

Internet Protocol address (IP address)

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An **Internet Protocol address (IP address)** is a logical numeric address that is assigned to every single computer, printer, [switch](#), [router](#) or any other device that is part of a [TCP/IP](#)-based network.

The [Internet Protocol \(IP\)](#) address is the core component on which the networking architecture is built; no network exists without it. An IP address is a logical address that is used to uniquely identify every [node](#) in the network. Because IP addresses are logical, they can change. They are similar to addresses in a town or city because the IP address gives the [network node](#) an address so that it can communicate with other nodes or networks, just like mail is sent to friends and relatives.

The numerals in an IP address are divided into 2 parts:

- The network part specifies which networks this address belongs to and
- The host part further pinpoints the exact location.

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