

URLs

Every Web page has a URL (Uniform Resource Locator) associated with it. A URL is an address that is interpreted by a Web browser to identify the location of a page on the Web. For example, consider the URL for the Earth Day Network:

`http://www.earthday.net`

The first part of the URL, `http`, is the Web protocol used to handle requests and the transmission of pages between a Web server and a Web browser. The two forward slashes (`//`) following the colon separate the protocol from the domain name, in this case `www.earthday.net`. A domain name is used to identify a particular Web page and is made up of a sequence of parts, or subnames, separated by a period. The subnames are called labels and may represent a server or organization. The suffix of a domain name is called the top-level domain and identifies the type of Web site. In this case `.net` indicates the site is a network organization.

A URL that contains a slash followed by a document name after the top level domain, such as `www.earthday.net/about`, indicates a Web page that is part of the Web site, but not the home page.

Domain Names

A domain name includes information about the organization that posted the Web page. For example, in the URL `www.palmbeachpost.com`, `palmbeachpost` represents the Palm Beach Post newspaper, and `com` is a top level domain that indicates a commercial organization. Other top level domains include:

<code>edu</code>	educational institution
<code>gov</code>	government agency
<code>mil</code>	military facility
<code>net</code>	network organization
<code>org</code>	organization (nonprofit)
<code>ca</code>	Canadian site
<code>uk</code>	United Kingdom site