🌐Getting Your Webpages Live on the Web — Study Sheet

Overview

Creating a web page on your computer is the first step — but making it **live on the Internet** requires hosting and a domain name. This study sheet explains how local files become accessible websites and the options available for publishing your site.

🅾Developing Locally

Before a site goes live, you usually work on it **locally** — meaning on your own computer.

Opening HTML Files Locally

- You can create an HTML file using **any text editor** (e.g., Notepad, VS Code).
- Open the file in your browser using **Ctrl + O** or **Cmd + O**, then selecting your file (like `index.html`).
- The browser will display your site, but it's **only visible on your computer**.

Example URL for local file:

```
file:///Users/yourname/Desktop/index.html
```

🔸 This shows the file's **local path**, not a public web address.

🆕Using VS Code and Live Server

Visual Studio Code (VS Code) is a popular code editor designed for developers. - It provides **syntax highlighting** (colored text for different parts of code). - Has useful extensions like **Live Server** that open your page in a browser.

When you use Live Server, your site runs on:

```
http://127.0.0.1:5500/index.html
```

This address (called **localhost**) only works for you — it's not visible to others online.

🔢 Making Your Site Public (Hosting)

To share your website with others, you need: 1. **Hosting** — A place where your web files (HTML, CSS, images, etc.) are stored online. 2. **Domain Name** — The human-readable address people type to find your site (e.g., `mywebsite.com`).

🟡 Hosting Options

You can: - **Purchase hosting** from companies that store your files on their servers. - **Set up your own server**, but it requires constant power, internet, and security setup.

Common hosting providers: | Hosting Company | Notes | |-----------------|-------| | JustHost | Affordable, basic hosting. | | iPage | Low intro price, increases later. | | HostGator | Beginner-friendly with support. | | Google Cloud | Scalable hosting for advanced users. | | Amazon Web Services (AWS) | Enterprise-level hosting with many tools. |

🌐 Registering a Domain Name

Your **domain name** must be unique and registered through the **DNS (Domain Name System)**.

Example: Searching for a domain using [Google Domains](#):

```
myperfectcompany.com → Already registered
myperfectcompanyrexburg.com → Available ($12/year)
```

⬜ **Tip:** Hosting services often offer domain registration at a discount or even free with a hosting plan.

🛑 Transferring Files to the Server (FTP)

Once you have hosting and a domain, you need to **upload** your local files to your hosting provider's server.

This process is called **FTP (File Transfer Protocol)**.

🧰 Example Tools

- Most hosting services have a built-in file manager.
- Or you can use an app like **FileZilla** to connect directly.

Connection Example:

```
Host: ftp.byuiwebdev.com
Username: your_account
Password: your_password
Port: 21
```

Steps in FileZilla

1. Connect to your hosting account using FTP credentials.
2. Locate your local website files (e.g., `index.html`, `styles/`, `img/`).
3. Drag and drop them into your remote (server) directory.
4. Once transferred, your site becomes accessible online.

Local: Your computer files
Remote: Files on your hosting server

ID The Homepage (index.html)

The **index.html** file is the default page users see when visiting your domain.

Example:

```
www.byuiwebdev.com → loads index.html automatically
```

If your hosting server has no index file, visitors might see an error like:

```
403 Forbidden
or
404 Not Found
```

ID Costs and Benefits of Paid Hosting

Feature	Benefit
Paid Domain	Unique name (e.g., mysite.com).
Paid Hosting	Reliable uptime and faster load speeds.
Customer Support	Help with setup, FTP, and troubleshooting.
Free or Discounted Domain	Often bundled with hosting plans.

🆓 Free Hosting Alternatives

If you're not ready to pay, you can host your site for free using online platforms.

Platform	Example URL	Notes
Glitch	`projectname.glitch.me`	Free hosting, no custom domain.
GitHub Pages	`username.github.io`	Free for static sites, connects to GitHub repositories.

✅ Both allow your pages to be **publicly viewable online**.
⚠️ You don't get a custom domain (only subdomains).

🟡 Summary Table

Concept	Description
Local Development	Building and viewing sites on your computer.
Hosting	Service that stores your web files online.
Domain Name	Unique web address registered with DNS.
DNS	Maps domain names to IP addresses.
FTP	Transfers your files from local to remote servers.
index.html	Default homepage file name.
Free Hosting	Services like Glitch and GitHub Pages for basic sites.

🆎 Key Takeaway

To make your site live: 1. Create and test your files locally. 2. Choose a hosting provider and domain. 3. Use FTP or a hosting file manager to upload your site. 4. Your website is now accessible anywhere on the Internet!

End of Study Sheet