

# ICANN and its role in the Internet ecosystem



Elena Plexida  
VP, Government and IGO Engagement

# ICANN's focus: Unique Names and Numbers

**Anything connected to the Internet** – including computers, mobile phones and other devices – **has a unique number called its IP address**. IP stands for Internet Protocol.

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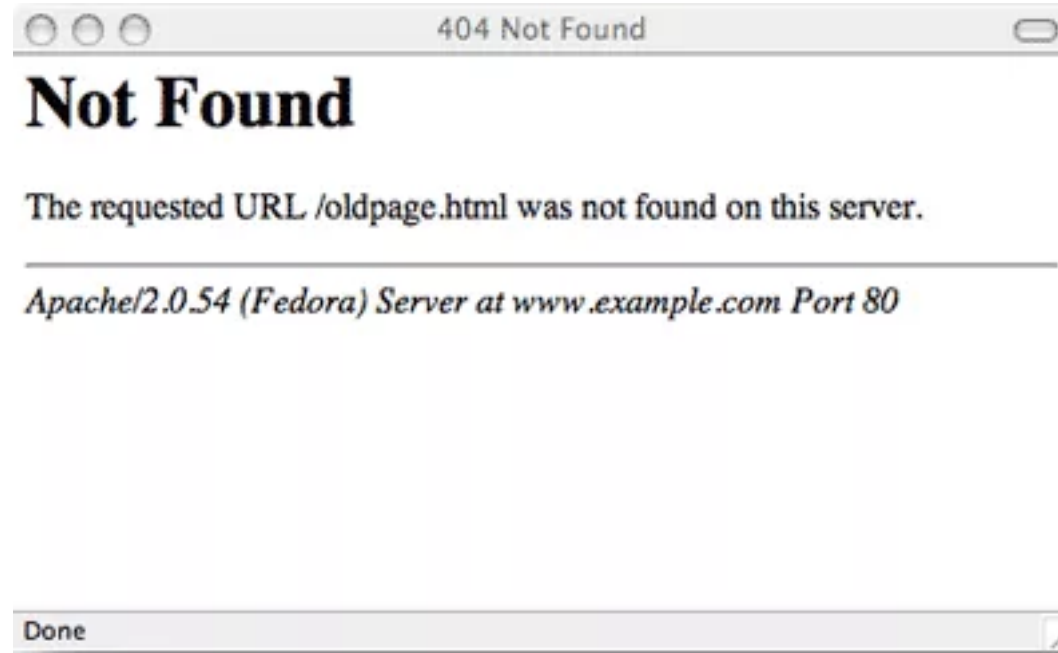
This address is like a postal address. It allows messages, videos and other packets of data to be sent from anywhere on the Internet to the device that has been uniquely identified by its IP address.

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IP addresses can be difficult to remember, so instead of numbers, **the Internet's domain name system uses letters, numbers and hyphens, to form a name that is easier to remember**.



# Without this coordination



The Internet is a mesh of networks whose operators agree to communicate using predefined protocols (“TCP/IP”)


Networks use identifiers to name or number individual computers (hosts) so that these can communicate: at ICANN, these are names, numbers and protocol parameters.


# ICANN's Mission


*Since 1998*


The mission of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) is to **ensure the stable and secure operation of the Internet's unique identifier systems**


**Specifically, ICANN:**

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Coordinates the **allocation and assignment of names in the root zone** of the Domain Name System
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Coordinates the development and implementation of **policies concerning the registration of second-level domain names in generic top-level domains (gTLDs)**
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Facilitates the coordination of the **operation and evolution of the DNS root name server system**
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Coordinates the allocation and assignment at the **top-most level of Internet Protocol numbers & Autonomous System numbers**
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Collaborates with other bodies as appropriate to provide registries needed for the functioning of the Internet as specified by Internet protocol standards development organizations

# ICANN is made up of three parts:

