

# Web Hosting and Domain Names

## Objectives

- What TLD (Top level domain) you should buy
- Learn about shared hosting
- Which companies to avoid
- Purchase a web host and domain name
- Propagate the domain name to the web host
- Use SFTP to upload a basic HTML page

## Introduction

This assignment is designed for you to

1. Investigate some basic information about web servers
2. Set up your local development environment such as XAMPP.
3. Set up your production environment by getting a web host and domain name then propagating the domain name to the host.

## Assignment

### Part 1: Research

Create a new document named **01-hosting-yourLastName**. You may use whatever word processing software you like. Use the Internet to research and answer the following questions. Your answers should be 1 - 3 sentences. (5 points each)

1. What is the difference between a shared server and a dedicated server?
2. What is an example of a cloud server?
3. Name two advantages and two disadvantages of using a cloud server over using a shared server.
4. What is a domain name provide and example?
5. What is the advantage buying your domain name from one company and your web host from a different company?

6. What does it mean to propagate your DNS?
7. What is the difference between a fully qualified domain name and an IP address?
8. What is the job of a DNS server?
9. What is a company you would recommend to purchase a domain name?
10. What is a sub-domain and why would you use one?

Side note: *Stay away from any host owned by Endurance International Group!* They have a record of extremely poor customer service and tech support. Look them up just to get an idea of the companies they own. Some of them used to be very good before being bought.

Submit this document in the the Part 1 section of Moodle.

## Part 2: Hands-on

(50 points)

### XAMPP or other Stand-alone server (development environment)

- Install a stand-alone server such as XAMPP or investigate other servers you may want to use. While working in this class you will develop your code locally before pushing it to the server via FTP (next assignment). You may use the setup you had for CIS 115; however there have been major updates in PHP and the current version is 7.1 (7.0 is fine). To ensure that you are running version 7.x, download and install a new version of XAMPP. You will still store your files in c:\xampp\htdocs.
- Create a folder in the htdocs directory called web182.
- Download the books source code
  - Go to the last page of the book and read how to access the free web edition (it's "free" because you have already paid for the book).
  - After registering your book with informit.com you will need to login. Do so if required.
  - After logging in you should see a picture of the book.
  - Click on the green, access bonus content link
  - Download the source code files (you may download the other files too but they are not needed now)
  - Create a new folder inside of htdocs\web182 and name it source-code
  - Unzip the source code files in your xampp\htdocs\web182folder\source-code directory.
  - Take a screenshot of the folder showing all of the extracted
  - Name the screenshot source-code.png.
  - Upload this screenshot to Moodle

## Web Host (production environment)

(50 points)

If you already own a web host and domain name you may continue to use them for this class. *You do not need to purchase a new one.* Otherwise we are going to use the web hosting company Siteground for this class.

1. Buy a startup plan from Siteground.
2. Buy a domain name from from the answer to questions #9: What is a company you would recommend to purchase a domain name?
3. Propagate the domain name to the web host
4. Create a simple HTML5 web page that displays "Welcome to WEB 182"
5. Use SFTP to upload your page to your site
6. Check out your site on who.is
7. Submit your who.is address for your site in the Moodle Notes section. (for those of you who already have a site you may turn in this and skip the previous section). For instance my site is charliewallin.com but my who.is address is <https://who.is/whois/charliewallin.com>. There is nothing to upload to your site until the next assignment.