

How to Point a Domain Name to Your Website

Introduction

Pointing your domain name to display your website involves adjusting some DNS records. This beginner's guide will explain how to point a custom domain to show your site.

What is a Domain Name?

- A domain name is a human readable address like example.com.
- Matches to the IP address of a web server.
- Registered with a domain registrar like GoDaddy.

DNS Records

- DNS (Domain Name System) routes domains to websites.
- A records point sub-domains to IP addresses.
- CNAMEs redirect one domain/subdomain to another.

Using A Records

- Add an A record pointing your domain to your web host's IP.
- Can also point sub-domains like blog.example.com.
- Allows separate handling of HTTP vs HTTPS.

Using CNAMEs

- CNAMEs redirect one domain to another target domain.
- Example: Redirect olddomain.com to newdomain.com.
- Cannot point root domain (no CNAME at example.com).

Changing Nameservers

- Nameservers control DNS records for a domain.
- Point your domain to nameservers of your hosting provider.

Other Steps

- May need to validate domain ownership and control panel settings.
- Changes can take up to 48 hours to fully propagate.
- Test access to your domain once propagated.

Point your domain to display your site quickly and easily with these steps. Proper DNS setup is key to a professional online presence.