

Campus Domain Name Standard Guideline

Introduction

The Internet Domain Name System (DNS) is a hierarchical distributed database that allows people to interface with the Internet by providing simple, easy-to-remember, names for websites and other services, instead of using the underlying Internet Protocol (IP) numbered systems. For example, we know our campus as "www.csulb.edu", not "134.139.1.60".

The hierarchical nature of DNS determines the naming scheme, and can be thought of as a typical hereditary tree diagram with a root and branches. This hierarchy is key the DNS' success as a protocol.

The DNS Root

The "edu" root of the tree is owned by a single service provider called EDUCAUSE (www.educause.edu), with very strict rules for customers (i.e. they **must** be Educational Institutions). Whereas other roots can have multiple owners such as "com", "net", "org", etc, and can vary widely for customer case, the "edu" portion of the DNS tree allows educational institutions to enjoy academic distinction. This is a very special place to be, and CSU Long Beach is a part of it since we own "csulb.edu".

Managing and Organizing csulb.edu Branches

Below the "csulb" branch, the ITS department is responsible for creating the names the campus needs to support its academic and business needs. The branches are organized as follows:

At the first level, directly under "**csulb**" in the tree, are names that are campus-wide or are global services. Examples include the common "**www**" name, "**mail**", "**my**" (as in my.csulb.edu), "**ad**" (for Microsoft Active Directory), "**training**", and many others. Also, department names are included, such as "**its**", "**ats**", "**cnsm**", "**cecs**", and others.

In some cases, especially for departments or colleges, one or more additional levels of the tree may exist. For example, there may be a www.cnsm.csulb.edu node in the tree.

Campus Domain Names Requirements

A campus root-level name (**root-level.csulb.edu**) MUST satisfy one of the seven criteria below:

1. Name of a campus-wide service (i.e. **mail.csulb.edu**, **ftp.csulb.edu**)
2. Name of a campus-wide program (i.e. **cms.csulb.edu**)
3. Name of a campus recognized Division (i.e. **urd.csulb.edu**)
4. Name of a campus recognized College (i.e. **cecs.csulb.edu**)
5. Name of a campus recognized Department (i.e. **ats.csulb.edu**)
6. Name of a campus recognized Center (i.e. **cbrs.csulb.edu**)
7. Name of a campus recognized Auxiliary Unit (i.e. **bks.csulb.edu**)

New domain name MUST meet the requirements below:

- The domain name must point to an on-campus IP address (i.e. 134.139.x.x)
- A Division, College, or Department may have only one subdomain. (i.e. **art.csulb.edu**)
- Transfer to a new domain name is permitted, but a retirement date for the former name must be defined prior to the creation of the new name.
- Using a different Domain Name registrar to make a ".com" or other non-"csulb.edu" name to point to a campus IP address is prohibited.
- A department's Technical Coordinator may request second-level subdomain names (i.e. **secondlevel.cecs.csulb.edu**), but the name must point to an on-campus IP address.
- It is not recommended that departments use a different registrar to create their own name, and if they do so they MUST operate that name OUTSIDE of the campus network, and they take full responsibility for ALL maintenance and security issues.