

computer. Instead of folders, however, DNS organizes its names into *domains*. Each domain includes all the names that appear directly beneath it in the DNS hierarchy.

For example, Figure 6-5 shows a small portion of the DNS domain tree. At the top of the tree is the *root domain*, which is the anchor point for all domains. Directly beneath the root domain are four *top-level domains*, named `edu`, `com`, `org`, and `gov`.

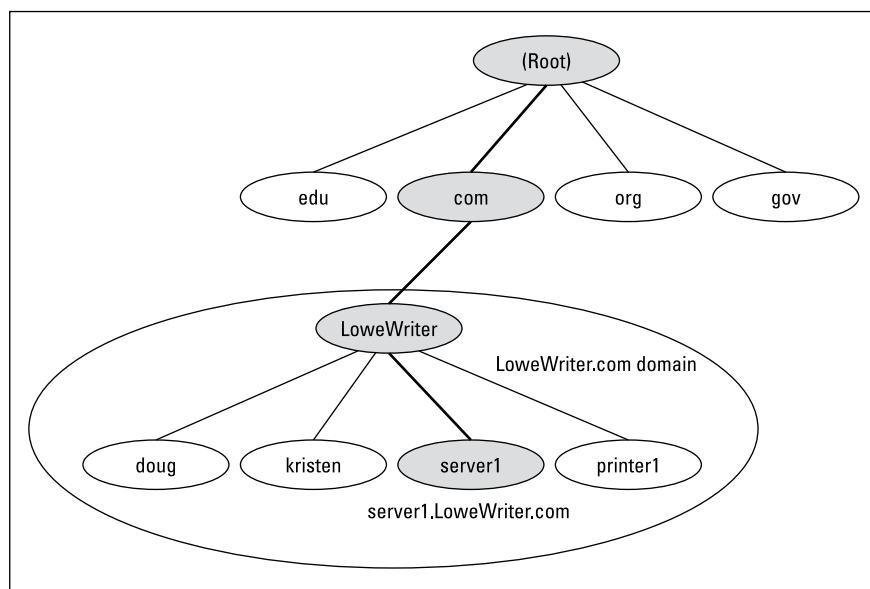


FIGURE 6-5:
DNS names.

In reality, many more top-level domains than this exist in the Internet's root domain. In fact, at the time I wrote this, there were about a thousand top-level domains in use.

Beneath the `com` domain in Figure 6-5 is another domain named `LoweWriter`, which happens to be my own personal domain. (Pretty clever, eh?) To completely identify this domain, you have to combine it with the name of its *parent domain* (in this case, `com`) to create the complete domain name: `LoweWriter.com`. Notice that the parts of the domain name are separated from each other by periods, which are pronounced “dot.” As a result, when you read this domain name, you should pronounce it “LoweWriter dot com.”

Beneath the `LoweWriter` node are four host nodes, named `doug`, `kristen`, `server1`, and `printer1`. These nodes correspond to three computers and a printer on my home network. You can combine the host name with the domain name to get the complete DNS name for each of my network's hosts. For example, the complete