

**Read this if  
you've already  
bought your  
domain name**

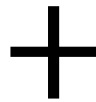
# Domain & hosting basics

All websites require 2 things



**Domain Name**

(you've already bought one)

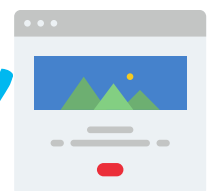


**Web Hosting**

**Web hosting** runs on a computer (this is called a server) which you **rent** from a hosting company where your website is stored.



Web hosting is the **container** which holds your website files & database





Similar to computers, there are **cheap** hosting packages with low performance, or **more expensive** ones for a faster performance.



## **You are ready to start work on your website? Now it's time to buy web hosting.**

You can buy web hosting separately from a different company, but **it's easier** if you buy them from the same company.

(Side note: Some hosting companies in certain countries (e.g. in Germany) only allow you to have hosting with them, if your domain name is also registered with them.)

If you need to transfer your existing domain name to the hosting company (see side note above), this can take anything from a few minutes to a few weeks! (Be careful if you have email addresses set up!)

If you choose a different web hosting company, you will need to manually amend some domain settings. If you use the same company for both, it's easier.

## Web hosting is generally renewed every year.

Some web hosting companies allow you to pay monthly. The price depends on the server specification, speed, space, etc.



Usually, a web server contains different partitions, so it can house different websites (from other businesses).

If the hosting company is reputable, they will allocate enough space for each website.



Cheap web hosting companies usually cram too many websites on the same server - resulting in **slow** websites.

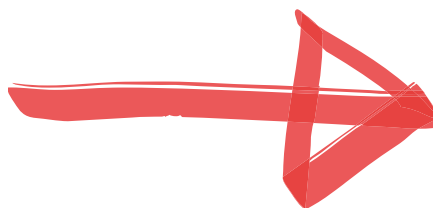


- If the web server contains too many websites, it will run slowly.
- If the web servers uses old technology, it will run slowly.

You need a **reliable & fast** web server.

A slow website will frustrate your visitors as well as you when editing your website. A slow website will also have a negative impact on your website ranking in Google.

You need to **link** your domain name to your web hosting



Your domain name

Web Hosting

## Let's get started

- Open the web hosting company website
- Choose your preferred hosting option, purchase it
- You will be asked for your domain name
- Enter your **existing** domain name into the field
- Then follow the instructions and buy your web hosting package

## Provide your already existing domain name during the hosting buying process

- When you enter your (already existing) domain name, the hosting company will run a quick check in the background.
- They will then ask you, if you want to use this externally registered domain name.
- They may provide domain name settings at this stage (the name servers). Take a note of these.

## Linking (pointing) your existing domain with your web hosting

If your domain name is registered with a different company to your web hosting company, you will need to manually adjust some domain name settings.

This is necessary to link your domain name with your web hosting package.

# If you have not set up any email addresses using your domain name

It's safe and straightforward to amend the Name Servers to the ones your hosting company provides.

## This is what name servers look like

Your hosting company will either provide 2 or 4 name servers. They usually look like this:

- ns1.myhosting.net
- ns2.myhosting.net
- ns3.myhosting.net
- ns4.myhosting.net

## Where to find my Name Server Settings?

This depends on your domain name registrar website. You will usually find them under domain settings in their control panel.

Use this Magic GPT in ChatGPT to find your name server settings. All you have to do is click this link and then enter the hosting company name in the Prompt field. You don't need to enter anything else.

[Open GPT](#)

## **Benefit of Name Server change**

- automatic linking of domain name with web hosting
- you can normally make use of a free SSL certificate (such as Let's Encrypt)

(An SSL certificate is a standard requirement for a website these days. This encrypts all data that's sent through your website, such as customer enquiries. Without it, Google will also penalise your search rankings. With an SSL certificate installed, you will see a little padlock before your domain name).

## **If you already have one or several email addresses set up**

In this case, you will need to amend the DNS Settings. You should speak to a website professional to help you with this. If you enter the wrong things, your email might stop working.

A good hosting company will help you with this.

## **And now you're ready to install WordPress!!**