

# Domain Names And ICANN



The names we're all familiar with

## What Is A Domain Name?

A domain name is a unique name that is associated with an IP address that is used to direct an end user to their destined web page. A domain name has two parts. The first of which is the unique string name that follows the "www." prefix. An example of this is the "google" part to "www.google.com". The second part is the suffix such as ".com". This denotes what type of website you are visiting. A website ending in ".gov" is an official government website, whereas one with a ".edu" is an educational institution. These names are created for ease of memory. A simple name is far easier to remember than an IP address.

## How Are Domains Managed?

Since each name is unique, we need a way to maintain that and distribute new unique names. This is why we have the organization ICANN, which stands for Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. This is an organization that manages the database records of domain names and addresses on the internet. They make sure there is no overlap and collisions with names or addresses across the entire internet.

### Onward

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