CLAIMS

1. A content delivery method comprising:

receiving a uniform resource locator resolution request at an authoritative name server for a domain, the uniform resource locator resolution request received based, at least in part, on a host name of the uniform resource locator resolution request, the host name uniquely assigned to a resource associated with the uniform resource resolution request;

tracking, at the name server, a popularity of the resource by determining a number of times the host name uniquely assigned to the resource is requested; and

providing a node within a network capable of delivering the resource, the provided node based on the popularity of the resource,

wherein the method comprises using a said tracking to determine a caching tier of nodes to direct a client to when the tracking indicates that the resource has been requested a predetermined number of times, wherein the resource is initially accessed from a machine within the determined caching tier and then cached at that machine.

2. The content delivery method of claim 1 wherein the node is an edge server within a content delivery network.

3. The content delivery method of claim 1 or 2 wherein the host name is constructed from a base domain name and a function of a path to the resource.

4. The content delivery method of claim 3 wherein the host name includes a checksum uniquely related to the path.

5. The content delivery method of claim 4 further comprising:

validating that the host name matches the path and resource based on the checksum.

6. The content delivery method of any one of the preceding claims wherein the host name includes an index uniquely related to the resource.

7. The content delivery method of any one of the preceding claims further comprising converting a path indicative of the resource to the host name.

8. The content delivery method of any one of the preceding claims wherein the host name is unique host name, and is included in a link comprising the form: resource.path.cdn.example.com/path/resource.

9. An apparatus comprising:

at least one processing device in communication with a non-transitory computer readable media including computer executable instructions for:

receiving a uniform resource locator resolution request at an authoritative name server for a domain, the uniform resource locator resolution request received based, at least in part, on a host name of the uniform resource locator resolution request, the host name uniquely assigned to a resource associated with the uniform resource locator resolution request; and

tracking, at the name server, a popularity of the resource within a particular geographic region by determining a number of times the host name uniquely assigned to the resource is requested within the particular geographic region,

using a said tracking to determine a caching tier of nodes to direct a client to when the tracking indicates that the resource has been requested a predetermined number of times, and to initially access the resource from a machine within the determined caching tier and then cache the resource at that machine.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, the computer executable instructions further for providing a node within a network capable of delivering the resource, the provided node based on the popularity of the resource.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the node is an edge server within a content delivery network.

12. The apparatus of claim 9 or 10 wherein the host name is constructed from a base domain name and a function of a path to the resource.

13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the host name includes a checksum uniquely related to the path.

14. The apparatus of claim 13, the computer executable instructions further for validating that the host name matches the path and resource based on the checksum.

15. The apparatus of any one of claims 9 to 14 wherein the host name includes an index uniquely related to the resource.

16. The apparatus of any one of claims 9 to 15 wherein the computer executable instructions are further for converting a path indicative of the resource to the host name.

17. The apparatus of any one of claims 9 to 16 wherein the host name is uniquely related to the resource associated with the uniform resource locator resolution request.

18. The apparatus of claim 17 wherein the host name uniquely related to the resource is included in a link comprising the form:

resource.path.cdn.example.com/path/resource.