CS-340 Introduction to Computer Networking

Lecture 4: Domain Name Service

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Many diagrams & slides are adapted from those by J.F Kurose and K.W. Ross

Last Lecture

- Application-layer protocols are usually built on top of TCP
 - Don't have to worry about network itself, just connect with other hosts
- Most applications use a *client-server* architecture: request-response.
- A *peer-to-peer* architecture is more scalable, but difficult to organize.
- HTTP was invented for fetching documents from web servers.
 - It's now used as the basis for many request-response interactions.
 - URLs, request method, response status, human-readable headers, body
 - REST APIs are built on top of HTTP, so it's a layer in its own right.
- *SMTP* is an earlier application-layer protocol, for sending email
 - Unlike HTTP, it's *stateful* (server has to remember what you previously said).

Third party cookies, pixels, and tags



- Recall, that an HTTP response may include a cookie.
 - Cookies are random strings stored by your browser and included in every request to the same domain.
 - Cookies are a way for the browser to remind a website of your identity.
- Third party cookies are cookies from a domain different that the currently viewed web page.
 - Often enabled with a one-pixel GIF image included in the page:
 - Causes browser to send a request to facebook.com (including your Facebook cookie) even though I'm visiting a page unrelated to Facebook.
 - The request has a "Referer:" header listing the current URL.
 - Thus, Facebook (for example) learns about much of your web activity.

Visiting Northwestern's webpage (w/Ghostery plugin)

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Cache Storage									
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Cookies are secrets!



• Remember that web servers use cookies to *authenticate* (identify) users.

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- If I steal your browser's cookies and copy them to my browser, then any websites I visit recognize me as you.
- Web browsers isolate cookies by domain.
- Cookies have expiration dates.
- This is why you have to re-sign-in to websites occasionally, even if you did not sign out.
- Signing out involves clearing your browser's cookies *and* removing the cookies from a server-side database.

Cross-Site Request Forgery (CSRF) attack

- Cookies must be carefully configured to prevent attacks.
- Eg., I can place the following code in my website to trigger an authenticated request to another website:
- <img src="https://mybank.com/transfer?
 account=bob&amount=1000000&to=mallory">
- The browser will include that domain's cookies in the request, and those cookies authenticate the request.
- There is also a variation of this attack that uses a hidden HTML form to generate a POST request.
- Cookies can be stored with "SameSite" attribute to prevent CSRF, and many other protection strategies are possible.

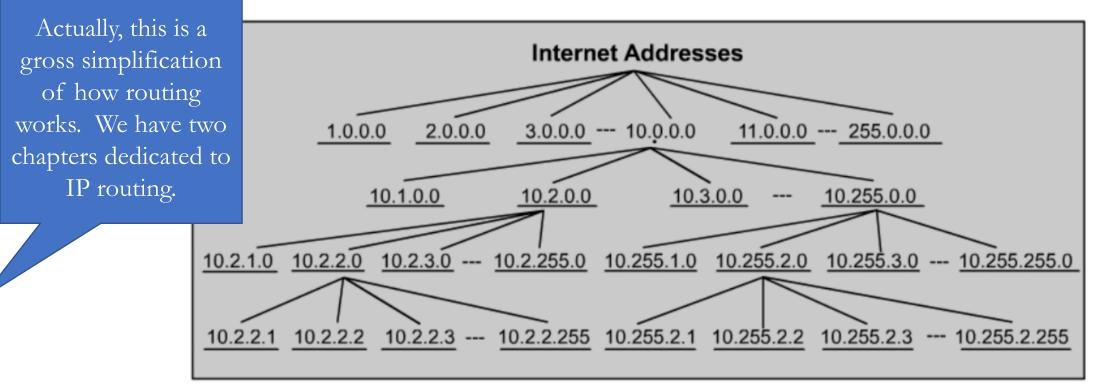
Domain Name Service (DNS)

- Internet hosts are reachable by IP address:
 - eg.: 129.105.136.70 (IPv4) or 2001:db8::ff00:42:8329 (IPv6)
- But we need some way to find these addresses.
- DNS maps from human-friendly *hostnames* to IP addresses

• Eg., "northwestern.edu" \rightarrow 129.105.136.70

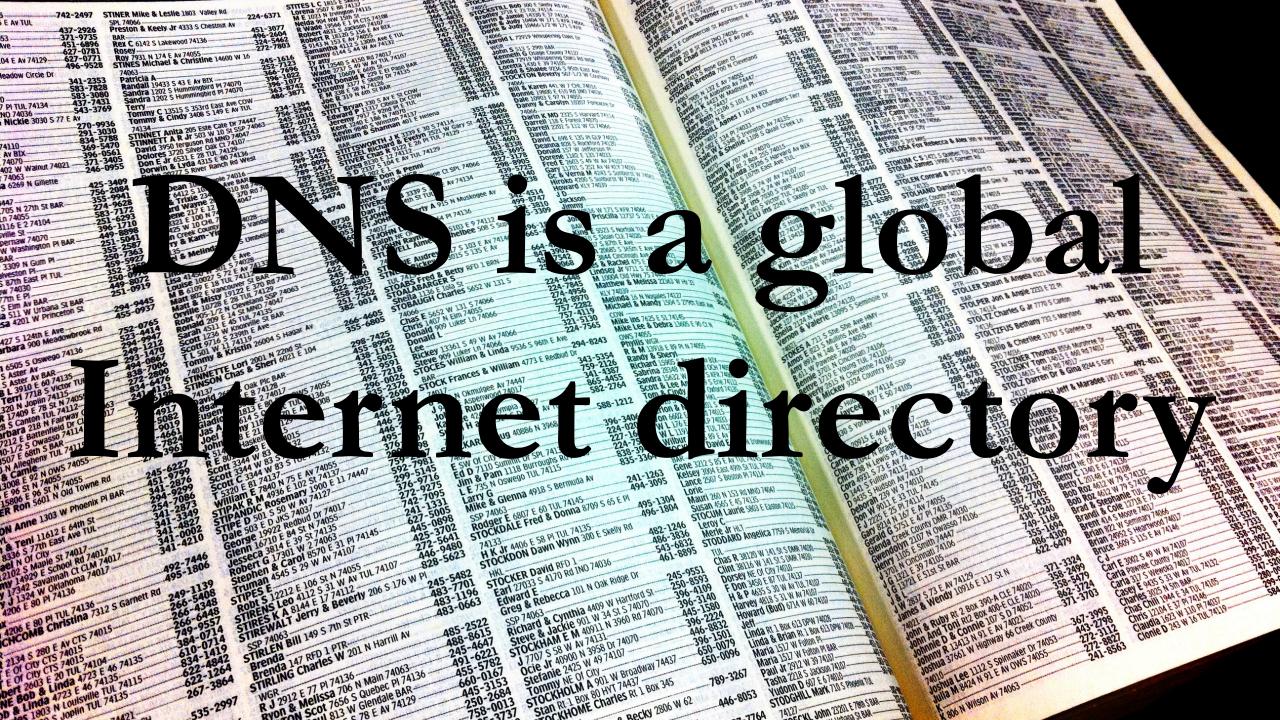
- IP addresses are bound to machines.
- Hostnames are associated with services.
 - More permanent than IP addresses (allows machines to move).
- DNS provides a layer of indirection in addressing, useful in many ways.
- Defined in RFCs 1034 and 1035

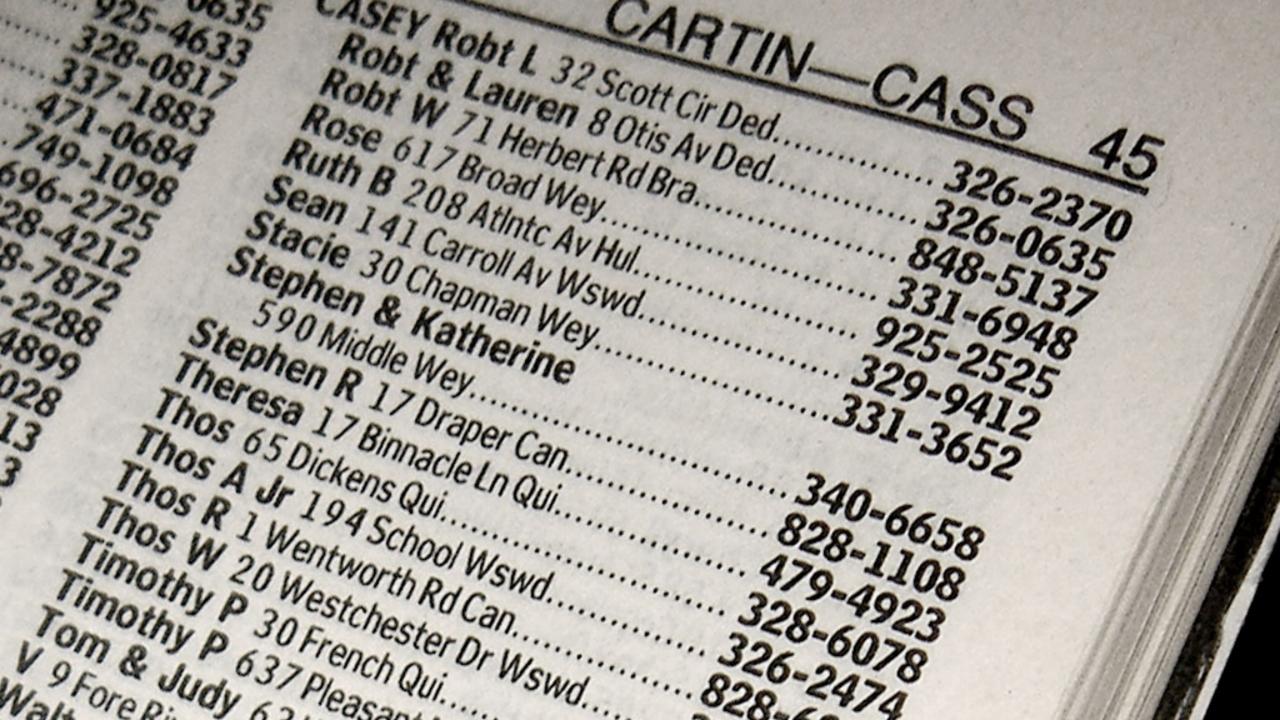
IP Addresses are for routing



- Nearby IP addresses are *usually* physically closer together in the network.
- Left-most bits are for global location, right-most bits are local.
- Similar to telephone numbers: 1-847-491-7069

USA, NE Illinois, Northwestern campus, Steve's phone



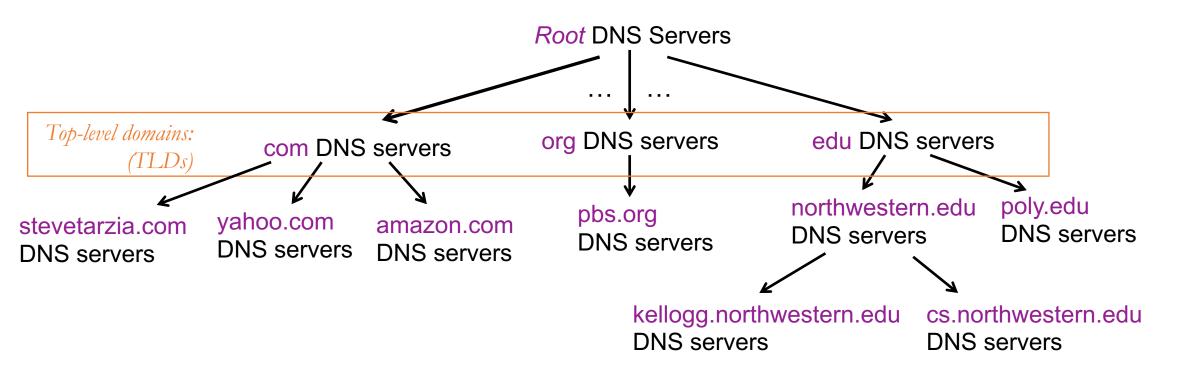


DNS scaling

- A single directory machine would not scale
 - Many web requests require a DNS lookup first.
 - One server cannot handle all the Internet's directory requests!
 - Plus, you want to do this lookup at a nearby server.
- How would you make DNS scalable, to provide IP address lookups for all machines on the Internet?
- Two basic solutions:
 - **Distribute** the database across many machines.
 - Cache DNS lookups locally on the client and in nearby caching proxies.



DNS is distributed and hierarchical



- Each DNS server only knows about the records in its own subdomain
- These are the authoritative *nameservers* for the various *subdomains*.
 - If I want to own and operate "stevetarzia.com" I must pay someone to add a record to the "com" top-level-domain nameservers.
 - I then can run my own nameserver on my subdomain, defining:
 - www.stevetarzia.com, mail.stevetarzia.com, and even citibank.stevetarzia.com (for phishing purposes).

13 Root DNS servers (run by ICANN)

• These store IP addresses of the nameservers for all the top-level-domains (TLDs): com, net, uk, edu, cn, *etc*.

c. Cogent, Herndon, VA (5 other sites)
d. U Maryland College Park, MD
h. ARL Aberdeen, MD
j. Verisign, Dulles VA (69 other sites)

e. NASA Mt View, CAf. Internet Software C.Palo Alto, CA (and 48 other sites)

a. Verisign, Los Angeles CA (5 other sites)
b. USC-ISI Marina del Rey, CA
l. ICANN Los Angeles, CA (41 other sites)
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es) g. US DoD Columbus, OH (5 other sites)

Each Root DNS Server is actually redundant across many physical locations using *IP anycast*. More on this later!

k. RIPE London (17 other sites)

i. Netnod, Stockholm (37 other sites)

m. WIDE Tokyo (5 other sites)

Querying the DNS hierarchy

Client wants IP address of **cs.umass.edu**

- Query *iteratively*, starting with the root server:
 - Each server replies with an answer or the name of server to contact:
 - "I don't know this name, but ask this server."

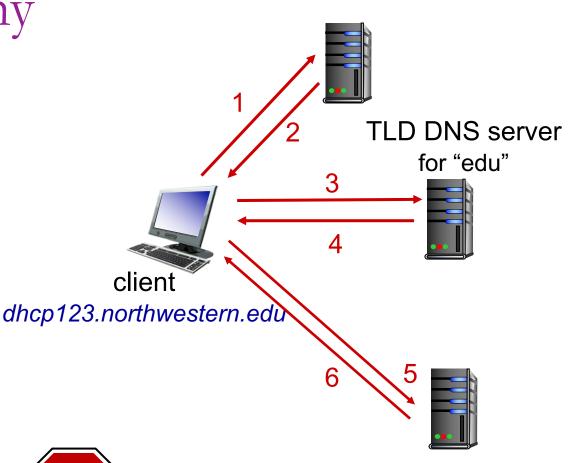
Performance problems?

- Every request hits the root server.
- Common domains, like google.com are queried billions of times per day!



authoritative DNS server for "umass.edu"





root DNS server

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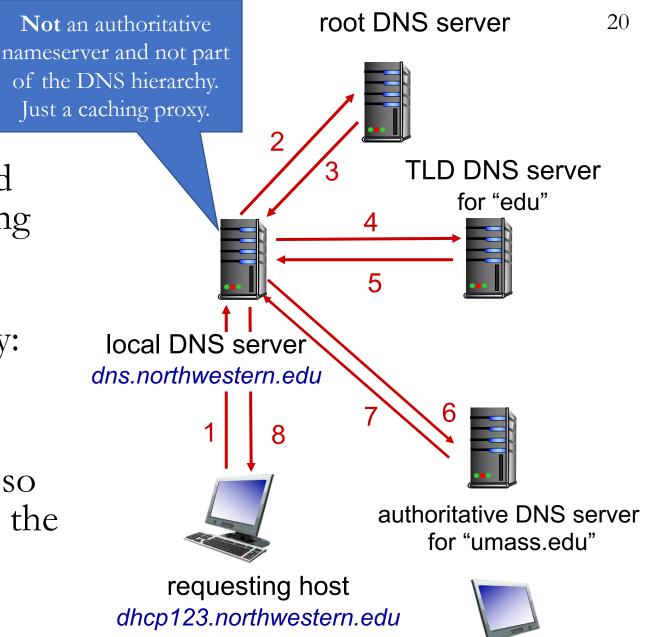
Local DNS Resolver

Key observation:

• A few domains are very popular, and your neighbors are probably accessing the same set of services.

Local DNS resolver is a caching proxy:

- A **proxy** is just an intermediary or "middleman" for a request.
- **Caching** is saving recent responses so they can be reused without doing all the work to generate them again.
- ISPs operate DNS resolvers for their customer.

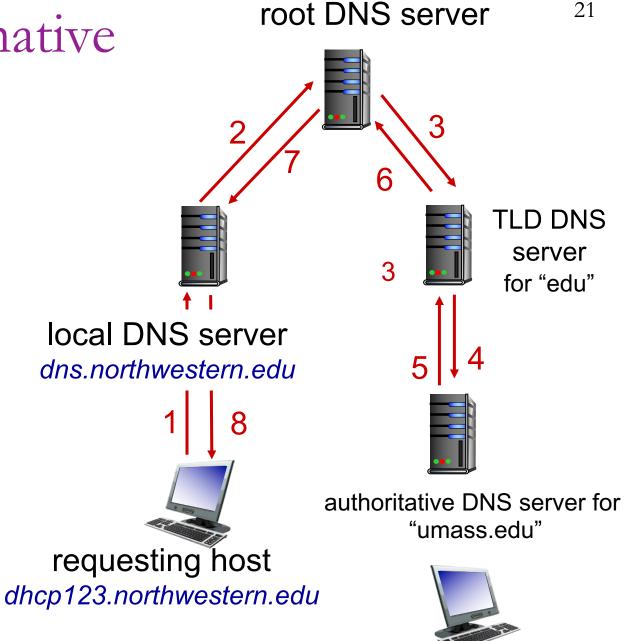


cs.umass.edu

Side note: an unlikely alternative

A very polite DNS server may actually *recursively* look up the answer to our query, even if it is not the authoritative server for that domain.

- DNS servers are rarely so kind.
- This does not happen in practice.



cs.umass.edu

DNS Record Time to Live (TTL)

- DNS is a distributed system, and query responses are *cached* (remembered) at the "edge" of the network.
 - This allows repeated and common queries to be answered quickly, without asking the authoritative nameserver.
 - Eg., if I ask my local nameserver the IP address of *google.com*, I will likely get a cached answer immediately, because someone probably queried it recently.

Why not always set the

TTL to a very low value?

STOP

- However, records cannot be cached forever this would make the system *static*. Changes in the authoritative server would never be seen.
- DNS records have a Time to Live (TTL) indicating when they expire.
 - After expiry, must ask the authoritative nameserver for the updated value
 - TTL typically = 300 to 86400 seconds (5 minutes to 24 hours)

DNS
contents

- Records:
 - Name
 - Value
 - Type
 - TTL

Name *	Туре 👻	Value	TTL -
stevetarzia.com.	А	54.245.121.172	3600
stevetarzia.com.	MX	10 mail.stevetarzia.com	3600
stevetarzia.com.	NS	ns-1856.awsdns-40.co.uk. ns-1199.awsdns-21.org. ns-938.awsdns-53.net. ns-91.awsdns-11.com.	172800
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grits.stevetarzia.com.	А	54.245.121.172	3600
ireland.stevetarzia.com.	А	52.19.15.31	300
mail.stevetarzia.com.	А	54.245.121.172	3600
vortex.stevetarzia.com.	CNAME	vortex.epsilondeltalabs.org.	300
www.stevetarzia.com.	CNAME	stevetarzia.com	3600

DNS has different *types* of records, for different uses²⁴

- A records: map hostnames to IP addresses
 - grits.stevetarzia.com \rightarrow 54.245.121.172
 - AAAA records do the same for IPv6
- NS records: lists the nameservers for a given domain
 - These records are present in the parent domain's nameserver.
 - Authoritative nameservers for "com" store the NS records for "stevetarzia.com"
- MX records: list the email servers
 - To whom should I send mail addressed to strongbad@stevetarzia.com?
 - Several servers can be listed, with numbers indicating the priority of each one.
- CNAME records: list aliases
 - www.stevetarzia.com \rightarrow stevetarzia.com

Advanced DNS records

- **SOA records** store information about who created the DNS records and how they should be cached.
- SRV records list server for a specified service (generalization of MX):
 - _sip._udp.columbia.edu \rightarrow laurel.cc.columbia.edu:5060
 - Tells us which server handles VoIP phone calls to <u>user@columbia.edu</u>.
 - _minecraft._tcp.stevetarzia.com $\rightarrow \dots$
- **TXT records** are a generic key-value store
 - DKIM records (stored in a TXT record) store email signature public key:
 - key1._domainkey.example.com \rightarrow k=rsa;p=J8eTBu224i086iK
- SPF records list valid outbound mail servers for the domain
- **PTR records** store reverse DNS records, IP address \rightarrow hostname

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eecs340.com		Q	Continue to Cart
es! Your domain is avail	able. Buy it before so	meone else does.	
eecs340.com		\$14.99 * \$11.99 *	Add to Cart
eecs340.us Add this: \$1.00 when you register for 2 years or more, 1st year price S	\$1.00 Additional years \$19.99		
Buy 3 and Save 69%		\$58.97 * \$18.0	0* Add to Cart
eecs340.net			
eecs340.org eecs340.info			Technically, what
eecs540.iiii0			the result of my
			buying a domain
			Where is domain
rotect your name with th	nese domains:		ownership defined
Extensions	eecs340.org	\$19.99 * \$7	.99* Add to Cart

Domain Name Registrars sell domain names

- Eg., GoDaddy, Namecheap, AWS.
- Must be accredited (approved) by the TLD registry:
 - ICANN appoints an organization to manage each TLD.
 - Eg., .com TLD is managed by Verisign, Inc.
 - 100 million .com domains (in 2011).
- Registrar collects your money and your **nameserver list**, and causes it to be stored by the TLD.
- ICANN collects an 18 cent fee.

MIIICSC	ervers			
Jsing custom n	ameservers	Change]	
Nameserver				
NS-938.AWSDN	S-53.NET			
NS-1199.AWSDI	NS-21.ORG			
	NS-40.CO.UK			

Advanced DNS

- Modern DNS is much more than just a directory.
- It's is a valuable tool for managing delivery of Internet services:
 - Decides how to connect clients and servers
 - DNS records may change over time (allowing services to move)
 - Nameservers may give different answers to different clients!
- Simple nameservers are *static* (always return the same answer), but **dynamic nameservers** may be more clever

Round Robin DNS

- DNS can return multiple records for a given query.
- A domain like *www.ebay.com* can map to many different IP addresses (machines)
- This allows many machines to share the responsibility of answering requests (load balancing).
 - This works well for web traffic because HTTP is stateless.
- For very large services, dynamic nameserver may return a *random subset* of IP addresses capable of handling a request.
- Load-balancing nameserver may also monitor the **health** of servers to exclude IP addresses that are not responding.
 - TTL must be very short for this to work well.

Global Internet performance

- Recall that packet delivery time is influenced by number of network hops (nodal delays) and length of links (propagation delay).
 - Latency is high for distant servers.
- It is much faster to access a nearby server, especially for applications like the web, that involve dozens of small requests.

Sending a packet to China

\$ nslookup www.tsinghua.edu.cn

Server: 192.168.0.1 Address: 192.168.0.1#53

Non-authoritative answer: www.tsinghua.edu.cn canonical name = www.d.tsinghua.edu.cn. Name: www.d.tsinghua.edu.cn Address: 166.111.4.100

\$ ping 166.111.4.100 PING 166.111.4.100 (166.111.4.100): 56 data bytes 64 bytes from 166.111.4.100: icmp_seq=0 ttl=233 time=401.758 ms 64 bytes from 166.111.4.100: icmp_seq=2 ttl=233 time=219.958 ms 64 bytes from 166.111.4.100: icmp_seq=3 ttl=233 time=223.185 ms

Sending a packet to Lemont, Illinois

\$ nslookup www.anl.gov

Server: 192.168.0.1

Address: 192.168.0.1#53

Non-authoritative answer: Name:www.anl.gov Address: 146.137.23.18

\$ ping 146.137.23.18

PING 146.137.23.18 (146.137.23.18): 56 data bytes 64 bytes from 146.137.23.18: icmp_seq=0 ttl=242 time=27.578 ms 64 bytes from 146.137.23.18: icmp_seq=1 ttl=242 time=22.076 ms 64 bytes from 146.137.23.18: icmp_seq=2 ttl=242 time=15.406 ms 64 bytes from 146.137.23.18: icmp_seq=3 ttl=242 time=15.370 ms

Evanston apartment to Beijing route

\$ traceroute 166.111.4.100

traceroute to 166.111.4.100 (166.111.4.100), 64 hops max, 52 byte packets (192.168.0.1) 3.981 ms 2.138 ms 1.804 ms 1 2 96.120.29.37 (96.120.29.37) 10.648 ms 10.112 ms 9.856 ms 9.87 3 te-0-7-0-11-sur03.mortongrove.il.chicago.comcast.net (68.87.209.245) 4 162.151.36.238 (162.151.36.238) 10.365 ms 10.320 ms 10.812 ms be-141-ar01.area4.il.chicago.comcast.net (162.151.36.241) 12.360 ms 15.8 5 be-33491-cr02.350ecermak.il.ibone.comcast.net (68.86.91.165) 12.240 ms 2 6 ix-xe-8-0-0-2-0.tcore1.ct8-chicago.as6453.net (64.86.137.45) 11.884 ms 1 7 8 73.92 if-ae-29-2.tcore2.sqn-**san-jose**.as6453.net (64.86.21.104) 88.461 ms 9 if-ae-1-2.tcore1.sqn-san-jose.as6453.net (63.243.205.1) 73.931 ms 74.063 if-ae-38-2.tcore2.sv1-santa-clara.as6453.net (63.243.205.75) 73.271 ms 10 11 if-ae-0-2.tcore1.sv1-santa-clara.as6453.net (63.243.251.1) 73.662 ms 74. if-ae-8-2.tcore1.lvw-los-angeles.as6453.net (66.110.59.8) 74.468 ms 12 93.9 66.110.59.182 (66.110.59.182) **75.365 ms** 77.409 ms 77.519 ms 13 14 101.4.117.213 (101.4.117.213) **300.917 ms** 261.717 ms 312.424 ms 15 101.4.117.101 (101.4.117.101) 307.725 ms 328.299 ms 311.348 ms 16 101.4.115.254 (101.4.115.254) 306.925 ms 378.022 ms 293.795 ms 17 101.4.112.197 (101.4.112.197) 219.399 ms 240.069 ms 306.198 ms

33

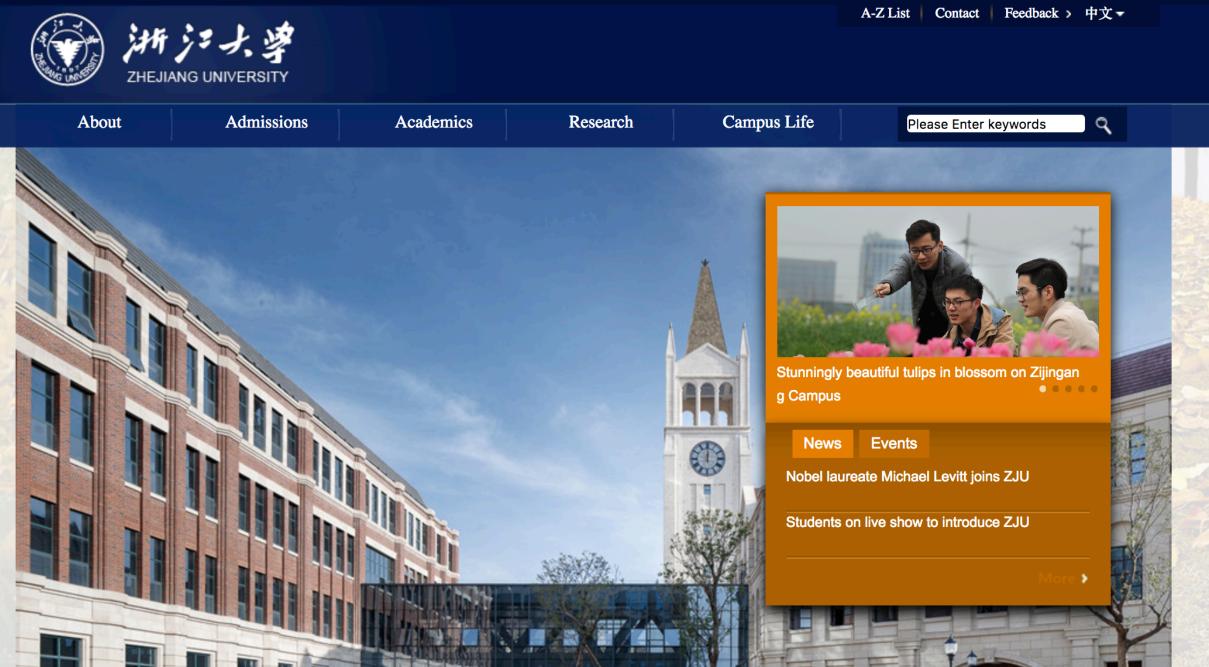
* * *

18

Northwestern Campus to Beijing route

```
$ traceroute 166.111.4.100
traceroute to 166.111.4.100 (166.111.4.100), 64 hops max, 52 byte packets
 1 tech-6-vln-498.northwestern.edu (129.105.5.5) 9.108 ms
   tech-5-vln-498.northwestern.edu (129.105.5.4) 0.584 ms
   tech-6-vln-498.northwestern.edu (129.105.5.5) 0.592 ms
 2 2020rdg-4-prt-242.northwestern.edu (129.105.247.94) 0.737 ms
   lev-5-po242.northwestern.edu (129.105.247.92) 0.648 ms
   lev-5-po243.northwestern.edu (129.105.247.14) 0.634 ms
3 abbt-2-vln-2341.northwestern.edu (129.105.253.94) 1.109 ms 1.520 ms 0.975 ms
   abbt-5-xe-1-0-3.northwestern.edu (129.105.247.231) 1.506 ms
4
   abbt-5-xe-2-0-3.northwestern.edu (129.105.247.225) 1.583 ms
    abbt-5-xe-1-0-3.northwestern.edu (129.105.247.231) 1.527 ms
 5 starlight-lsd6509.northwestern.edu (199.249.169.6) 1.528 ms 2.268 ms 1.567 ms
6 et-7-0-0.1136.rtsw.star.net.internet2.edu (198.71.46.206) 1.696 ms 1.542 ms 1.464 ms
   et-2-1-0.4079.rtsw.chic.net.internet2.edu (162.252.70.116) 3.450 ms 2.114 ms 1.778 ms
 7
   ae-3.4079.rtsw.kans.net.internet2.edu (162.252.70.141) 13.860 ms * 13.021 ms
8
   ae-5.4079.rtsw.salt.net.internet2.edu (162.252.70.145) 32.994 ms 33.189 ms 34.230 ms
 9
   * ae-1.4079.rtsw.losa.net.internet2.edu (162.252.70.114) 45.478 ms 45.611 ms
10
   210.25.189.133 (210.25.189.133) 51.453 ms 48.035 ms 47.858 m
11
12
   * * *
13
   210.25.187.42 (210.25.187.42) 200.646 ms 200.820 ms 201.288 ms
14
   210.25.187.45 (210.25.187.45)
                                 200.391 ms 202.337 ms 200.467 ms
   210.25.189.69 (210.25.189.69)
                                 202.314 ms 200.980 ms 203.745 ms
15
16 101.4.115.254 (101.4.115.254)
                                 199.979 ms 199.829 ms 202.220 ms
                                 200.503 ms 200.646 ms 201.140 ms
17 101.4.113.234 (101.4.113.234)
   * * *
18
```





2000 ms	4	000 ms	6000 ms		8000 ms		10000 m	າຣ	12000 m	s	14000 ms		
								_	-				
Name	Size	Time	Waterfall	10.00 s	Name	I		Size	Time	Waterfall	10.00	S	▲ 15
english/	22.9 KB	1.34 s			system_editor.	.CSS		60.4 KB	2.32 s				
system.css	281 B	285 ms	1 · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		logo.png			11.1 KB	627 ms				
1.css	249 B	351 ms			jquery.sudy.js			15.4 KB	1.03 s				
58.css	249 B	620 ms			loading.gif			1.3 KB	339 ms				
dtjt9.css	1.4 KB	621 ms			- more.png			1.6 KB	287 ms				
system.css	420 B	930 ms	•		🔲 0192aba5-f380	0-445d-a96b	o-c4b2e41e	198 KB	5.06 s				
default.css	6.5 KB	929 ms	•		01-135227022	9-2160306.p	png	1.1 MB	3.09 s				
simplenews.css	17.3 KB	1.29 s			background.pr	ng		23.0 KB	549 ms				
datepicker.css	5.7 KB	931 ms	•		Iist_ss_03.png			1.6 KB	291 ms				
sudyNav.css	1.8 KB	919 ms	-		e_07.png			1.3 KB	276 ms				
jquery.min.js	91.9 KB	2.60 s			logobg.png			22.7 KB	695 ms				
jquery.sudy.wp.visitcount.js	6.6 KB	1.64 s			zy_02.png			1.2 KB	524 ms				
jquery.datepicker.js	26.7 KB	1.93 s			y_03.png			1.2 KB	525 ms				
datepicker_lang_US.js	1.2 KB	1.64 s			zy_01.png			1.2 KB	787 ms	-			
jquery.sudyNav.js	6.2 KB	1.64 s			news_bg_1.jpg	g		1.5 KB	776 ms	-			
common.css	18.5 KB	1.29 s			subnav_left.pn	ng		1.3 KB	772 ms	-			
default.css	7.5 KB	1.30 s	-		• subnav_bg.png	g		1.2 KB	950 ms				
menu.css	2.0 KB	1.29 s			subnav_right.p	ong		16.7 KB	1.03 s	-	•		
extends.css	7.0 KB	1.30 s			📧 bd.png			16.2 KB	1.04 s		•		
uaredirect.js	1.1 KB	1.93 s				eld=77&type	e=1&colum	216 B	279 ms				
ImageSwitch.js	8.7 KB	1.94 s			📧 aca00e73-13b	b-4ff0-bfce-	985a30529	214 KB	3.09 s				
plugin.js	18.5 KB	2.60 s			ad34f55a3-b526	6-498e-ad84	4-0358d39f	40.6 KB	276 ms		•		
jMenu.js	7.5 KB	2.27 s			favicon.ico			1.7 KB	916 ms				
zju-edu.js	3.3 KB	2.27 s			favicon.ico			1.7 KB	301 ms				
extends.js	1.7 KB	2.27 s			🔳 bce58689-cc6	4-4c7d-83d	a-198900b	75.3 KB	2.67 s				

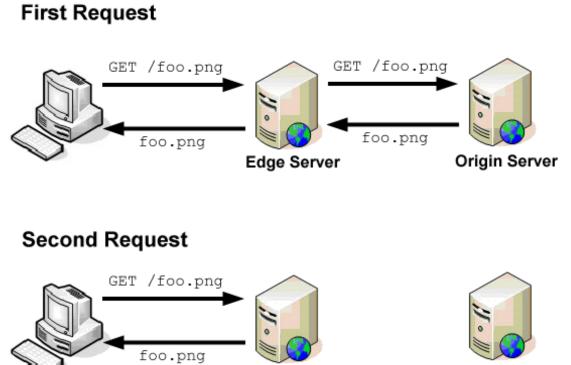
50 requests | 2.1 MB transferred | Finish: 15.57 s | DOMContentLoaded: 4.90 s | Load: 9.84 s

Content Delivery Network (CDN)

- Globally distributed servers that cache HTTP responses for local clients.
- Special DNS server examines **IP address of requester** and resolves to the server that it thinks is closest to the client (IP address *geolocation*).
- Eg., Akamai, Cloudflare, Cloudfront



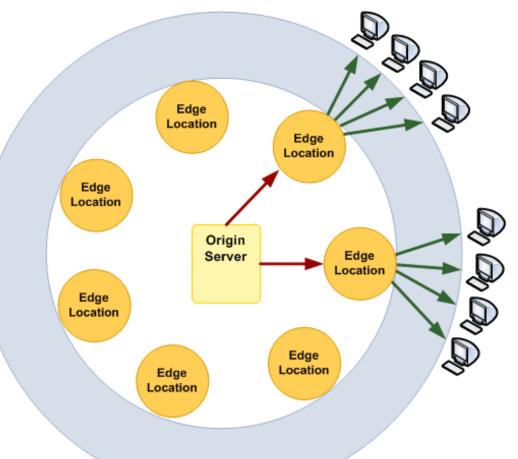
CDN uses HTTP caching proxies



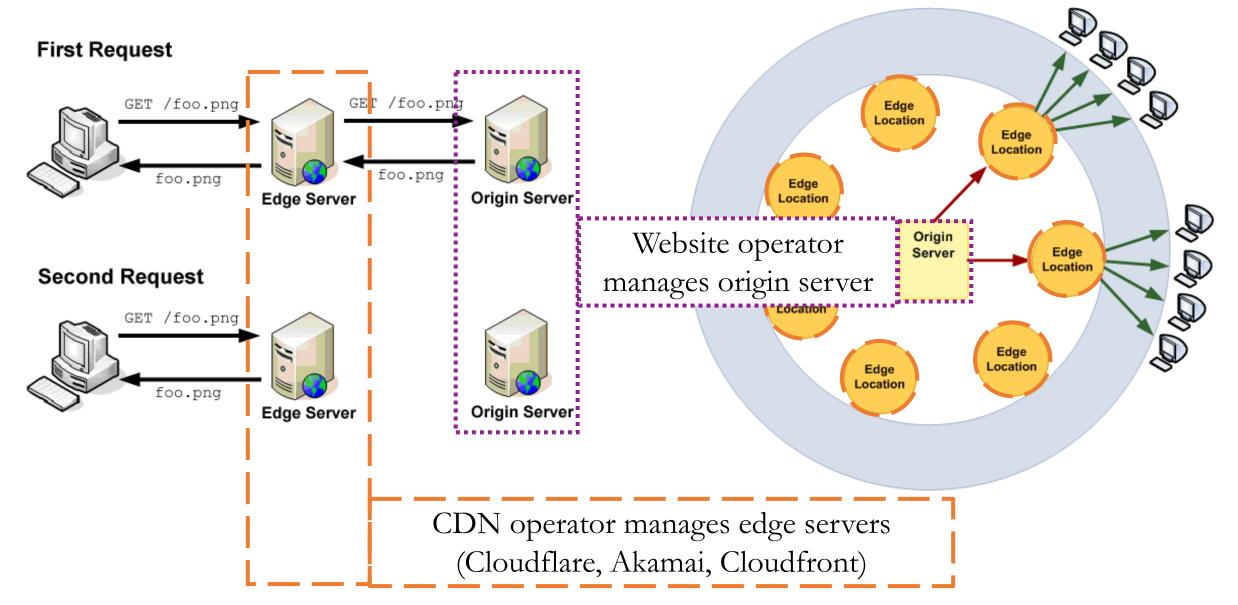
Edge Server

Origin Server

- Origin Server is the original, central web server. (Sets *cache-control* HTTP headers in responses).
- Edge Servers are caching proxies. Like DNS, ask origin server if don't have a cached response.



CDNs are add-on services

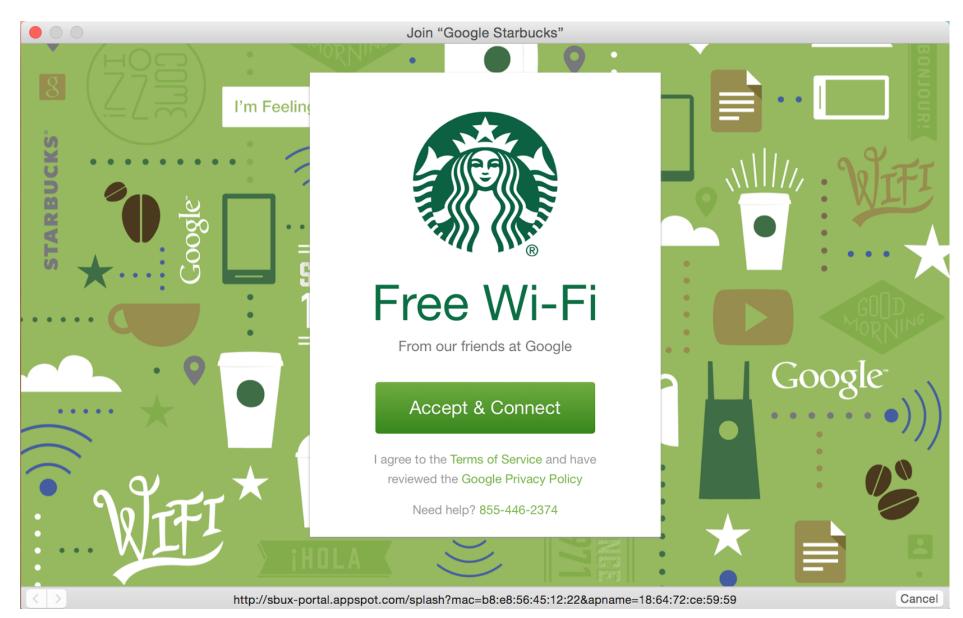


Google public DNS

- DNS is critical for most Internet applications.
- Failure of your local nameserver is very often the source of "Internet outages" you may experience.
- Google provides free public DNS servers at 8.8.8.8 and 8.8.4.4.
 - It's a useful backup option if your local DNS resolver is not working.
- Why does Google provide this service for free?
 - DNS requests tell them even more about your web surfing habits, and this helps their advertising business.



Captive portals also use DNS in a clever way



Recap

- DNS is the Internet's directory service
- It's distributed and hierarchical
- Caching proxies are request intermediaries that store and reuse recent responses. Examples include DNS resolvers and CDNs.
- Dynamic DNS server can cleverly craft their responses to provide:
 - Load balancing and fault tolerance in a cluster of servers
 - Content Delivery Networks, that direct you to the closest service "mirror"
 - Captive portals, that can hijack the entire Internet
 - But TLS encryption and PKI prevent spoofing of secure (https) sites.