



Domain Name FAQs

What is a domain name?

A name owned by a person or organization and consisting of an alphabetical or alphanumeric sequence followed by a suffix indicating the top-level domain, used as an Internet address to identify a particular web page.

e.g. EasyWebStudio.com, clifton-pta.org, plantlovers.net, and glennschool.edu

What is a URL (Uniform Resource Locator)?

The current protocol for specifying addresses on the Internet. There is a URL for every page or file residing on the internet as part of the www. It usually consists of the protocol (http:/), followed by the domain name, and the specific page name from that site. The sections of the name are separated by /.

<http://easywebstudio.com/learningcenter>

What is an IP address?

An internet protocol address, consisting of a series of numbers (120.332.68.786) is the address of each computer on the internet. Addresses are given out to Internet Service Providers in blocks upon request. The ISPs then assign the computers connected to their network an address, either static (the same each time) or dynamic (assigned on the fly, as the computers access the internet).

Names and IP address are managed by an organization named ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers). It's a non-profit organization with the responsibility to oversee the distribution of domain names and IP addresses on behalf of the U.S. Government.

How do I find out if the domain name I want is available?

Web domain name registration sites (including EasyWebStudio) have Search windows where you can enter your desired domain name and it returns results in seconds. If the desired name isn't available, you can continue to search until you find a name that works for your site.

How do I register my name and how long does it take?

Once you know that your name is available, all you have to do is decide how long you want to reserve the name for, 1 year – 10 years, and go through the purchase process. As soon as you finish the purchase process, the name is registered immediately.

Who do I register domain names with?

Web sites like EasyWebStudio act as agents or brokers for web site registration. The agency who monitors web domain name registration is ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers), a non-

profit organization responsible for overseeing the distribution of all domain names and numbers.

What is domain forwarding?

Domain forwarding is when a visitor enters a website address and is actually forwarded to another website address. A website owner may choose to forward one domain to another address for several different reasons.

- An owner may have a name that is easy to misspell; they may purchase several domains, including the easy misspellings and forward all to the primary address.

TJmaxx for instance can be easily misspelled as TJmax. If you enter www.tjmax.com you will notice that the site forwards to www.tjmaxx.com.

- A company or organization may change their name and choose to forward the old name to the website with the new name for a while.

Adobe purchased Macromedia. If you go to www.macromedia.com, you will be forwarded to www.adobe.com.

- A company or group may be known by their full name and by a nickname and choose to point one of the sites set up at the other address.

www.kfc.com and www.kentuckyfriedchicken.com go to the same location.

What is a private domain?

A private domain is registered in the agent's name vs. the owner's name for the purpose of privacy. The owner may not want to receive spam, or may not want anyone approaching them about selling the name, so they pay a little more for a private domain purchase.

What can I put in a domain name?

Domain names can be made up of alpha characters (a-z), numeric characters (0-9), and hyphens (-). Hyphens are often used to break up or clarify a name.

Note: The website for Experts Exchange started out as *expertsexchange* and for obvious reasons decided to use a hyphen to change it to *experts-exchange*.

How do I know what extension (top level domain) I should use?

There are a few top level domains reserved for specific purposes, such as .mil and .gov, reserved for the US military and US government respectively. Generic top level domains are not legally limited to any particular use but do have implied purposes.

The most popular is .com and usually means that the site is a commercial site. Other popular top level domains are .net and .org. Networks use .net for connecting groups of people with common interests. Organizations (trade organizations, business associations, parent/teacher groups) use .org.

Newer top level domains include .mobi which indicates that the site is optimized for delivery on mobile devices and .biz is an alternative to .com for business owners.

What is a domain transfer?

A domain transfer is a transfer of registration responsibility for your domain name from one agent to another. You might do this if you are moving the hosting for your website and want the domain registration to move with you.

Updated: 9/07