

GCSE Bitesize Computer Science

BBC's Simon Lumb on DNS

My name's Simon Lumb and I look after games in BBC Future Media. Some of our most popular games are games for Mr Bloom and Tree Fu Tom on CBeebies, and for Scooby Doo and Wolfblood on CBBC.

In order for you to type in `bbc.co.uk` and for it to know what to do, you need a database of all of the computers that run `bbc.co.uk`, and they're just numbers. They're IP addresses – you know those digital things that you see – like 192. blah blah blah. That needs to be mapped to a word or understand or a string of letters, and that's how the internet works. It's a database that says 'this is an address'. It's very much the same as an address book or a telephone directory, which is like, this person has this number and they live at this address.

That's just data. It's a database of information that you would then peruse to find the thing you want.