

## About ARIN

The American Registry for Internet Numbers (ARIN) is the nonprofit corporation that distributes Internet number resources, including Internet Protocol (IP) addresses, to Canada, many Caribbean and North Atlantic islands, and the United States.

**An IP address** is a *number* that a computer uses to move information on the Internet. An example of an **IP address** is 199.43.0.202. Every device directly connected to the Internet must have a unique IP address.

**A domain name** is a *label* that a person uses in place of an IP address. An example of a **domain name** is [www.arin.net](http://www.arin.net).

Typing either "199.43.0.202" or "www.arin.net" into a web browser will call the ARIN website.

Computers only understand IP addresses, whereas people generally find it easier to remember words or terms. The Domain Name System (DNS) translates these easily remembered names into their unique IP addresses for the computer to find.

IP ADDRESS	DOMAIN NAME
Locator	Label
Identifies Point on Internet	Identifies IP Address
Computer-friendly	People-friendly
Used to Move Information	Used to Store Information
NOT Property	Intellectual Property

*"A name indicates what we seek.  
An address indicates where it is.  
A route indicates how we get there."*

—Jon Postel, RFC 791

### GOING TO AN AUTO MECHANIC

I find a mechanic's name in the phone book.

I find the mechanic's street address.

I use a map to determine the route to the mechanic's garage.

I follow the map to take my car to the mechanic's garage.

### GOING TO A WEBSITE

I type the domain name ([www.arin.net](http://www.arin.net)) into my web browser.

My computer uses the DNS to determine the IP address (199.43.0.202) of [www.arin.net](http://www.arin.net).

My local router finds the path to 199.43.0.202.

My computer follows the path and connects me to the ARIN website.