

# The Difference between a Domain Name and Web Hosting in a Nutshell

- **A domain name** is your website's address on the web. It identifies the website and lets people find it via their Chromes or Firefoxes.
- **Web hosting** (or *web host*, or *web server*, or just *hosting*) is the place where your website files (and all your website data) are kept, and from where the website can be accessed by your website visitors. Most commonly, a web server is a specialized type of computer.

Basically, when a visitor puts your website's domain name into their web browser window, that domain name is then taken and decoded to figure out what specific web host (web server) it points to. Once this is done, the website gets displayed to the visitor.

This will surely come as no surprise, but the web is quite a complicated creation, and domains and hosting are just a small part of a bigger puzzle. Luckily for everyone, you really don't need to be an expert on those things to be able to launch a website for your business and show it to the world.

Just to emphasize the core difference between a domain name and web hosting once more:

- **Domain names are how we address websites on the web.**
- **Web hosting is where we keep those websites.**

If you want to learn more, here are some FAQs around the difference between a domain name and web hosting:

'HOW DO I GET A DOMAIN NAME?'

A domain name can be purchased by going to what's called a **domain name registrar**.

In most cases, a domain name will cost you around \$10 a year. After every year (or after every two years, depending on your initial purchase) the domain needs to be renewed.

The most popular domain name registrars, and the ones we recommend are:

- [GoDaddy](#)
- [NameCheap](#)

‘DOES IT MATTER WHICH DOMAIN REGISTRAR I CHOOSE?’

No. There are no situations in which some domains are only available with one registrar, but not with the other.

Every domain registrar can basically sell you the same *global* domains.

One caveat: Please notice the word *global* in the paragraph above. In some situations, if you want to purchase a local domain — for instance, a [pl](#) domain for Poland — you may need to go to a local domain name registrar operating in the country of your interest.

For most cases, again, [GoDaddy](#) or [NameCheap](#) will work just fine.