

The Process of Internet Domain Registration

It is not difficult to process an Internet domain registration. All it takes to register one or more domain names is an internet connection. Boiled down to the simplest terms, one needs to select a domain registrar, choose a domain name, enter the required registration information, and provide payment, as required by the registrar. However, if one is not familiar with these terms or the basic management of Internet domain registration it may not seem so straightforward. This can result in a reluctance to initiate the process. Registrar, domain, domain name...what exactly does it mean? Fortunately, all this can be put into perspective.

Domain means the Internet website itself. The domain name is the address that allows people to access the site. A domain registrar is an approved company, or website, which will collect the required information for Internet domain registration, submit your domain name to the central database, and maintain your domain registration records. There are many domain name registrars available. Some, called Web hosts, will also assist you with creating and managing your website once you have completed your Internet domain registration. If you do not have a strong technical background, filing your Internet domain registration through a Web hosting site may be the answer.

The hardest part of completing an Internet domain registration may be finding an available domain name. Like postal addresses, Internet domain names must follow a specified format and be unique. Following the standard www the domain name consists of a name, then what is known as an extension. The most common extension is .com, but there are several others available. For instance, www.myname.net is a sample domain name format. It is wise to choose a name that indicates the nature of your website. Together, the name and extension must form a domain name no one else has registered. The Internet has a governing body, ICANN, which ensures each domain name is unique, and that the required information is collected during the Internet domain registration. The InterNIC website provides access to the database of Internet domain registration data. This database is called WHOIS.

The good news is you can check the availability of your chosen name on the registrar website. The search will tell you it is available or offer suggestions. If none are satisfactory, you can enter a new name and search again until you find an available name that suits your need. Once you have selected your domain name, the rest is easy. Fill out the required information and file. Done! You have completed your Internet domain registration and the registrar will notify you by email when it is available.

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