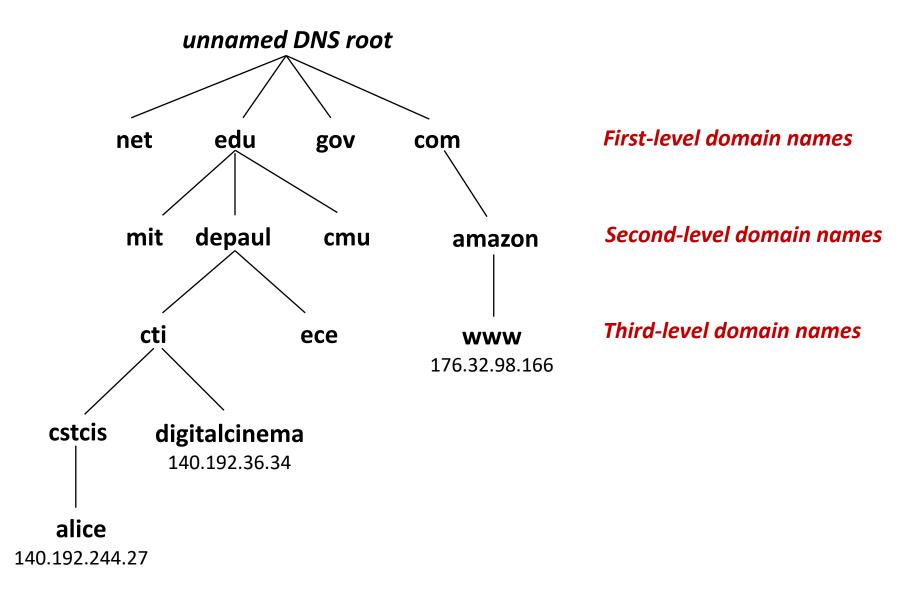
Network Programming: A Programmer's View of the Internet: 2. Internet Domain Names

Internet Domain Names



Domain Naming System (DNS)

- The Internet maintains a mapping between IP addresses and domain names in a huge worldwide distributed database: **DNS**
- Conceptually, programmers can view the DNS database as a collection of millions of *host entries*. Access = *resolution*
 - Each host entry defines the mapping between a set of domain names and IP addresses (and much more info)
 - Domain names mapped to multiple IP addresses, and vice versa
- Decentralized: plenty of DNS servers around
 - DNS servers cache info, but DNS records indicate when stale
- Hierarchical: Fresh DNS server knows only a *root* nameserver
 - "Where is cdm.depaul.edu?" (iterative resolution)
 - 1. Ask root nameserver for edu,
 - Ask edu nameserver for depaul,
 - 3. Ask depaul nameserver for cdm

Properties of DNS Mappings

- Can explore properties of DNS mappings using nslookup
 - Output edited for brevity

```
$ nslookup -query=any perdu.com
Server: 192.168.2.1
Address: 192.168.2.1#53
Non-authoritative answer:
perdu.com nameserver = ns1.dreamhost.com. [...]
       serial = 2020053003
       refresh = 19714
       retry = 1800
       expire = 1814400
       minimum = 14400
Name: perdu.com
Address: 208.97.177.124
perdu.com mail exchanger = 10 spool.mail.gandi.net.
Authoritative answers can be found from:
ns1.dreamhost.com internet address = 66.33.205.230
```

Properties of DNS Mappings

DNS servers stored in /etc/resolv.conf

```
$ cat /etc/resolv.conf
nameserver 8.8.8.8
```

Local file to "bypass" DNS listed in /etc/resolv.conf

```
$ cat /etc/hosts

127.0.0.1 localhost loopback addresses

::1 localhost loopback 216.220.181.74 cdmcscmcprd01.dpu.depaul.edu

$ nslookup localhost

Address: 127.0.0.1
```

Use hostname to determine real domain name of local host:

```
$ hostname # or cat /etc/hostname
cdmcscmcprd01.dpu.depaul.edu
```

Properties of DNS Mappings (cont)

Simple case: one-to-one mapping between domain name and IP address:

```
$ nslookup mc.cdm.depaul.edu
Address: 216.220.181.74
```

Multiple domain names mapped to the same IP address:

```
$ nslookup michael.cadilhac.name
Address: 163.172.56.42
$ nslookup noemie.cadilhac.name
Address: 163.172.56.42
```

Properties of DNS Mappings (cont)

Multiple domain names mapped to multiple IP addresses:

```
$ nslookup www.twitter.com
Address: 199.16.156.6
Address: 199.16.156.70
Address: 199.16.156.102
Address: 199.16.156.230

$ nslookup www.twitter.com
Address: 199.16.156.102
Address: 199.16.156.230
Address: 199.16.156.6
Address: 199.16.156.70
```

Some valid domain names don't map to any IP address:

```
$ nslookup tcs.cdm.depaul.edu
** server can't find tcs.cdm.depaul.edu: NXDOMAIN
```