

NAME

hostname - hostname resolution description

DESCRIPTION

Hostnames are domains, where a domain is a hierarchical, dot-separated list of subdomains; for example, the machine `monet`, in the Berkeley subdomain of the EDU domain would be represented as `monet.Berkeley.EDU`.

Hostnames are often used with network client and server programs, which must generally translate the name to an address for use. (This task is generally performed by either [getaddrinfo\(3\)](#) or the obsolete [gethostbyname\(3\)](#).) Hostnames are resolved by the Internet name resolver in the following fashion.

If the name consists of a single component, that is, contains no dot, and if the environment variable **HOSTALIASES** is set to the name of a file, that file is searched for any string matching the input hostname. The file should consist of lines made up of two white-space separated strings, the first of which is the hostname alias, and the second of which is the complete hostname to be substituted for that alias. If a case-insensitive match is found between the hostname to be resolved and the first field of a line in the file, the substituted name is looked up with no further processing.

If the input name ends with a trailing dot, the trailing dot is removed, and the remaining name is looked up with no further processing.

If the input name does not end with a trailing dot, it is looked up by searching through a list of domains until a match is found. The default search list includes first the local domain, then its parent domains with at least 2 name components (longest first). For example, in the domain `CS.Berkeley.EDU`, the name `lithium.CChem` will be checked first as `lithium.CChem.CS.Berkeley.EDU` and then as `lithium.CChem.Berkeley.EDU`. `Lithium.CChem.EDU` will not be tried, as there is only one component remaining from the local domain. The search path can be changed from the default by a system-wide configuration file (see [resolver\(5\)](#)).

SEE ALSO

[gethostbyname\(3\)](#), [resolver\(5\)](#), [mailaddr\(7\)](#), [named\(8\)](#)

COLOPHON

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