

**NAME**

`ares_gethostbyname` – Initiate a host query by name

**SYNOPSIS**

```
#include <ares.h>
```

```
typedef void (*ares_host_callback)(void *arg, int status,
int timeouts, struct hostent *hostent)
```

```
void ares_gethostbyname(ares_channel channel, const char *name,
int family, ares_host_callback callback, void *arg)
```

**DESCRIPTION**

The `ares_gethostbyname` function initiates a host query by name on the name service channel identified by *channel*. The parameter *name* gives the hostname as a NUL-terminated C string, and *family* gives the desired type of address for the resulting host entry. When the query is complete or has failed, the ares library will invoke *callback*. Completion or failure of the query may happen immediately, or may happen during a later call to `ares_process(3)`, `ares_destroy(3)` or `ares_cancel(3)`.

The callback argument *arg* is copied from the `ares_gethostbyname` argument *arg*. The callback argument *status* indicates whether the query succeeded and, if not, how it failed. It may have any of the following values:

**ARES\_SUCCESS** The host lookup completed successfully.

**ARES\_ENOTIMP** The ares library does not know how to find addresses of type *family*.

**ARES\_EBADNAME** The hostname *name* is composed entirely of numbers and periods, but is not a valid representation of an Internet address.

**ARES\_ENOTFOUND**

The address *addr* was not found.

**ARES\_ENOMEM** Memory was exhausted.

**ARES\_EDESTRUCTION**

The name service channel *channel* is being destroyed; the query will not be completed.

The callback argument *timeouts* reports how many times a query timed out during the execution of the given request.

On successful completion of the query, the callback argument *hostent* points to a **struct hostent** containing the name of the host returned by the query. The callback need not and should not attempt to free the memory pointed to by *hostent*; the ares library will free it when the callback returns. If the query did not complete successfully, *hostent* will be **NULL**.

**SEE ALSO**

`ares_process(3)`, `ares_gethostbyaddr(3)`

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