4

INTRODUCTION TO WEB DESIGN

Module 4 Domains & Hosting

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UNIT 4: Domain Name Registration

So you have a domain name that you want to register. Let's get to it:

Check Domain Name Availability

First things first we need to see if the domain name we want is available. You can use any domain service provider to check your domain name. While there is a great deal to choose from let's use 1and1.com because it also offers alternate suggestions in the event a domain name is not available.

Once you type in the proposed domain you are told whether the domain is available and given alternate endings and ideas for your name. Once you have selected, go ahead and buy it. Make sure you do your research the prices vary from 8.99 - 25.99 a year.

Registration Overview

Domain names were created to provide an alias for IP addresses so that instead of having to remember a website is located at an IP address, which is a bunch of numbers. You simply have to remember the website name.

To purchase a domain, you must order the domain from an accredited Registrar. Each registrar may offer different types of Top Level Domains (TLDs) such as .com, .net, .org, .us, .name, etc. Each registrar will also have different prices set for each type of TLD.

A registrar is a company that handles domain name registrations. This is not to be confused with web hosting companies (although many companies may be a registrar and web host). Web hosting companies will provide you with web space (a location to save your website files), an IP address, tools to build your website, and usually offer domain names and e-mail services as well.

To order your domain select from any of the ICANN accredited registrar's , do your research!

TOP LEVEL DOMAINS

.com Domains

Short for "commercial", .com is one of the six original "generic" Top Level Domains (TLDs). It is currently the Internet's largest TLD, with over 110 million registrations worldwide as of 2013. The .com domain was created for open registration and use by companies, organizations, and individuals without restriction.

.net Domains

Short for "network", .net is one of the six original "generic" Top Level Domains (TLDs). It is currently the Internet's second largest TLD, with over 15 million registrations worldwide as of 2013. The .net domain was originally intended as a TLD directed toward Internet Service Providers and other infrastructure companies. Since then, registration of .net domains has become open and unrestricted however still primarily used as a designation of a network-based organization. Registration of .net domain names has also shifted toward a common alternative to the .com TLD in recent years.

.org Domains

Short for "organization", .org is one of the six original "generic" Top Level Domains (TLDs). It is currently the Internet's third-largest TLD, with over 10 million registrations worldwide as of 2013. The .org domain was originally intended as a miscellaneous TLD for educational institutions, network providers, governmental agencies or organizations that weren't commercial entities. Since then, registration of .org domains has become open and unrestricted.

.info Domains

Short for "information", .info domains are open and unrestricted Top Level Domains (TLD). The .info domain is available for use by companies, organizations and individuals.

UNIT 4: Web Hosting

WHAT IS WEB HOSTING?

Web hosting is a platform where you can store your websites. Normally when we talk about web hosting, the term "web hosting" refers to the servers that host your website or the hosting company that rents that server space to you.

You can host your own site, but this will take some equipment and a lot of programming knowledge. (But it can be done).

TYPES OF WEB HOSTING

Generally, there are four different types of web hosting: **Shared, Virtual Private Server (VPS), Dedicated, and Cloud Hosting**.

While all types of hosting servers will act as a storage center for your website, they differ in the amount of storage capacity, control, technical knowledge requirement, server speed, and reliability. Let's dig in and look at the main differences between shared, VPS, dedicated, and cloud hosting.

Shared hosting

In shared hosting, your web site is placed on the same server as many other sites, ranging from a few to hundreds or thousands. Typically, all domains may share a common pool of server resources, such as RAM and the CPU. As cost is extremely low, most websites with moderate traffic levels running standard software are hosted on this type of server. Shared hosting is also widely accepted as the entry level hosting option as it requires minimal technical knowledge.

VPS hosting

A virtual private server hosting divides a server into virtual servers, where each website appears to be hosted on its own dedicated server. Actually the site is sharing a server with a few different other users. The users may have root access to their own virtual space and better-secured hosting environment with this type of hosting. Websites that need greater control at the server level, but don't want to invest in a dedicated server.

Dedicated hosting

A dedicated server offers the maximum control over the web server your website is stored on – You exclusively rent an entire server. Your website(s) is the only website stored on the server.

Cloud hosting

Cloud hosting offers unlimited ability to handle high traffic or traffic spikes. Here's how it works: A team of servers (called a cloud) work together to host a group of websites. This allows multiple computers to work together to handle high traffic levels or spikes for any particular website.

What is hosting bandwidth?

Bandwidth is the measure of maximum data that can be transferred by your hosting account in a given time, usually measured in seconds.

The term "bandwidth" should not be mixed up with "data transfer" as they are two very different things. Data transfer refers to the consumption of bandwidth. In layman terms, the amount of data being transferred is 'data transfer'; while the rate of data being transferred is 'bandwidth'.

In the past, data transfer and bandwidth limit was a big thing when choosing a good web host. Hosting companies nowadays are very generous in terms of data transfer limits. So, unless you are running a large movie download website, I would not let this be the reason you select a costly plan.

What is File Transfer Protocol (FTP)?

FTP is a standard network protocol used to transfer files from one computer to another over the Internet. Most likely to load your site files to your host so your website can be seen live by your users.

HOW TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT HOSTING

Selecting a web host for your website is important

Beyond finding which web hosts are out there, it's a matter of digging through different plans, comparing inclusions, and checking customer reviews.

Know your hosting needs.

- Investigate reliability and uptime guarantees.
- Study upgrading options.
- Check all features (such as number of addon domains allowed) based on your needs.
- Check prices on both sign up and renewal.
- Check control panel.
- Other supporting features (ie. site backup, tech support, etc)

For newbies, the best rule is to start small with a good shared hosting account.

A shared hosting account is cheap, easy to maintain, and sufficient for most new sites. Plus, you can always upgrade to VPS or dedicated hosting in the later stage when your site grows bigger.

PUBLISHING FILES TO A WEB SERVER

How would we put our files up on a Web server? I won't be covering this in class as there are so many different hosts and features.

Here is a link to help: https://developer.mozilla.org/en-US/docs/Learn/Common_questions/Upload_files_to_a_Web_server