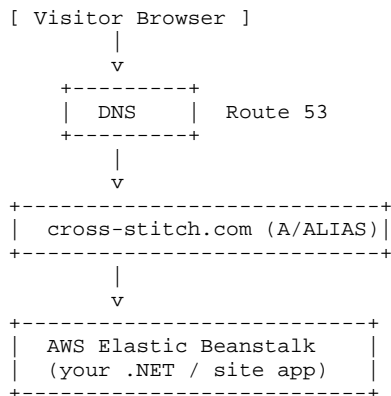


Connecting cross-stitch.com and cross-stitch-pattern.net

Detailed Migration & DNS Plan (with Diagrams)

1. Goals and Final Architecture

We want to make cross-stitch.com the primary, public-facing domain while preserving SEO and traffic from the older domain cross-stitch-pattern.net. The end result:



The old domain cross-stitch-pattern.net will permanently redirect (HTTP 301) to the new domain cross-stitch.com, preserving the same paths (URLs):

```
https://cross-stitch-pattern.net/Elephants-in-Kandy-Perahera-63-11-Free-Design.aspx
301 Moved Permanently (Route 53 + S3/CloudFront or EB/Nginx)
|
v
https://cross-stitch.com/Elephants-in-Kandy-Perahera-63-11-Free-Design.aspx
```

2. Clean Up Afternic Nameservers and Marketplace Lock

If cross-stitch.com is using ns5.afternic.com / ns6.afternic.com, that usually means the domain was listed for sale via Afternic Fast Transfer. While this is active, Dynadot can lock the nameservers and prevent you from changing them.

2.1. Remove Afternic / Marketplace Listing in Dynadot

1. Log in to Dynadot. 2. Go to the Marketplace / "For Sale" section. 3. Locate cross-stitch.com (and cross-stitch-pattern.net if needed). 4. Remove the listing, or disable Afternic Fast Transfer for the domain.

2.2. If the Listing Was Created via Afternic Directly

1. Log in to your Afternic account. 2. Go to Portfolio → Domains. 3. Select cross-stitch.com. 4. Remove it from the marketplace or disable Fast Transfer. 5. Wait 5–30 minutes until Dynadot releases nameserver control.

2.3. Check Dynadot NS Control

Once the status is no longer "processing" and Afternic/Fast Transfer is disabled, you should be able to edit nameservers. We will then point them to Route 53.

3. Create Route 53 Hosted Zones

We will let AWS Route 53 manage DNS for both domains. This gives you tight integration with Elastic Beanstalk and future flexibility (CloudFront, CDN, etc.).

3.1. Hosted Zone for cross-stitch.com

1. Open the AWS console and go to Route 53. 2. Choose "Hosted zones" → "Create hosted zone". 3. Domain name: cross-stitch.com 4. Type: Public hosted zone 5. Create. Route 53 will generate a set of NS and SOA records.

3.2. Hosted Zone for cross-stitch-pattern.net

Repeat the same steps for cross-stitch-pattern.net: 1. "Create hosted zone". 2. Domain name: cross-stitch-pattern.net 3. Type: Public hosted zone. 4. Create.

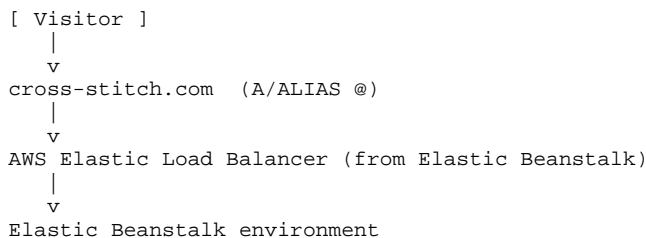
3.3. Update Nameservers in Dynadot

For each domain (cross-stitch.com and cross-stitch-pattern.net): 1. In Dynadot, open the domain management page. 2. Find the Nameserver / DNS section. 3. Switch to "Custom nameservers". 4. Copy the four NS values from the corresponding Route 53 hosted zone into Dynadot. 5. Save changes. DNS propagation typically takes a few minutes to an hour.

4. Configure DNS Records for cross-stitch.com

Now that Route 53 manages cross-stitch.com, we point it to your Elastic Beanstalk environment.

4.1. Architecture Diagram for cross-stitch.com



4.2. A/ALIAS Record for Root Domain (@)

In the Route 53 hosted zone for cross-stitch.com: 1. Click "Create record". 2. Record name: leave blank or use @ (root). 3. Record type: A – Routes traffic to an IPv4 address and some AWS resources. 4. Turn on "Alias". 5. Choose Alias target: select the Elastic Beanstalk environment's load balancer from the list. 6. Save the record.

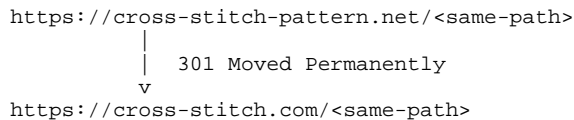
4.3. CNAME Record for www.cross-stitch.com

Option A (simpler): www → cross-stitch.com 1. Create a new record in the cross-stitch.com hosted zone. 2. Name: www 3. Type: CNAME 4. Value: cross-stitch.com 5. Save. Option B: www directly to the EB environment CNAME (if needed).

5. Configure Redirect for cross-stitch-pattern.net

The old domain should permanently redirect (HTTP 301) to the new one. We keep the path part of the URL identical so that every old bookmark goes to the same page on cross-stitch.com.

5.1. Conceptual Diagram



We have two main implementation options. You can choose the one that is easiest for you.

5.2. Option A – Redirect Using S3 + CloudFront

This option uses an S3 bucket configured as a "website redirect" and a CloudFront distribution in front of it. It is clean and scalable.

Steps:

1. Create an S3 bucket named exactly cross-stitch-pattern.net.
2. Enable static website hosting on the bucket, with the option "Redirect requests".
3. Set the redirection target host name to cross-stitch.com.
4. (Optional but recommended) Create a CloudFront distribution whose origin is this S3 website endpoint.
5. In Route 53 hosted zone for cross-stitch-pattern.net, create an A record (Alias) pointing to the CloudFront distribution.
6. When users visit cross-stitch-pattern.net, CloudFront/S3 responds with a 301 redirect to cross-stitch.com.

5.3. Option B – Redirect Using Nginx on Elastic Beanstalk

If you prefer to handle the redirect directly on your Elastic Beanstalk instance, you can add an Nginx configuration via .ebextensions.

5.3.1. Example Nginx Redirect Configuration

```
# .ebextensions/redirect.config

files:
  "/etc/nginx/conf.d/redirect_pattern_net.conf":
    mode: "000644"
    owner: root
    group: root
    content: |
      server {
        listen 80;
        server_name cross-stitch-pattern.net www.cross-stitch-pattern.net;
        return 301 https://cross-stitch.com$request_uri;
      }
```

After deploying this configuration, any HTTP request to cross-stitch-pattern.net will be redirected to cross-stitch.com, preserving the full path and query string.

For HTTPS redirection, you will also need an SSL certificate that covers cross-stitch-pattern.net and potentially an additional server block for port 443, depending on how your environment handles TLS.

6. Canonical Tags on cross-stitch.com

Canonical tags help search engines understand the preferred URL for a piece of content. Once cross-stitch.com becomes the primary domain, your canonical URLs should always point to the cross-stitch.com version.

```
<link rel="canonical" href="https://cross-stitch.com/Elephants-in-Kandy-Perahera-63-11-Free-Design.aspx" />
```

Make sure that templates generating your pages use cross-stitch.com in the canonical tag, and that cross-stitch-pattern.net is not used as the canonical host.

7. Testing and Verification Checklist

Use this checklist after you apply the changes:

1. DNS propagation - Use `nslookup cross-stitch.com` and `nslookup cross-stitch-pattern.net` to verify that the nameservers are now Route 53 NS. 2. Main site availability - Open <https://cross-stitch.com> in a browser. - Confirm that the home page loads correctly. 3. Redirect behavior - Open <https://cross-stitch-pattern.net> in a browser. - Confirm it redirects to <https://cross-stitch.com>. - Open a specific page on the old domain and verify that you land on the corresponding page on the new domain. 4. HTTP headers - Use curl or a similar tool to confirm that the redirect is HTTP 301 (Moved Permanently).

```
curl -I https://cross-stitch-pattern.net/Elephants-in-Kandy-Perahera-63-11-Free-Design.aspx
```

You should see a response like:

```
HTTP/1.1 301 Moved Permanently
Location: https://cross-stitch.com/Elephants-in-Kandy-Perahera-63-11-Free-Design.aspx
```

5. Google Search Console - Add cross-stitch.com as a property if you haven't already. - Submit an updated sitemap using cross-stitch.com URLs. - Monitor indexing and coverage to ensure Google is moving traffic to the new domain.

8. Short Summary

- cross-stitch.com becomes the main domain, pointing to your Elastic Beanstalk environment via Route 53.
- cross-stitch-pattern.net remains active, but only to send permanent (301) redirects to cross-stitch.com.
- URL paths stay identical, preserving your existing SEO and user bookmarks.
- Canonical tags and Google Search Console are updated to use cross-stitch.com as the preferred host.
- Afternic-related nameserver locks must be removed first to regain DNS control.

This document is intended as a practical, step-by-step plan. You can print it and use it as a checklist while you perform the migration.