

September 2, 2024 - What is Domain Name Service (DNS) and why should I care?!

Knowledge is not only power, it is also peace of mind. When we do not comprehend the apparent chaos around us we react with fear and anger. Can we begin to understand the current chaos of the Internet today? Let's make a start.

Flashback: 1943, Pontiac, Michigan

Father picks up the telephone and dials zero ("0").

Operator, "Number please."

Father: "I don't know the number but, I need Dr. Eckland, we are having a baby!"

Operator: "I will look up the number in the directory for you... The number is Whitney 4567, I will dial it now for you."



I bet dear old Dad wrote "Dr. Eckland Whitney 4567" on the kitchen wall next to that wall phone so he could dial the number directly next time.

Flashforward: 2024, your house

You type "[amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)" into your browser and hit the return key. In affect, this triggers your device to "dial zero" for the Operator. Once connected to the Operator, it returns the number to connect your browser to Amazon. A side note, sometimes the Operator stayed on the line listening.

The Operator of old is the DNS of today on the Internet. Of course, no longer a human at a switchboard but, a set of software programs residing in a computer somewhere. The computer is referred to as a Domain Name Server computer. Like the Operator of old, it can remain on the line, so to speak. Where are these DNS computers? Most are associated with Google followed by Microsoft, Amazon, Apple and others.

Next month, we will address some of what is happening as the DNS "remains on the Line..."

Peace, David

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