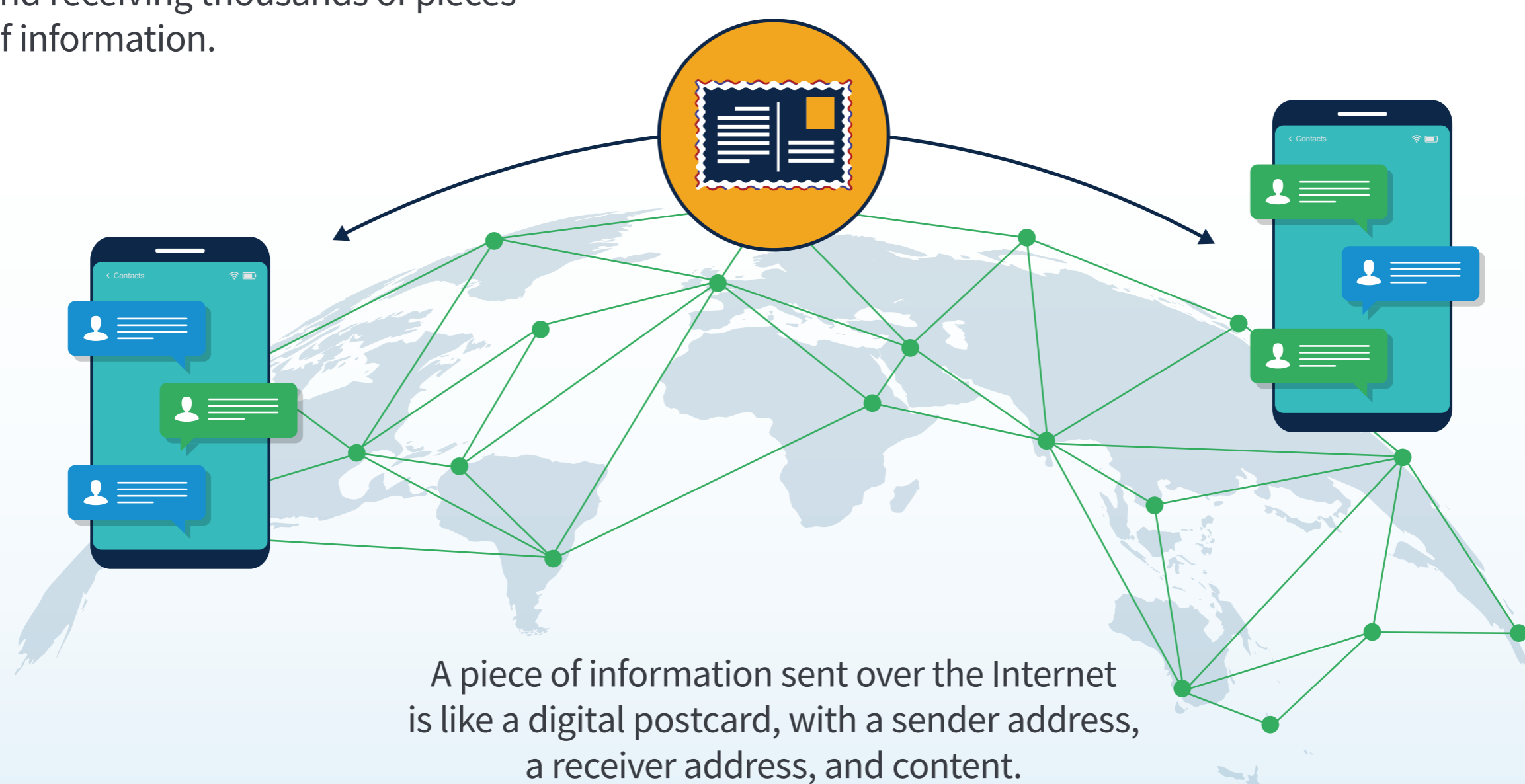


Understanding the Internet's Domain Name System



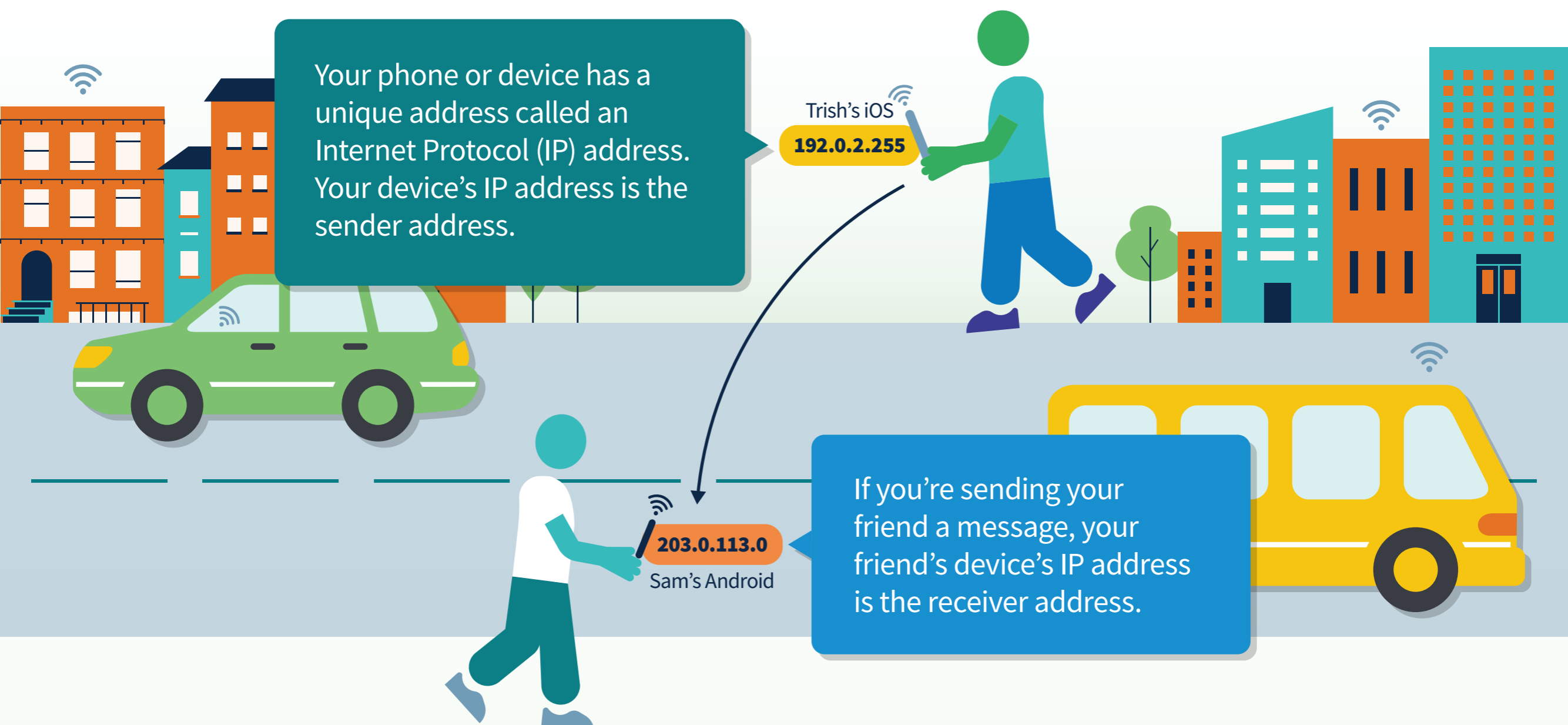
HOW THE INTERNET WORKS

When you browse a webpage or chat with friends online, your phone or computer is sending and receiving thousands of pieces of information.



A piece of information sent over the Internet is like a digital postcard, with a sender address, a receiver address, and content.

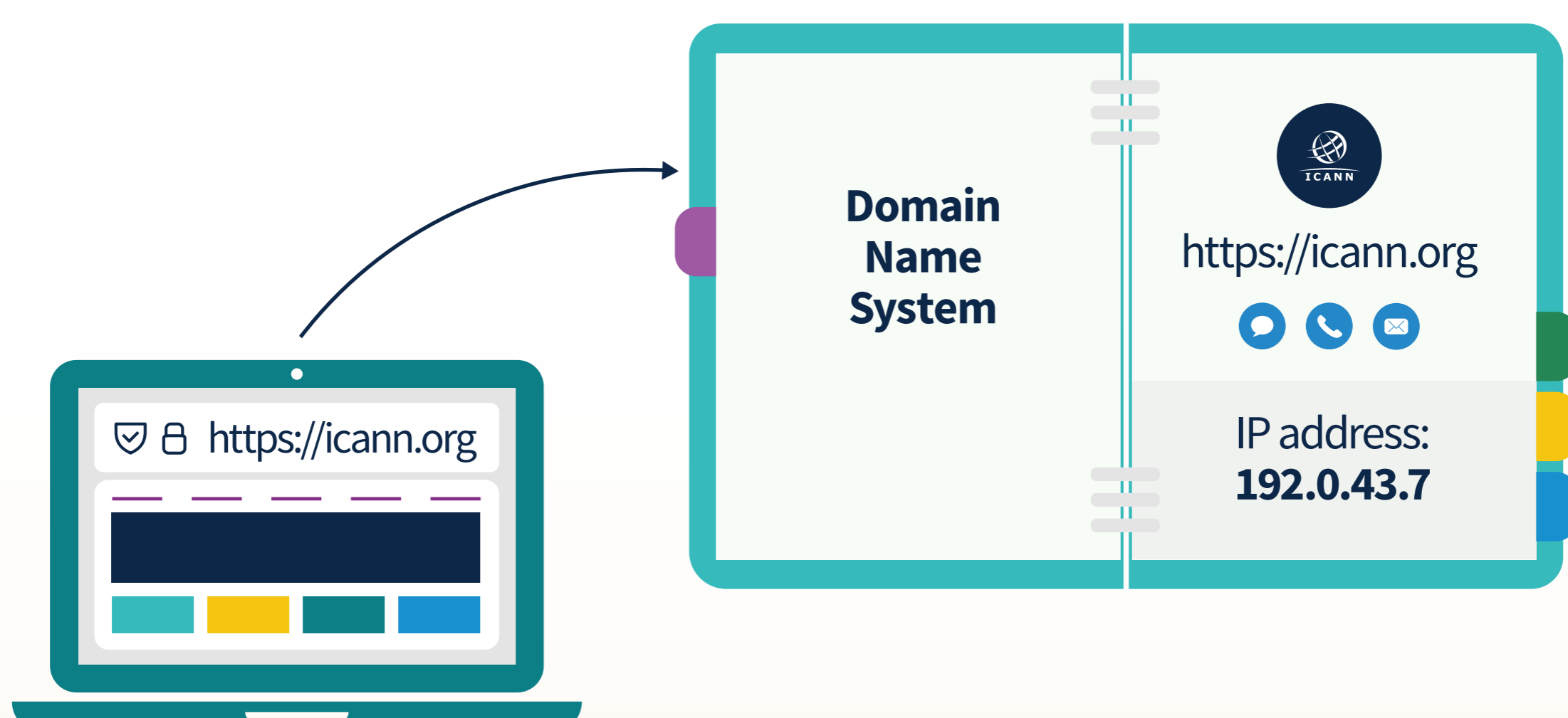
IP ADDRESSES



An IP address is a series of numbers and letters. For example, the ICANN website IP address is 192.0.43.7. This IP address is hard to remember, but the domain name icann.org is easy to remember.

THE DOMAIN NAME SYSTEM

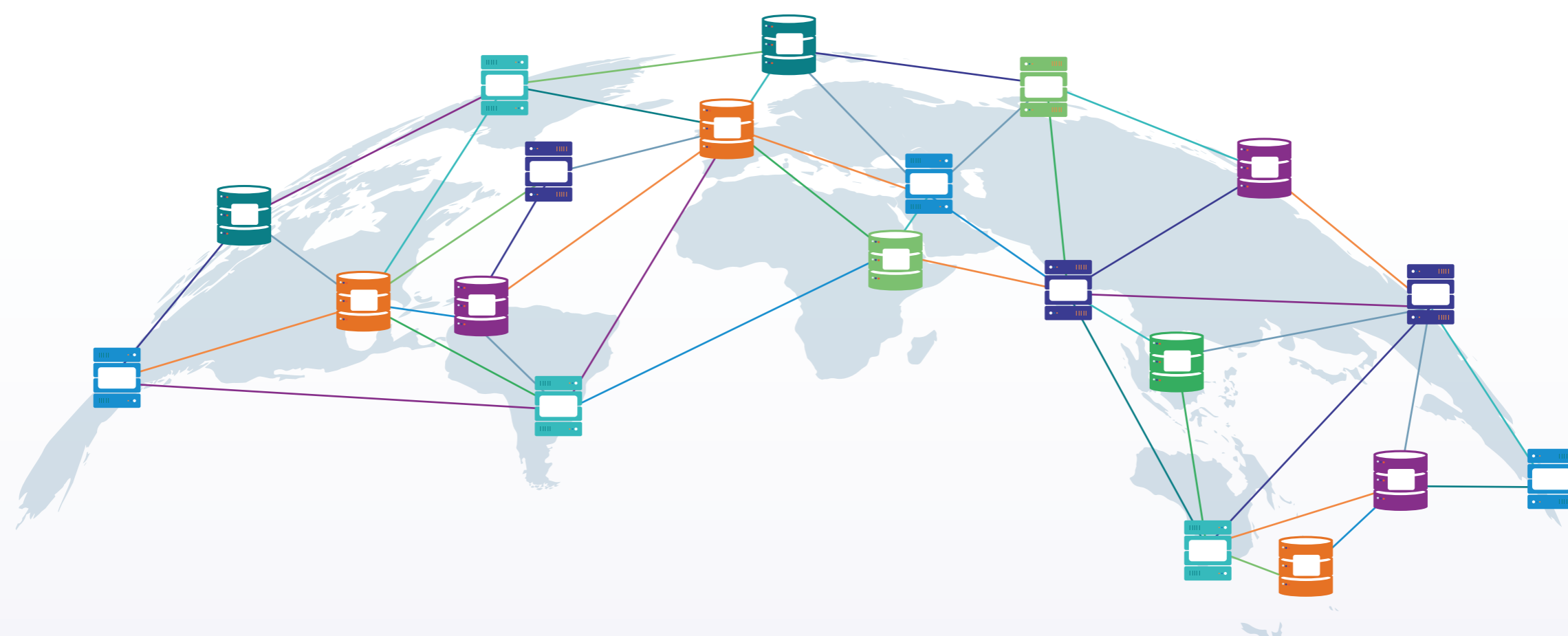
The Domain Name System (DNS) connects the IP address to the domain name to help you navigate the Internet. The DNS is the address book of the Internet.



Your device uses the DNS to look up a domain name and find its associated IP address. It then connects your device to that location on the Internet. The DNS gives your device access to billions of websites on the Internet.

ICANN AND THE DNS

Without the DNS, we wouldn't have a global, interoperable Internet.



ICANN's role is to ensure an effective and coordinated management of names at the root level of the DNS (the highest level of the DNS structure). Along with its technical partners, ICANN helps keep the DNS working. Our joint efforts help ensure the Internet remains stable, secure, and interoperable.

LEARN MORE

Read ICANN's Overview of the Domain Name System:
<https://go.icann.org/dns>

Visit ICANN's Website: <https://icann.org>

Follow us on social media: <https://go.icann.org/socialmedia>

