the partially disabled state; and

in response to determining that a first amount of time has elapsed since the transitioning to the partially disabled state, transitioning to a normal state.