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example.com

The domain names **example.com**, **example.net**, **example.org**, and **example.edu** are second-level domain names in the Domain Name System of the Internet. They are reserved by the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) at the direction of the Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF) as special-use domain names for documentation purposes. The domain names are used widely in books, tutorials, sample network configurations, and generally as examples for the use of domain names. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) operates web sites for these domains with content that reflects their purpose.

Purpose

The domains *example.com*, *example.net*, *example.org* and *example.edu* are intended for general use in any kind of documentation, such as technical and software documentation, manuals, and sample software configurations. Thus, documentation writers can be sure to select a domain name without creating naming conflicts if end-users try to use the sample configurations or examples verbatim. The domains may be used in documentation without prior consultation with IANA or ICANN.

In practice, these domain names are also installed in the Domain Name System with the Internet Protocol (IP) addresses for Internet Protocol version 4 (IPv4) and IPv6 of a web server managed by ICANN. The domains are digitally signed using Domain Name System Security Extensions (DNSSEC).

The zone files of each domain also define one subdomain name. The third-level domain name *www* resolves to the IP addresses of the parent domains.

History

The second-level domain label *example* for the top-level domains *com*, *net*, and *org* have been reserved and registered since at least 1992.^[2] The IETF established the authority of this use in 1999.^[3]

In 2013, the status and purpose of the domains was restated by the IETF as belonging to a group of *special-use domain names*.^[4]

example.com

Example Domain

This domain is for use in illustrative examples in documents. You may use this domain in literature without prior coordination or asking for permission.

More information...

Screenshot of example.com

Type of site	Reserved domain
Available in	English
Owner	Internet Assigned Numbers Authority ^[1]
URL	www.example.com (http://www.example.com)
Launched	1 January 1999
Current status	Online

See also



- .example – Top-level domain name reserved for documentation purposes
- .local – Pseudo-TLD with no meaning in the DNS for use with local zeroconf networking only
- Fictitious domain name
- IPv4 § Special-use addresses – some special-use IPv4 address ranges are reserved for documentation and examples
- Reserved top-level domains

References

- ↑ "IANA WHOIS Service" (https://www.iana.org/whois?q=example.com). IANA. Retrieved 2022-10-25.
- ↑ "IANA-managed Reserved Domains" (https://www.iana.org/domains/reserved). IANA. Retrieved 2020-06-20.
- ↑ D. Eastlake; A. Panitz (June 1999). *Reserved Top Level DNS Names* (https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc2606). Network Working Group. doi:10.17487/RFC2606 (https://doi.org/10.17487%2FRFC2606). BCP 32. RFC 2606 (https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc2606). *Best Common Practice*. Updated by RFC 6761 (https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc6761).
- ↑ S. Cheshire; M. Krochmal (February 2013). *Special-Use Domain Names* (https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc6761). IETF. doi:10.17487/RFC6761 (https://doi.org/10.17487%2FRFC6761). ISSN 2070-1721 (https://www.worldcat.org/issn/2070-1721). RFC 6761 (https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc6761). *Proposed Standard*. Updates RFC 1918 (https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc1918) and 2606 (https://datatracker.ietf.org/doc/html/rfc2606).

External links

- example.com (https://example.com)
- example.net (https://example.net)
- example.org (https://example.org)
- example.edu (https://example.edu)

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