

Server names: One of the remaining places where IT managers can be a little silly

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Some time ago, ComputerWorld ran a story on [whimsical names for servers](#).

I recall that at my university, one academic department had machines named *up* and *down*. I'm sure this led to some strange *Who's on First?*-style messages.¹

The early email servers at Microsoft were named after [muppets](#). I'm guessing that this came from the term Multiport Transceiver, generally abbreviated MPT and pronounced like the word *muppet*. (Nowadays, we call these things *routers*.)

When the IT department ran out of names of muppets, they started using names of trees. (Mine was *ironwood*.)

Nowadays, the names of the email servers are functional and consequently extremely boring. For example, *REDO6FT010* is a server located in [Redmond](#), and the other digits and letters indicate where the server can be found. Sorry, I don't know how to decode the values. I've never needed to visit a server in person.

¹ I want to think this was the physics department, and that they had four other servers named *charm, strange, top, and bottom*.

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