

The Web Address

If you want to go to a particular web site, you need to know the exact web address just as you would need to know the street address to get to a specific destination (e.g. business or residency). Each web site has a unique address referred to as a **URL**. URL stands for "Uniform Resource Locator." Understanding the parts of a URL can help you detect what type of web site it is. A web address has two main components: the protocol and the domain. The protocol is the agreed upon standards between servers for transmitting data. The domain indicates where the web site is located.

PROTOCOL:
Agreed upon set of rules by which computers can share and exchange information

DOMAIN: Location of web site

http://www.mpl.org

HTTP:
Hypertext
Transfer
Protocol

ORG: Type of web site (e.g. Organization)

MPL: The name of the server where the web site is located (e.g. Milwaukee Public Library)

WWW: World
Wide Web

Types of Sites

.com	Commercial/Business
.edu	Educational institution
.org	Non-profit organization
.net	Internet resource or network
.mil	Military
.gov	Government agency

Remember:

- There are no spaces in a web address
- Be careful of misspellings
- You do not need to type the "http://" portion of the web address in most web browsers
- There is no dot (.) at the end of a web address
- Web addresses from other countries may end with country-specific codes (e.g. web sites that end .ca are from Canada, .uk are from the United Kingdom, or .pl are from Poland)
- Web addresses are most often typed in lowercase.
- You may begin to see new endings for web addresses such as .biz, .museum, .tv, .pro, .info