Domain Name Servers (DNS) are the Internet's equivalent of a phone book. They maintain a directory of domain names and translate them to Internet Protocol (IP) addresses.  
This is necessary because, although domain names are easy for people to remember, computers or machines, access websites based on IP addresses.   
Information from all the domain name servers across the Internet are gathered together and housed at the Central Registry. Host companies and Internet Service Providers interact with the Central Registry on a regular schedule to get updated DNS information.

A [DNS](https://www.lifewire.com/what-is-dns-domain-name-system-2625855) server is a computer server that contains a database of [public IP addresses](https://www.lifewire.com/what-is-a-public-ip-address-2625974)and their associated [hostnames](https://www.lifewire.com/what-is-a-hostname-2625906), and in most cases, serves to resolve, or translate, those common names to IP addresses as requested.

DNS servers run special software and communicate with each other using special protocols.