# Using Your Own Domain with Caddy

Linux Training Academy

# Lesson Overview

➢ Learn how to access your self-hosted services using your own domain

➢ Designed for those who already have or plan to get a domain

➢ Skip ahead if this doesn't apply to you

# Why Use Your Own Domain

- Initial access was through **IP addresses and ports**

- Used **TSDProxy and Tailscale** for friendlier names

- These were **tailnet names on ts.net**

- Using your domain removes **third-party dependency**

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# Introducing **Caddy** for Domain Access

- Use **Caddy**, a modern web server and reverse proxy

- Caddy automatically manages **TLS certificates**

- Forwards incoming traffic to the correct local service

# How Caddy Gets SSL Certificates

- Uses **Let's Encrypt** or **ZeroSSL** via ACME protocol
- CA asks Caddy to serve a **specific** token at a **specific** URL
- If the CA finds the token, it **proves** domain control and issues the cert

# DNS Challenge for Non-Public Servers

- CA can't reach **tailnet-only** services using HTTP challenge

- Caddy uses a DNS challenge instead

- Proves domain control by adding a special **DNS record**

# Cloudflare DNS Integration with Caddy

- Caddy uses **Cloudflare DNS** to handle DNS challenges

- Lets you obtain valid **SSL certificates** without public exposure

- Keeps services **private and secure** within your tailnet

# Register a Domain Name

- Choose a **domain registrar**
  - Cloudflare
  - Namecheap
  - GoDaddy
  - IONOS
- Consider using Cloudflare for simplicity
- Over **1,500 TLDs** available:.com, .net, .xyz, .biz, more!
- Be aware of renewal prices beyond first-year specials

# Hosting DNS with Cloudflare

- Create a **Cloudflare account** and add your domain
- Choose the **free plan** when prompted
- Cloudflare will detect and import DNS records
- If not using Cloudflare as registrar, **update name servers**
- **Follow** provider-specific **instructions** if needed
- **Wait** up to 24 hours for changes to take effect

# Dedicate Your Entire Domain to Self-Hosting

| Description | URL |
|---|---|
| Homepage | https://linuxtrainingacademy.com |
| Portainer | https://portainer.linuxtrainingacademy.com |
| File Browser | https://filebrowser.linuxtrainingacademy.com |
| TSDProxy | https://tsdproxy.linuxtrainingacademy.com |
| Open Port Finder | https://ports.linuxtrainingacademy.com |

DNS Records:

linuxtrainingacademy.com     Linux Docker Host Tailscale IP

*.linuxtrainingacademy.com    Linux Docker Host Tailscale IP

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# Use a Subdomain for Private Services

| Description | URL |
|---|---|
| Homepage | https://internal.linuxtrainingacademy.com |
| Portainer | https://portainer.internal.linuxtrainingacademy.com |
| File Browser | https://filebrowser.internal.linuxtrainingacademy.com |
| TSDProxy | https://tsdproxy.internal.linuxtrainingacademy.com |
| Open Port Finder | https://ports.internal.linuxtrainingacademy.com |

DNS Records:

internal.linuxtrainingacademy.com           Linux Docker Host Tailscale IP

*.internal.linuxtrainingacademy.com          Linux Docker Host Tailscale IP