

30th of December 2025

Well-Known Port Numbers

Well-known port numbers are a specific range of TCP and UDP port numbers from 0 to 1023, that are reserved for standard, widely used network services so clients can reliably locate those services on a host without prior negotiation. These ports are assigned and regulated by the Internet Assigned Numbers Authority (IANA) to ensure consistency across systems and networks, with common examples including port 80 for HTTP, 443 for HTTPS, 21 for FTP, 25 for SMTP, 53 for DNS, and 22 for SSH.

Because these ports are associated with core services, operating systems typically restrict their use to privileged or administrative process to enhance security and prevent unauthorized access; applications from impersonating critical services. Well-known ports play a fundamental role in client-server communication by providing predictable service endpoints, enabling interoperability across different platforms and networks, and forming part of the transport-layer addressing mechanism that, together with IP addresses, uniquely identifies network connections.

Example of well-known port numbers include;

110 : POP3 (Post office Protocol)	179 : BGP (Border Gateway Protocol)
123 : NTP (Network time Protocol)	68 : DHCP (Client)
143 : IMAP (Internet Message Protocol)	67 : DHCP (Server)
161 : SNMP (Simple Network Management Protocol)	119 : NNTP (Network News Transfer Protocol)
	23 : (Telnet) 22 : (SSH) 25 : (SMTP)