

# EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT .au DOMAIN NAMES

COM.AU NET.AU ORG.AU ID.AU ASN.AU EDU.AU GOV.AU  
ACT.AU NSW.AU NT.AU QLD.AU SA.AU TAS.AU VIC.AU WA.AU  
COM.AU NET.AU ORG.AU ID.AU ASN.AU EDU.AU GOV.AU  
ACT.AU NSW.AU NT.AU QLD.AU SA.AU TAS.AU VIC.AU WA.AU  
COM.AU NET.AU ORG.AU ID.AU ASN.AU EDU.AU GOV.AU  
ACT.AU NSW.AU NT.AU QLD.AU SA.AU TAS.AU VIC.AU WA.AU



## .auDA

THE AUSTRALIAN **DOMAIN NAME** ADMINISTRATOR

## EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT .au DOMAIN NAMES

The first thing you need to know about is auDA. auDA is the government-endorsed policy authority and industry self-regulatory body for the .au domain space. Among auDA's responsibilities are to develop and implement domain name policy, accredit and license registrars, implement consumer safeguards and facilitate the .au Dispute Resolution Policy. For more information, visit auDA's website at [www.auda.org.au](http://www.auda.org.au).

### WHAT IS THE .au DOMAIN SPACE?

If an internet address has .au at the end of it, it's registered in Australia and a part of the .au domain space, which is regulated by auDA.

### WHAT EXACTLY IS A DOMAIN NAME?

It's an address on the internet. The two uses you'd be most familiar with are web addresses, where the domain name is prefixed by "www" (for example [www.auda.org.au](http://www.auda.org.au)), and email addresses, where the domain name follows the '@' symbol (for example [info@auda.org.au](mailto:info@auda.org.au)).

### WHAT KIND OF DOMAIN NAME CAN I GET IN THE .au DOMAIN NAME SPACE?

The .au domain is divided into a number of second level domains (2LDs). Rather than being able to license "yourbusiness.au", you can license your name in a 2LD, e.g. "yourbusiness.com.au" or "yourbusiness.org.au". For more information go to <http://www.auda.org.au/domains/>.

### WHAT IS A REGISTRY, A REGISTRAR AND A RESELLER?

The registry holds the database of domain names and operates the computers that make domain names visible on the internet. The registry does not have direct contact with registrants. The registry for all 2LD domains is AusRegistry.

Registrars issue domain name licences to registrants. They decide whether or not your domain name application meets the policy rules. Registrars have direct access to the registry so that they can process new registrations and renewals, as well as update registrant contact details in the database. Registrars in the .au domain are accredited and licensed by auDA.

Some registrars use resellers to provide customer sales and support. Resellers do not have direct access to the registry and must process registrations and renewals through their registrar. Resellers are not accredited or licensed by auDA, they are appointed by a registrar.

## HOW DO I GET MY OWN DOMAIN NAME AND START USING IT?

To get your own domain name up and running, you need to:

- a) Register your domain name through an auDA accredited registrar or their reseller.
- b) Create your website and/or set up your email addresses. You can do this yourself, or your registrar, reseller, ISP, web designer or someone else can handle it for you.
- c) Arrange for your domain name to be “hosted”. A hosting service provides a location (a computer somewhere, connected to the internet) for your website and allows it to be seen on the internet. Your existing Internet Service Provider (ISP), other ISPs, or a “webhosting” service can host your domain name. Some registrars and resellers also include hosting as part of their service so make sure you shop around for the service that best suits you.

## HOW CAN I SEE IF A DOMAIN NAME IS AVAILABLE?

You can check the status of an existing domain name, and find out whether a name is available for registration, by using the public WHOIS service at <http://www.auda.org.au>.

## WHERE CAN I APPLY FOR A DOMAIN NAME?

To apply for a domain name, choose your preferred registrar and follow their application process. Some registrars provide services directly to the public, others may use resellers. See the list of auDA Accredited Registrars at <http://www.auda.org.au/registrars/>.

## WHAT RIGHTS DOES A .AU DOMAIN NAME GIVE ME?

There are no proprietary rights in a domain name. You do not “own” your domain name. Instead, you have a licence to use the domain name for a specified period of time. You cannot sell your domain name to another person, however, there are limited circumstances under which domain name licences may be transferred. These can be viewed at <http://www.auda.org.au/policies/>.

No one has an automatic right to a domain name. Having a company or business name, or a Registered Trademark, does not automatically give you a better right than anyone else to that domain name. Also, having a domain name in one domain (e.g. “yourbusiness.com.au”) does not give you the right to stop others from holding the same or a similar domain name in another domain (e.g. “yourbusiness.com”, “yourbusiness.net.au”, “yourbusiness.co.uk”, etc).

If you think that you have a better entitlement to a domain name than the current registrant, you may be able to bring a complaint under the .au Dispute Resolution Policy (.auDRP). Further details about the .auDRP are available at <http://www.auda.org.au/audrp/>.

## CAN I REGISTER A DOMAIN NAME BEFORE I HAVE A WEBSITE OR A HOSTING SERVICE ARRANGED?

Yes, you can register a domain name and then design your website and organise hosting at a later time. In fact, your domain name should be registered first to provide you with the best possible chance of securing your preferred name.

### DEFINITIONS:

**Domain name** – Internet address, e.g. yourbusinessname.com.au.

**Second Level Domain (2LD)** – the letters after the name and before the .au.

For example: **.com.au**, **.net.au**, **.id.au**, **.org.au**.

**DNS** – Domain name system.

**Registry** – The database of domain names registered in each 2LD.

For more information go to <http://www.auda.org.au/registry/>.

**Registrar** – auDA-accredited companies who handle domain name licence applications and renewals. For more information go to <http://www.auda.org.au/registrars/>.

**Registrant** – Someone who holds, is applying for, or renewing a domain name licence.

**Reseller** – Companies who handle domain name licence applications and renewals acting as an agent for a registrar.

Log on to:

LET'S TALK  
**NET** PODCAST

There is now a series of free podcasts to assist consumers and businesses to better utilise the internet. The fun style of presentation eases the anxieties common to new learning. Whether it is your own, or your business' first step onto the internet – or you simply wish to enhance your existing knowledge – visit [www.auda.org.au](http://www.auda.org.au)



P 1300 732 929 F 03 8341 4112 E [info@auda.org.au](mailto:info@auda.org.au)

For more information visit [www.auda.org.au](http://www.auda.org.au)