

# How to resolve a host name

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Ever needed to convert a host name to an IP number? There is no direct routine available in Delphi for this but we can always code our way through :-)

Here's the code with error handling:

```
uses
  Winsock;
...
// The IP number will be returned in string format in the sIP parameter
function HostToIP(sHost: string; var sIP: string): Boolean;
var
  aHostName: array[0..255] of Char;
  pcAddr    : PChar;
  HostEnt    : PHostEnt;
  wsData     : TWSAData;
begin
  WSASStartup($0101, wsData);
  try
    GetHostName(aHostName, SizeOf(aHostName));
    StrPCopy(aHostName, sHost);
    hostEnt := GetHostByName(aHostName);
    if Assigned(HostEnt) then
      if Assigned(HostEnt^.H_Addr_List) then begin
        pcAddr := HostEnt^.H_Addr_List^;
        if Assigned(pcAddr) then begin
          sIP := Format('%d.%d.%d.%d',
            [Byte(pcAddr[0]), Byte(pcAddr[1]),
              Byte(pcAddr[2]), Byte(pcAddr[3])]);
          Result := True;
        end else
          Result := False;
      end else
        Result := False;
    else begin
      Result := False;
    end;
  finally
    WSACleanup;
  end;
end;
```

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