

# Application Layer

COMP90007  
Internet Technologies

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Where are we at?

- **Application Layer**
- We will look at key implementations:
  - **Domain Name System**

Application
Transport
Network
Link
Physical

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## DNS (Domain Name System)

- Problem?
  - IP address (32 bit), e.g., 121.7.106.83 – used for **addressing datagrams**
  - **www.yahoo.com** – used by **humans**
- Question: how do you map between IP address and name, and vice versa?
- Domain Name System:
  - *distributed database* implemented in a hierarchy of many *name servers*
  - *application-layer protocol* that allows a host to query the database in order to **resolve** names (address/name translation)
  - used by other application-layer protocols (http, ftp, smtp)

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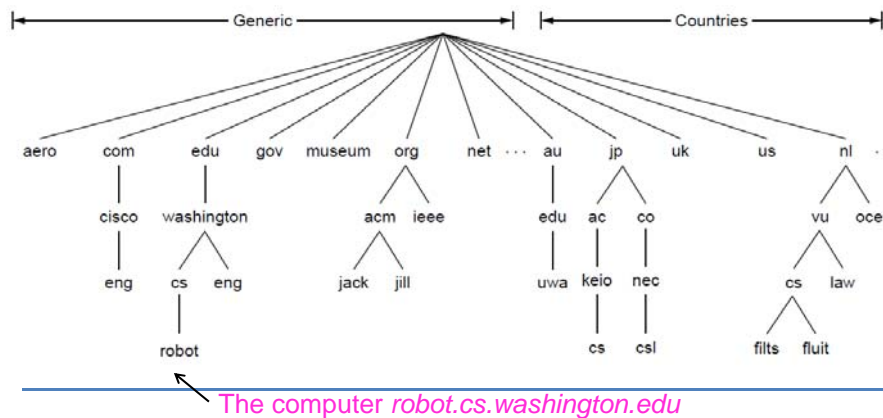
## DNS Defined

- Number of RFCs (**request for comments**)' are directly related to DNS: shows importance of DNS as a foundation to many other services
  - RFC 1034: Domain Names: Concepts and Facilities
  - RFC 1035: Domain Names: Implementation and Specification
  - RFC 1519: Domain Name System Structure and Delegation
  - RFC 2219: Use of DNS Aliases for Network Services
  - RFC 2606: Reserved Top Level DNS Names
  - RFC 3647: Role of the Domain Name System

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## Conceptual Divisions of DNS Namespace

- A hierarchical naming **convention**; the top of the hierarchy is managed by ICANN (*The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers*).



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## Name Space

- Internet is divided into over 250 **top-level domains** (TLD).
- Generic top-level domains are given next.

Domain	Intended use	Start date	Restricted?
com	Commercial	1985	No
edu	Educational institutions	1985	Yes
gov	Government	1985	Yes
int	International organizations	1988	Yes
mil	Military	1985	Yes
net	Network providers	1985	No
org	Non-profit organizations	1985	No
aero	Air transport	2001	Yes
biz	Businesses	2001	No
coop	Cooperatives	2001	Yes
info	Informational	2002	No
museum	Museums	2002	Yes
name	People	2002	No
pro	Professionals	2002	Yes
cat	Catalan	2005	Yes
jobs	Employment	2005	Yes
mobi	Mobile devices	2005	Yes
tel	Contact details	2005	Yes
travel	Travel industry	2005	Yes
xxx	Sex industry	2010	No

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## Why not centralize DNS?

- Single point of failure
- Traffic volume
- Distant centralized database
- Maintenance
- Does not scale well

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## DNS Services

- hostname to IP **address translation**
- **host aliasing** – alias names for canonical names
  - e.g., canonical `relay1.westcoast.enterprise.com` aliased to `www.enterprise.com`
- mail server aliasing
  - e.g., `Bob@relay1.westcoast.hotmail.com` aliased to `Bob@hotmail.com`
- **load distribution**
  - *busy sites are replicated over multiple servers*
  - *a set of IP addresses is associated with one canonical name*
  - *DNS server rotates the order of the addresses to distribute the load*

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## Domain Name Characteristics

- Domain names:
  - Are case insensitive
  - Can have up to 63 characters per constituent
  - Can have up to 255 chars per path
  - Can be internationalised (since 1999)
- Naming conventions usually follow either organisational or physical boundaries eg.
  - au.ibm.com / uk.ibm.com (for email)
  - ibm.com.au / ibm.co.uk (for web)
- Absolute domain names ends in a “.”
- Relative domain names partially specify the location and can be used only within the context of an absolute domain name

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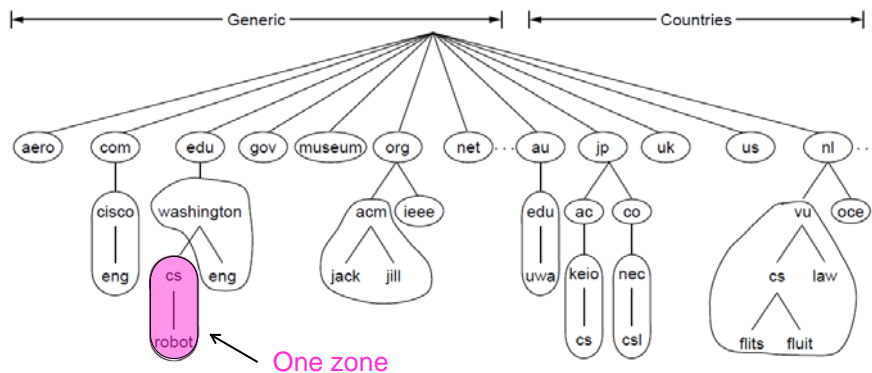
## Zone Name Servers

- DNS namespace divided into **non-overlapping zones**
- Each zone contains a part of the DNS tree and also name servers authoritative for that zone -
  - usually 2 name servers for a zone (called the primary and secondary name servers),
  - sometimes secondary is actually outside the zone (for reliability)
- Name servers are arranged in a hierarchical manner extending from a set of root servers

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## Name Servers

- The DNS name space is divided into nonoverlapping zones; each circled contains some part of the tree.



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## Root Name Servers

- The root servers form the authoritative cluster for enquiry in the event of locally-unresolvable name queries
- There are 13 root servers globally
  - In some cases, a root server is a cluster of servers

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## Resource Records

- The **Resource Records** (RR) are the key objects in the Domain Name System
- A RR consists of a domain name, TTL, class, type, value
  - Domain Name: which domain this record applies to
  - TTL: indicates stability or temporal extent of the record
  - Class: IN for internet (others exist, but deprecated)
  - Type: a closed vocabulary of the following:
    - A : The Internet address of the host
    - CNAME : The canonical name for an alias
    - MX : The mail exchanger
    - NS : The name server
    - PTR : The host name if the query is in the form of an Internet address; otherwise the pointer to other information
    - SOA : The domain's start-of-authority information
  - Value: data (semantics depend on record type)

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## Asking for a Domain Name: Example

User requests the URL

`www.someschool.edu/index.html`

1. User machine runs the client side of the DNS software
2. Browser extracts the hostname from the URL, and passes it to the client-side of the DNS application
3. DNS client sends a query containing the hostname to a DNS server
4. DNS client eventually receives a reply containing the IP address for the hostname
5. Browser initiates a TCP connection to the process located at port 80 at the IP address

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## A Typical DNS Query: dig

```
dig www.unimelb.edu.au
; <<> DiG 9.3.0s20021217 <<> www.unimelb.edu.au
;; global options: printcmd
;; Got answer:
;; ->>HEADER<<- opcode: QUERY, status: NOERROR, id: 19905
;; flags: qr rd ra; QUERY: 1, ANSWER: 1, AUTHORITY: 2, ADDITIONAL: 2
;; QUESTION SECTION:
;www.unimelb.edu.au.      IN      A
;; ANSWER SECTION:
www.unimelb.edu.au.      15589   IN      A      128.250.148.40
;; AUTHORITY SECTION:
unimelb.edu.au.          1217    IN      NS      ns2.unimelb.edu.au.
unimelb.edu.au.          1217    IN      NS      ns1.unimelb.edu.au.
;; ADDITIONAL SECTION:
ns1.unimelb.edu.au.      491     IN      A      128.250.20.2
ns2.unimelb.edu.au.      494     IN      A      128.250.144.180
;; Query time: 393 msec
;; SERVER: 128.250.66.5#53(128.250.66.5)
;; WHEN: Fri Apr 18 05:46:56 2014
;; MSG SIZE rcvd: 120
```

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## Domain Resource Records

```
; Authoritative data for cs.vu.nl
cs.vu.nl.      86400   IN      SOA      star boss (9527,7200,7200,241920,86400)
cs.vu.nl.      86400   IN      MX        1 zephyr
cs.vu.nl.      86400   IN      MX        2 top
cs.vu.nl.      86400   IN      NS        star
star           86400   IN      A          130.37.56.205
zephyr         86400   IN      A          130.37.20.10
top            86400   IN      A          130.37.20.11
www            86400   IN      CNAME      star.cs.vu.nl
ftp            86400   IN      CNAME      zephyr.cs.vu.nl

flits          86400   IN      A          130.37.16.112
flits          86400   IN      A          192.31.231.165
flits          86400   IN      MX        1 flits
flits          86400   IN      MX        2 zephyr
flits          86400   IN      MX        3 top

rowboat        IN      A          130.37.56.201
               IN      MX        1 rowboat
               IN      MX        2 zephyr

little-sister  IN      A          130.37.62.23
laserjet       IN      A          192.31.231.216
```

← Name server

← IP addresses of computers

← Mail gateways

- A portion of a possible DNS database for cs.vu.nl.

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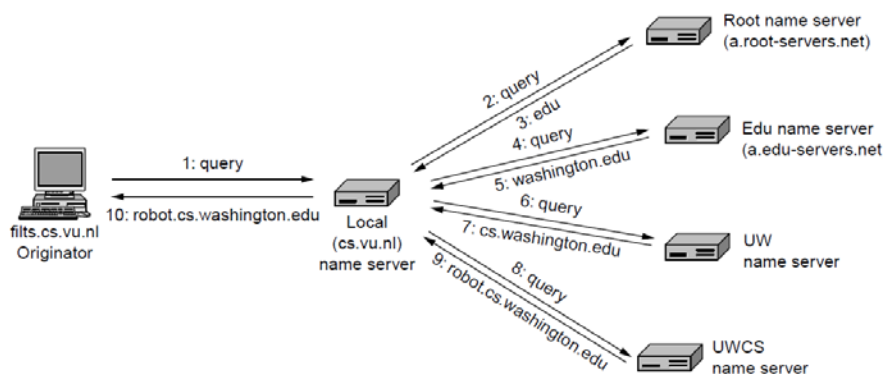
## DNS In Action

- Finding the IP address for a given hostname is called **name resolution** and is done with the DNS protocol.
- Resolution:
  - Computer requests local name server to resolve
  - Local name server asks the root name server
  - Root returns the name server for a lower zone
  - Continue down zones until name server can answer
- DNS protocol:
  - Runs on UDP port 53, retransmits when lost messages
  - Caches name server answers for better performance

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## Example

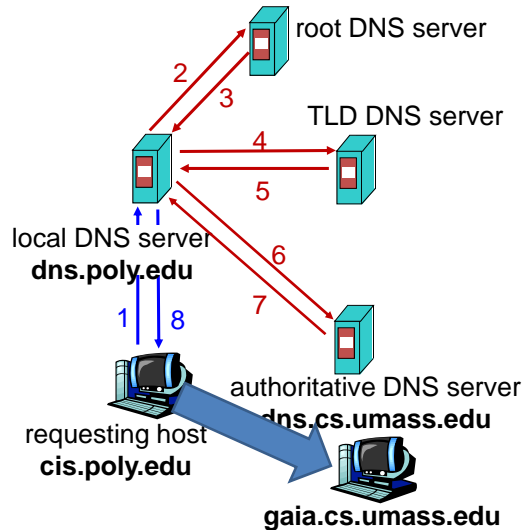
- Example of a computer looking up the IP for a name



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## DNS Name Resolution Contd

- host at cis.poly.edu wants IP address for gaia.cs.umass.edu
- iterated query:
  - contacted server replies with name of server to contact
    - “I don’t know this name, but ask this server”
- recursive query:
  - server obtains mapping on client’s behalf



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## DNS: Caching and Updating Records

- Once (any) name server learns a mapping, it **caches** the mapping
  - IP addresses of TLD servers typically cached in local name servers
    - ➔ root name servers not often visited
  - Cache entries timeout (disappear) after some time

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