

**.se**

# The Internet – How it Works



**.se | internetguider**



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### The Internet – How it Works

.SE's Internet guide, nr 32

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Hasse Nilsson



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**.SE (The Internet Infrastructure Foundation)** is responsible for the internet's Swedish top level domain. .SE is a charitable organization that works for a positive development of the internet in Sweden.

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TEKNISKA  
MUSEET .se



*How do you use the internet?*



What do you do on the net?



*Where is the internet?*

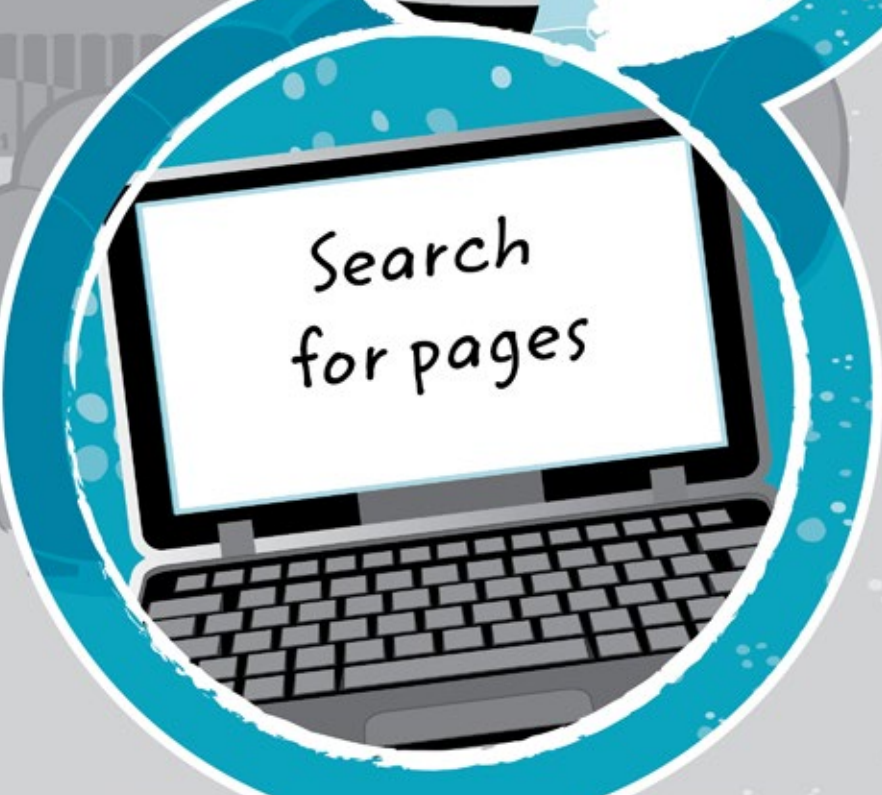
*You have the internet, for example, in your computer, mobile and your tablet of course.*

An illustration of a person's hands holding a video game console. The screen of the console displays the text "Play games". The background is a light blue circle with a white border, set against a larger background of a library with bookshelves.

Play  
games

An illustration of a person's hands holding a smartphone. The screen displays the text "Listen to music" and icons for volume, search, email, and music. The background is a light blue circle with a white border, set against a larger background of a library with bookshelves.


Listen  
to  
music

An illustration of a laptop computer. The screen displays the text "Search for pages". The background is a light blue circle with a white border, set against a larger background of a library with bookshelves.

Search  
for pages

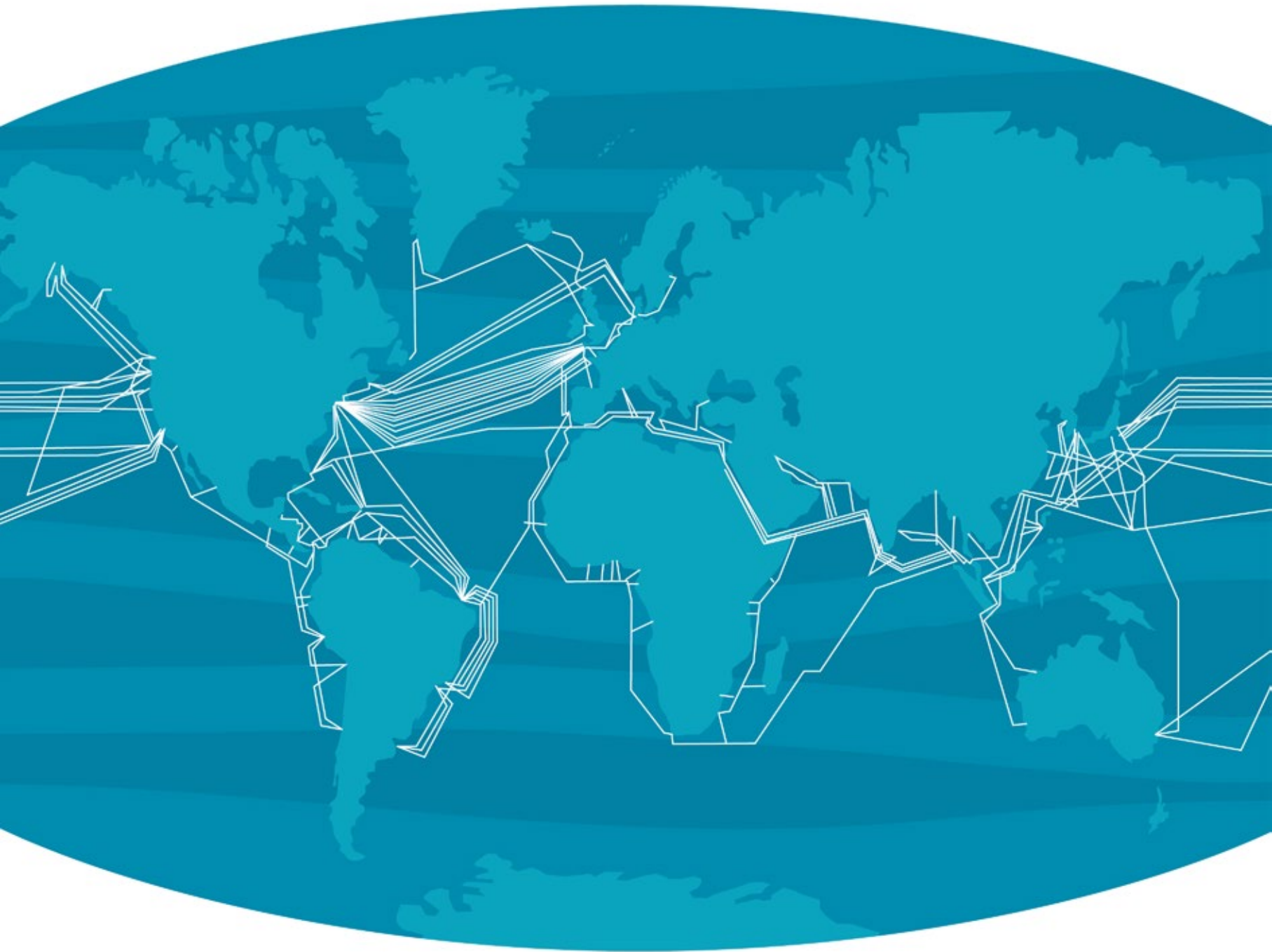
An illustration of a computer monitor. The screen displays the text "Watch films". The background is a light blue circle with a white border, set against a larger background of a library with bookshelves.

Watch  
films

A decorative vertical strip on the left side of the page, featuring a network diagram with nodes and connections. The nodes are represented by squares with internal patterns, and the connections are lines radiating from these nodes. The background of the strip is a light gray color.

*But really, the internet is the world's largest network of computers and exists all over the planet.*








*Except in some remote places.*

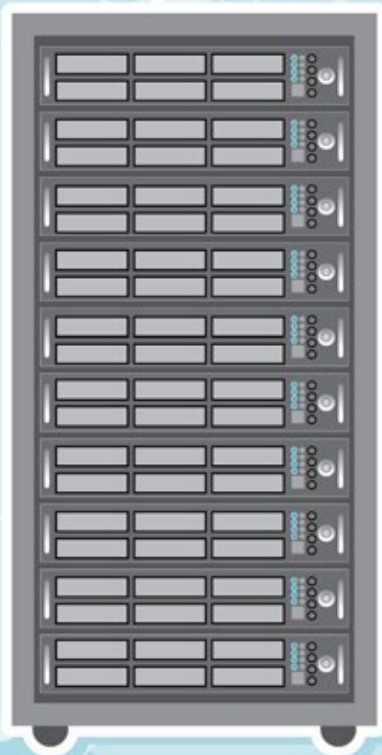



The South Pole



Okay, but *how* does it all  
fit together?

How does it all fit together?




A decorative vertical strip on the left side of the page, featuring a network diagram with nodes and connections. The nodes are represented by square icons with internal patterns, and the connections are thin lines. The background of the strip is a light gray color.

*At home you might have a  
small network without wires  
but it is still connected to the  
internet by a cable.*



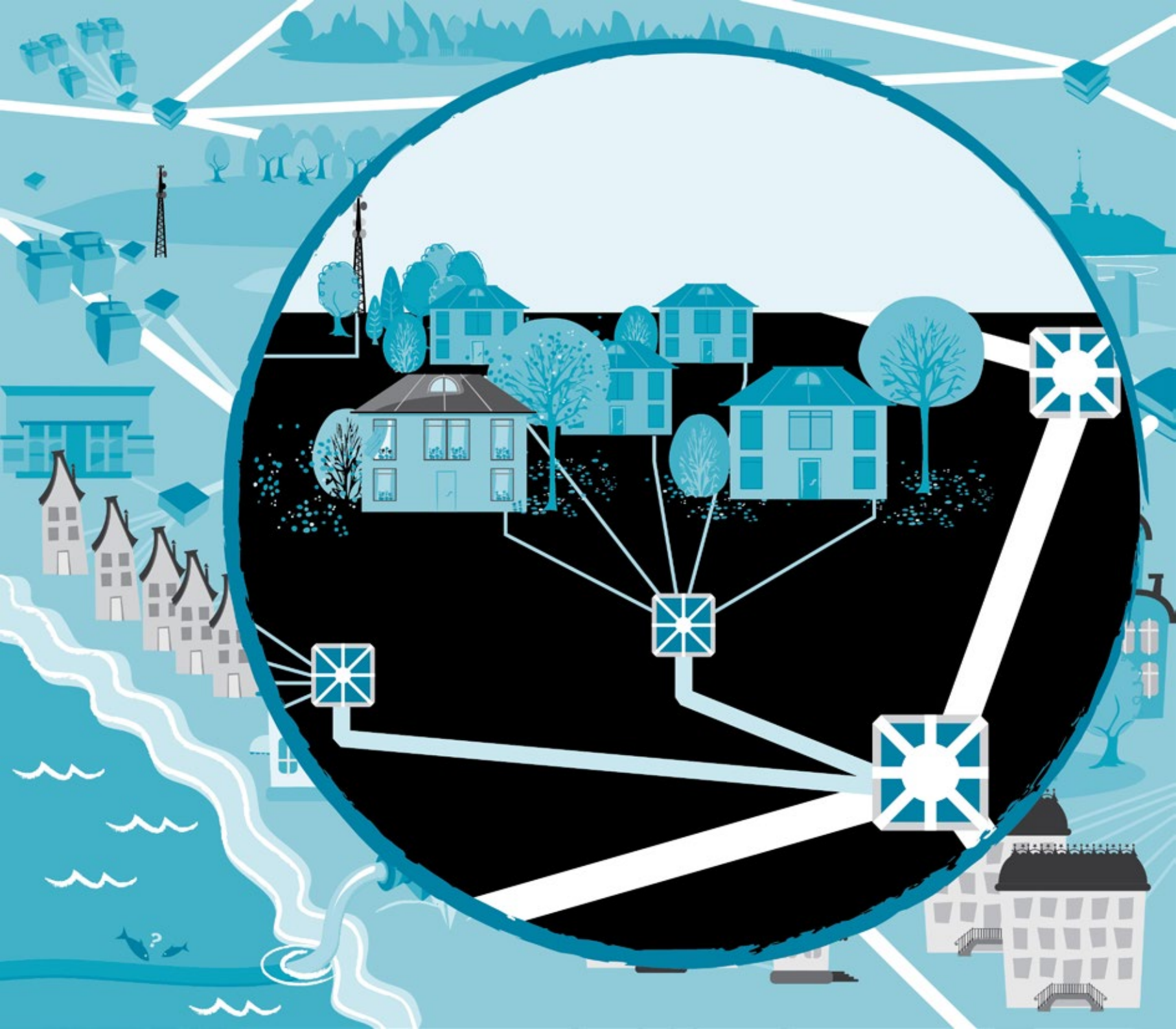
Internet cable






*Usually your home is connected to the internet by a wire that is buried in the ground to a cabinet where many wires are connected to a large internet cable.*

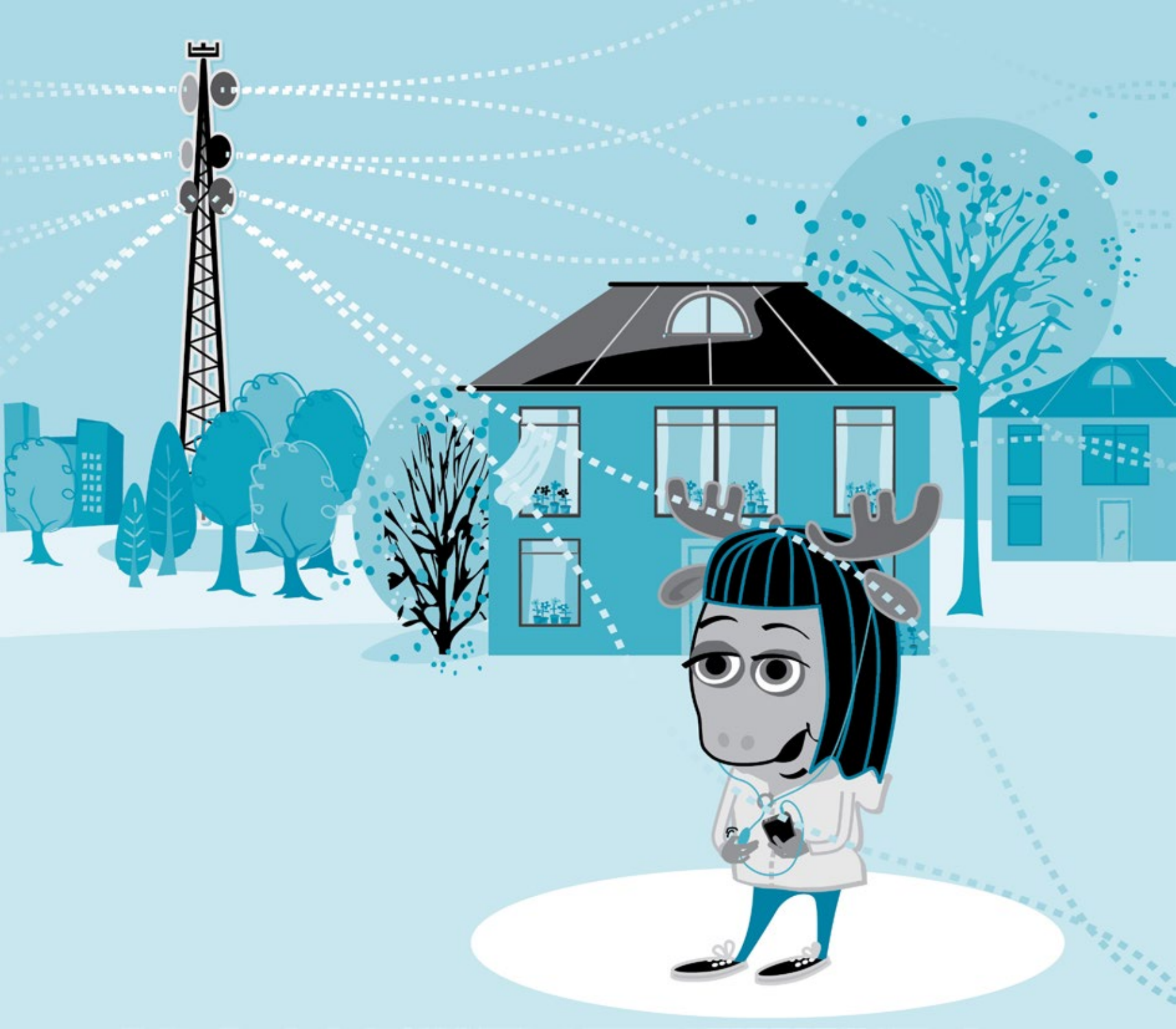







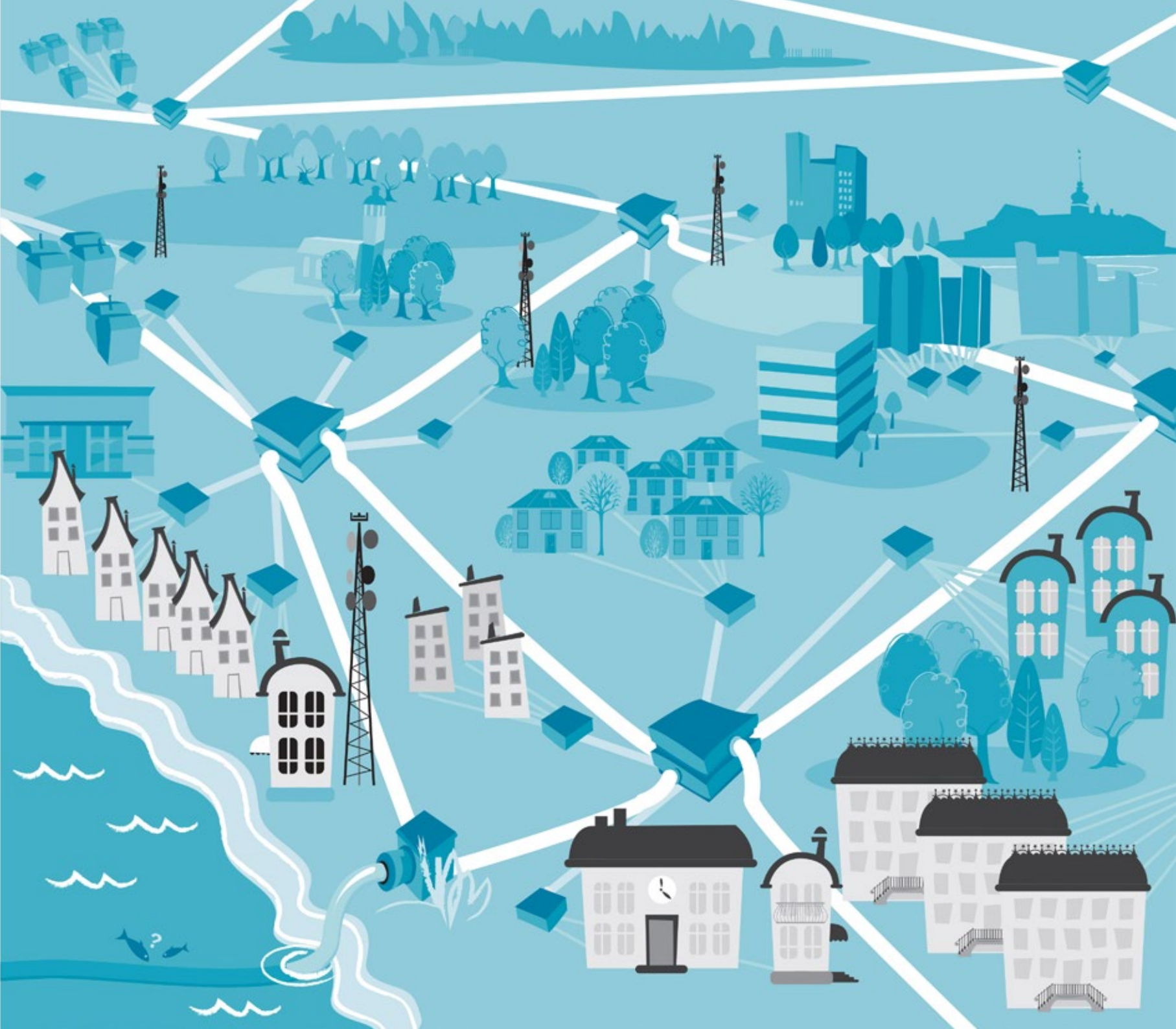
You can also connect with a mobile, without wires, and then signals are sent to and from your mobile through a mobile mast which is then connected to an internet cable.

When you use the internet, your device is part of the internet network.





The internet cables in the ground form a network. These small networks are interconnected with larger networks and then further all over the world with the help of wires that send information super fast.





*Are you wondering how fast?*

*Nearly five times around the  
Earth per second!*

*Because it's light in these  
large internet cables that  
send the information, which  
we usually call internet  
traffic.*




One second!



*Can I send a cheese sandwich  
over the internet?*

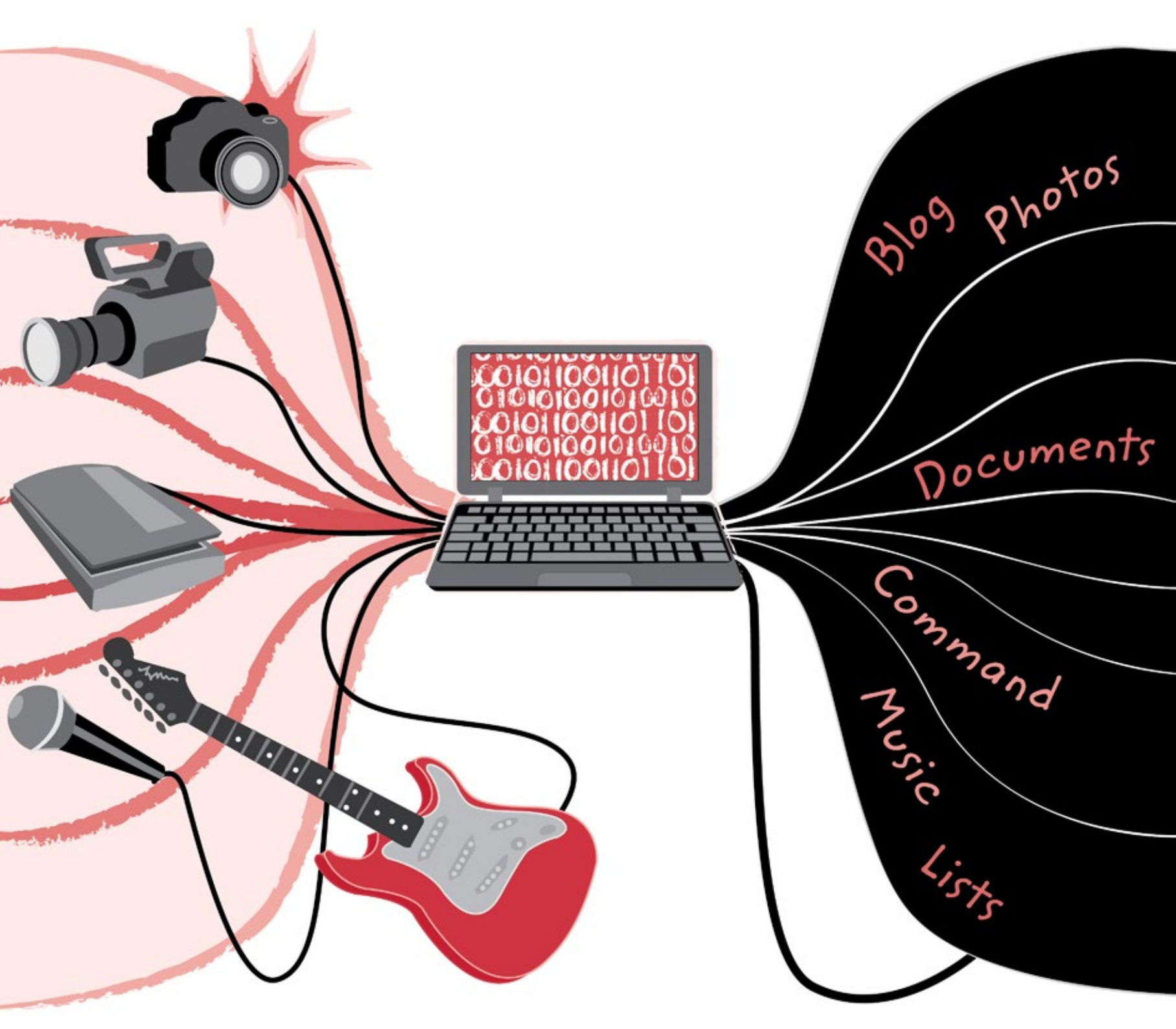






*No, because the things that are sent on the internet are called digital information and are made up of ones and zeros.*

*Computers and computer programs translate the ones and zeros so that you can see, hear and use the information.*



Blog photos

Documents

Command Music Lists

Music Lists




If you want to:

- check out web pages,
- send and receive messages,
- create a site and write a blog,
- upload pictures,
- play games,
- watch movies,
- listen to music,

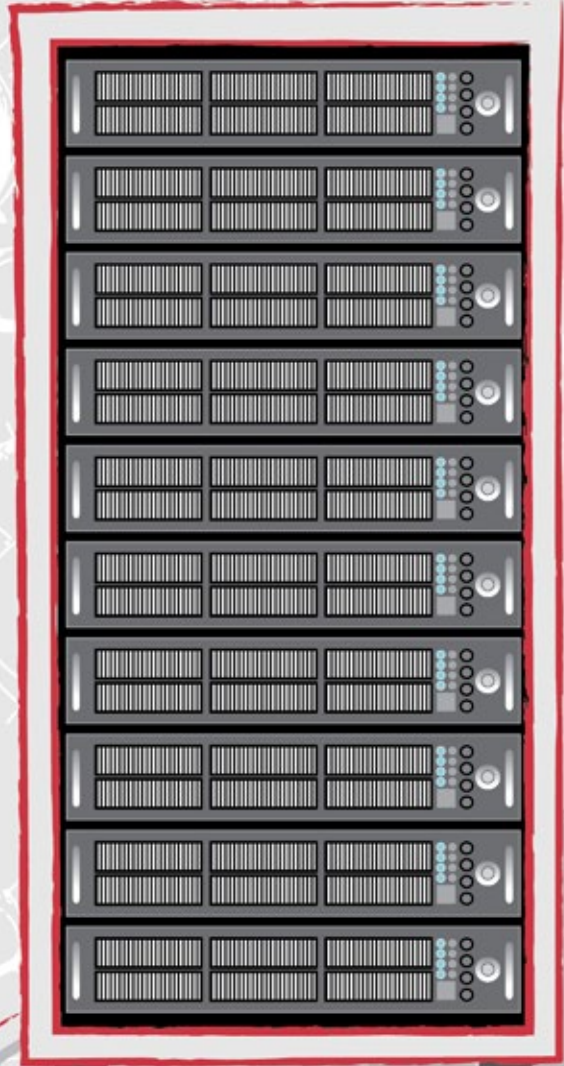
...and many other things





On the internet, there are millions of computers called servers. Contained in the servers are things like websites or huge game worlds.


It is common to have many servers connected in large data centers. But it's also possible to have a server at home or at work.



Data center

Servers

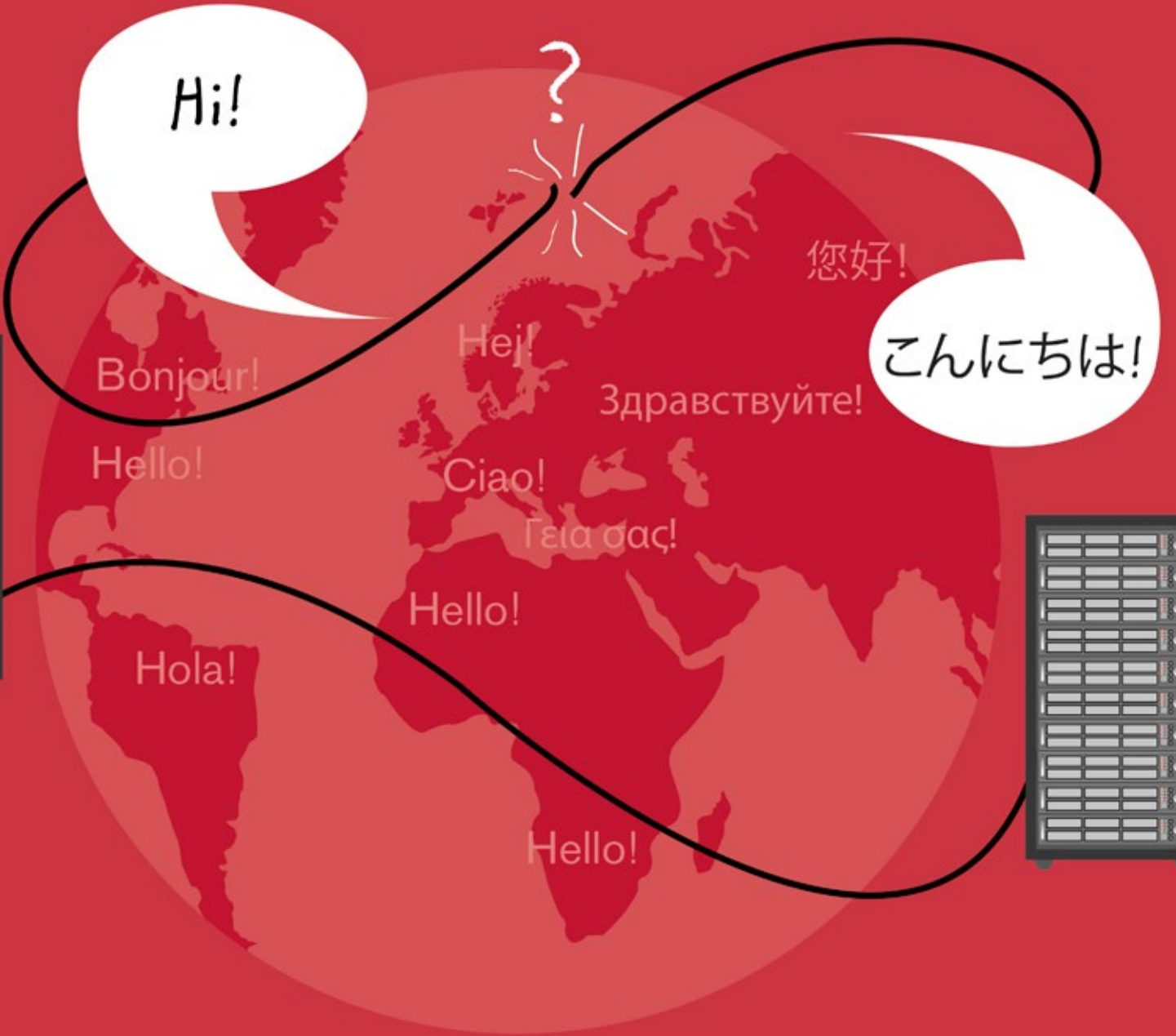





The large computers and servers can talk with each other, but they do not speak in a normal language, like English. Instead, they send numbers and codes to each other.

The good thing about this is that a computer in Sweden can understand a computer in Japan even though the people speak different languages.

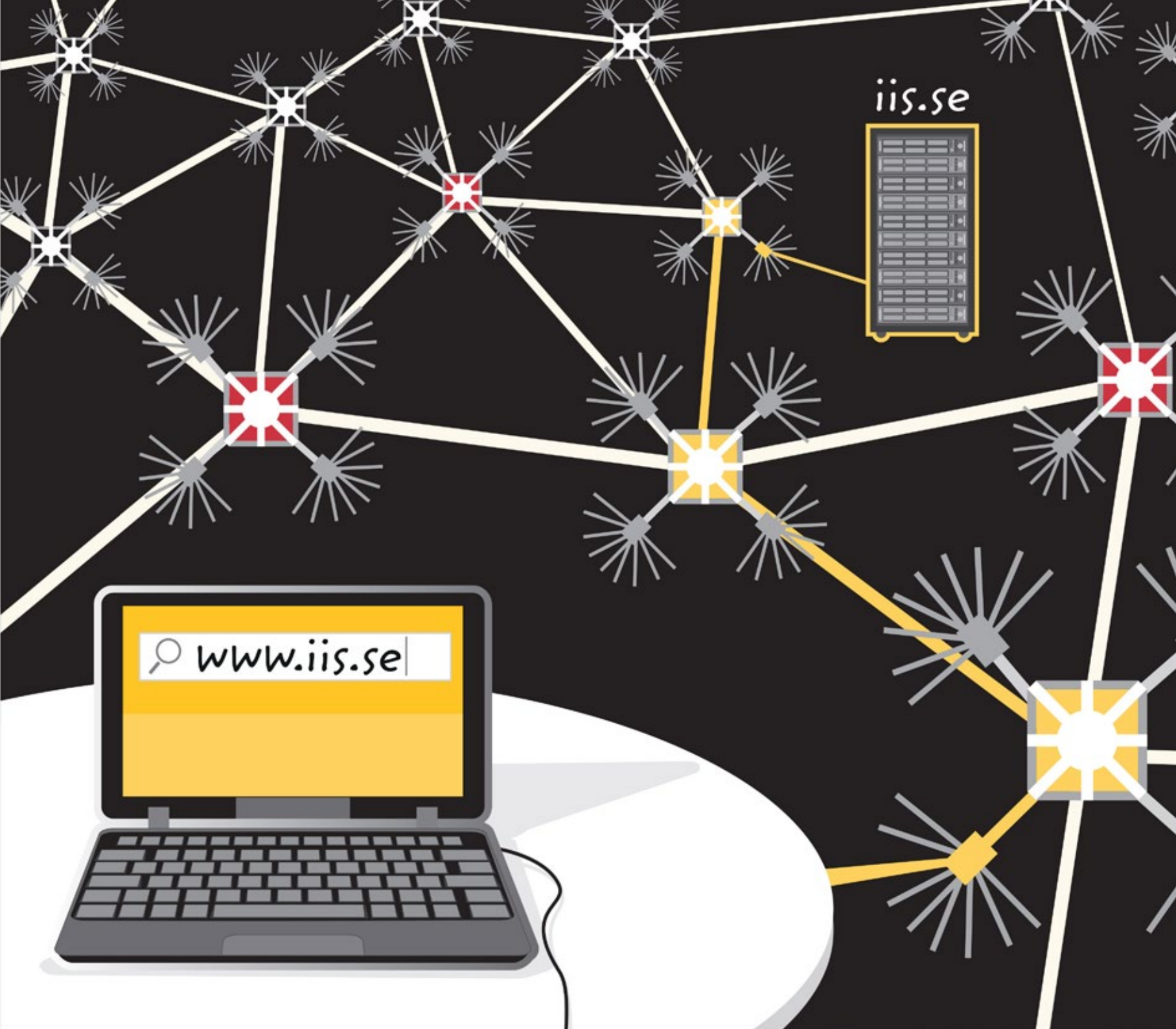







If you want to check out a website, a kind of question is sent from your computer to a server on the internet that answers. The server that answers can be located anywhere in the world.

Then the website is sent to your computer and you can see it and click on it.



iis.se

`www.iis.se`

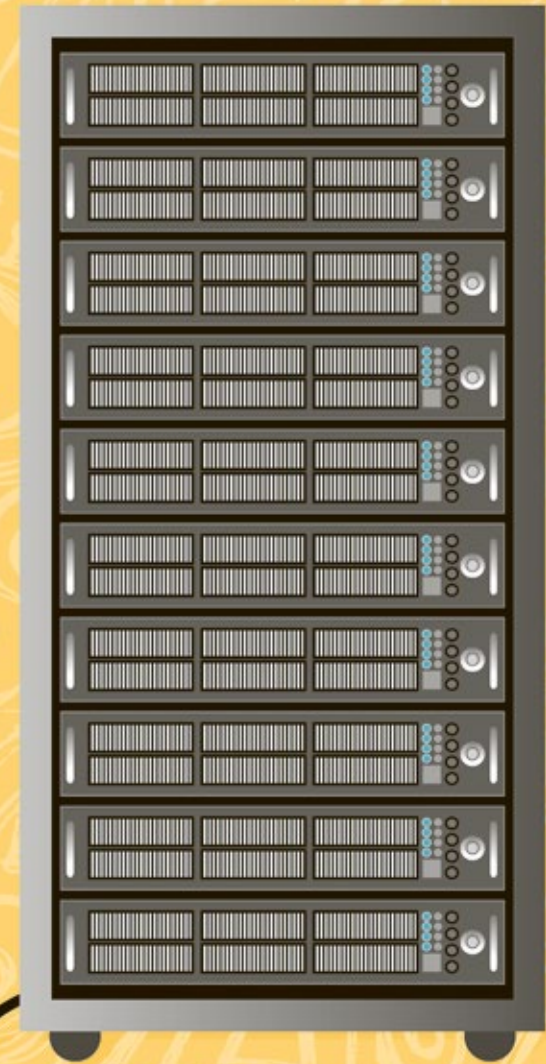


How can a website find the right place on the internet and arrive on my computer?

That is because all appliances that are connected to the internet, like computers, mobiles and servers, have their own address.


How can a website find the right place on the internet?

Server  
Computer



My computer

[www.iis.se](http://www.iis.se)



*It's like the house you live in.  
It also has its own address so  
that you can receive mail and  
people can visit you.*


All appliances that  
are connected to  
the internet have  
their own address.



3



5



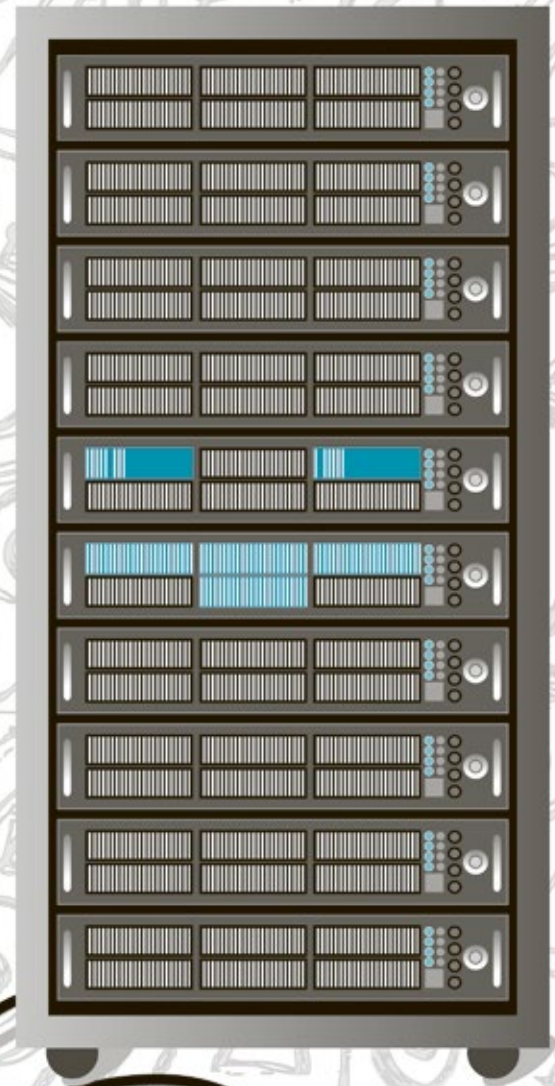
You can also say that internet addresses are like telephone numbers. The right numbers in the right order make the computers and mobiles able to find each other on the internet.

It's like calling a telephone number and having someone answer.





IP addresses are like  
telephone numbers




84.218.230.124

91.26.36.46



For example, my computer has this IP address  
...and the web server IIS.SE has this IP address



*Do you remember that computers on the internet talk with numbers and codes?*

*Good! An address to a computer that is connected to the internet can look like this.*

*The number addresses on the internet are called IP addresses.*

## IP addresses

91.226.36.46

81.110.45.14

70.4.35.30

32.45.77.07

...well, you get it...

30.226.46.35

70.110.45.14

20.250.33.0






*Complicated, right?*

*You can't read and remember  
so many numbers and points!*

123.122.789  
123.45.6789  
156.248.123  
145.6.789  
245.6.46






*This is why computers  
translate number addresses  
to letters. As people, we  
read and talk with words and  
letters, not with numbers.*

[www.iis.se](http://www.iis.se)






*If you write or click on a link to a web address, your computer then contacts the right server with help of the internet's address registry.*

*But actually, the address is translated to a set of numbers and points.*





The internet has an address register!



Addresses on the internet  
can be short like `iis.se` or long  
like `www.tekniskamuseet.se`

An address with letters  
instead of numbers is called  
a domain name.


It is the servers that have  
domain names, not the  
computer, mobile or tablet.



[www.iis.se](http://www.iis.se)

[www.tekniskamuseet.se](http://www.tekniskamuseet.se)

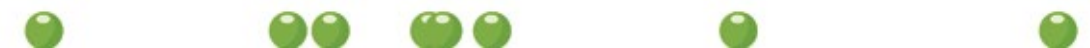
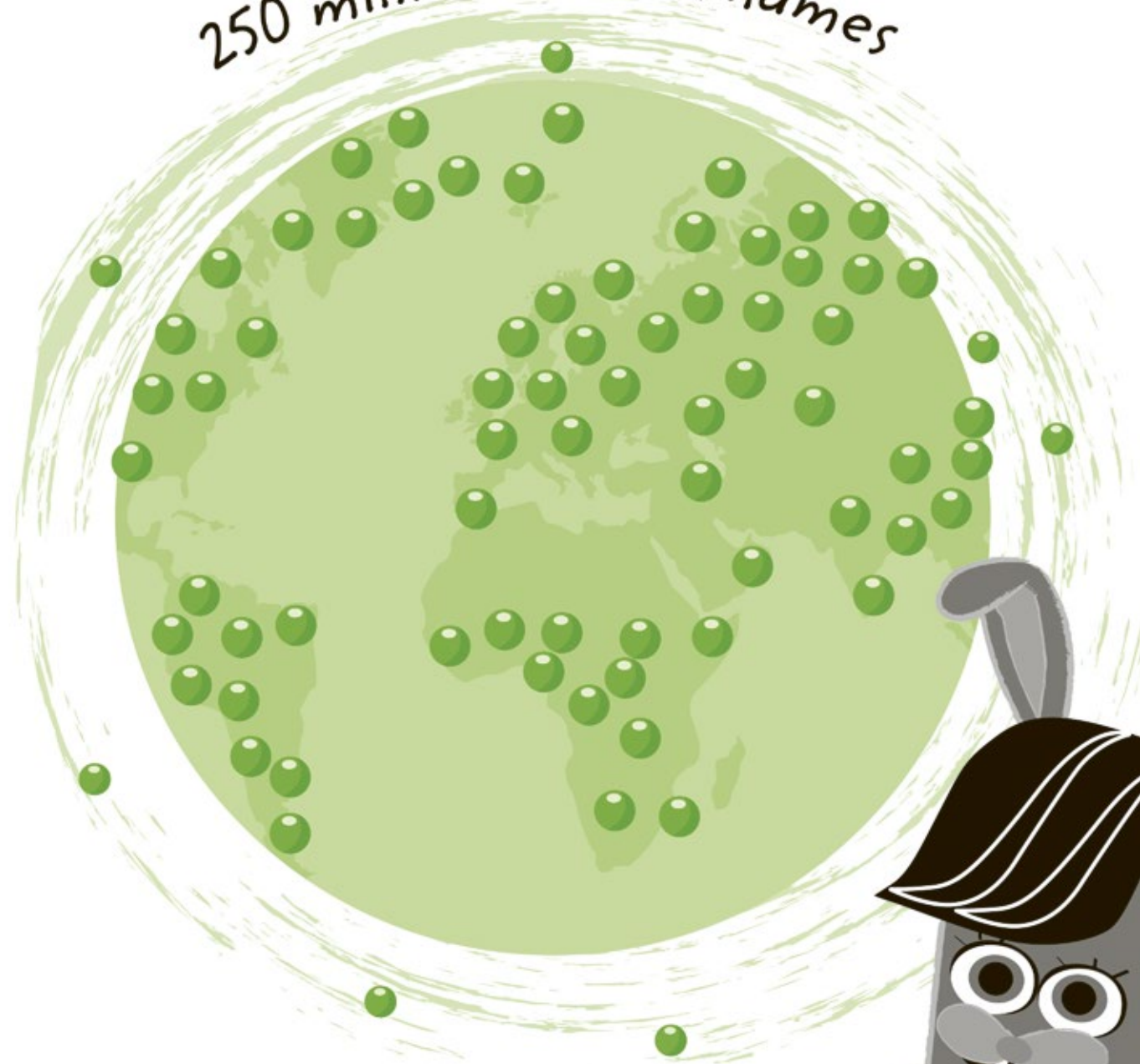
[www.svtplay.se](http://www.svtplay.se)




*There are around 250 million  
domain names in the world.*

*In other words, there is  
unbelievably much to  
discover on the internet.*

250 million domain names






*Addresses that end in .se have a connection to Sweden. And there are around 1.3 million .se addresses.*

*There are also other addresses that end with two letters that show which country a site has as its home.*

In Sweden:

1.3 million  
.se addresses






To take some examples, Danish websites often have .dk at the end, while many sites in Finland end with .fi and in Norway they use .no.

All the countries in the world have a similar letter code.

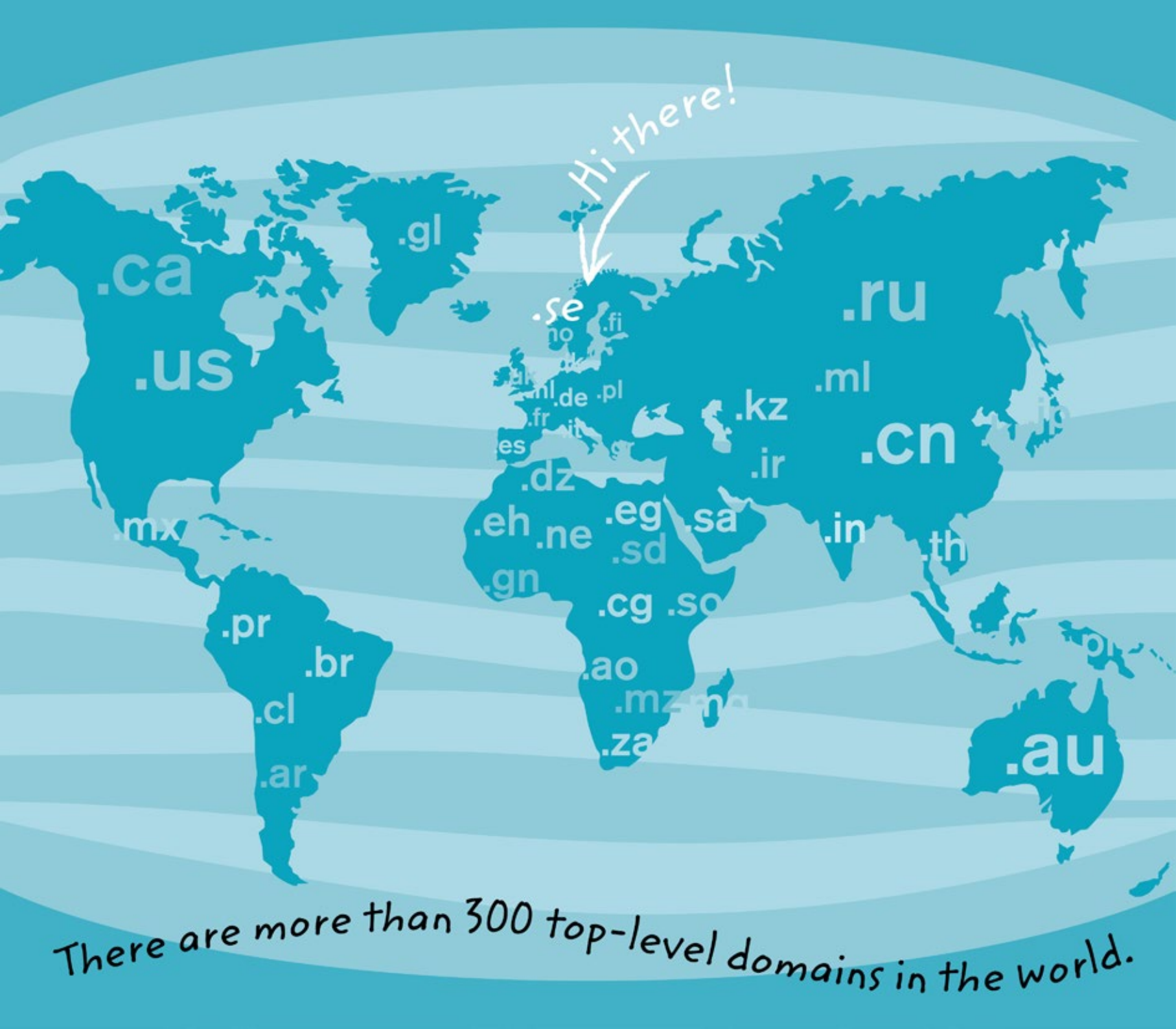




Top-level domains



*The abbreviation at the end of an internet address, like .se, is called a top-level domain and there are over 300 different top-level domains in the world.*



Hi there!

.ca

.gl

.us

.se

.fi

.ru

.no

.nl

.de

.pl

.ml

.fr

.it

.kz

.cn

.es

.dz

.ir

.mx

.eh

.ne

.eg

.sa

.in

.th

.gn

.sd

.cg

.so

.pr

.br

.id

.cl

.ao

.mz


.mq

.ar

.za

.au

There are more than 300 top-level domains in the world.



But there are more types of addresses on the net! Have you seen addresses that end in .com, .net or .org? These are addresses that do not indicate where in the world the server is located but which can be found anywhere.

The island of Niue has the country top-level domain .nu, which is used in the same way since the word “nu” means “now” in both Swedish and Dutch.



.com

.nu

.org

Nive

.net



.au



.nz





*Now to summarize a bit:*

*The net is easy to use because there is a system with addresses so that you can always find the right way on the internet.*

## Summary


The internet is a large network of internet cables and computers that make it possible for appliances to send information between each other. (But some routes can go through the air.)

On the net, you can send and receive information. Everything is translated by computers from ones and zeros to messages, pictures, films, music or games.

All appliances – like computers, servers and tablets – that are connected to the internet can be found through their IP address and the internet's address register.

A website has a real name, a so-called domain name, and an IP address..

The Swedish top-level domain is called .se. There are over 300 top-level domains in the world that are tied to a country

A decorative vertical strip on the left side of the page, featuring a network diagram with nodes and connections. The nodes are represented by small square icons with internal patterns, and the connections are thin white lines. The background of the strip is a light gray color.

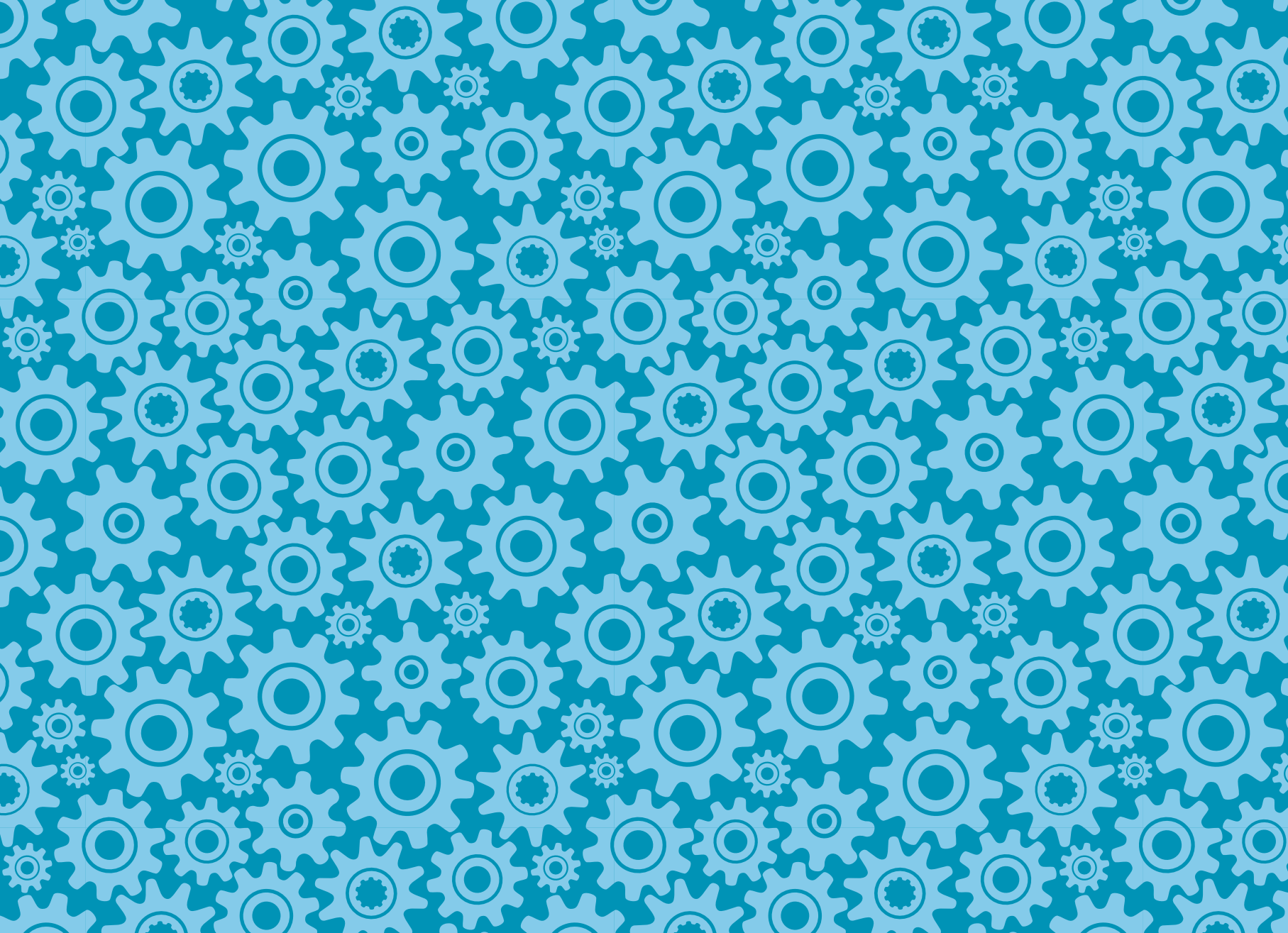
*There you go! Now you know a little more about the global computer network called the internet, which is used by 2.7 billion people.*



Have fun together  
on the internet!

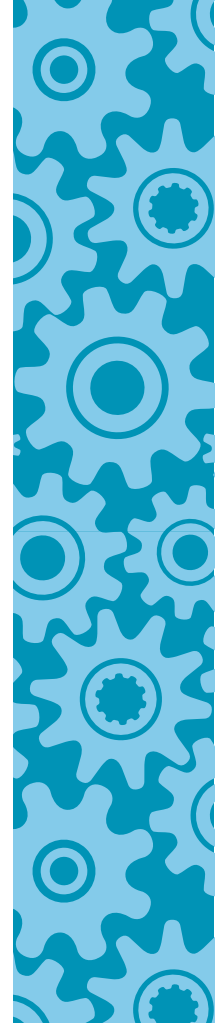


Bye!



**Every new .se address contributes to the development of the internet.**

.SE (The Internet Infrastructure Foundation) is responsible for the internet's Swedish top-level domain and administers the registration of domain names under .se. The surplus from the registration fees for domain names are invested in internet development that benefits all internet users, through things like this internet guide!



**.SE (The Internet Infrastructure Foundation)** wants to promote a positive development of the internet in Sweden in different ways. One of our most important objectives is that everyone should be able to participate in the possibilities of the net. For this reason, we publish educational internet guides in various exciting topics. There are practical guides for those who want to start blogging, technical guides for those who wonder how the e-mail one sends reaches the right recipient, and guides that explain who actually decides on the net.

.SE Internet guides are free. Order or read them online: [www.iis.se/guider](http://www.iis.se/guider)

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Vi driver Internet framåt