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Buying only a domain, with no hosting yet: what you can and cannot do

Plans, Upgrades & Extras

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Buying only a domain, with no hosting yet: what you can and cannot do

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You can. A domain registered on its own is **yours** and stays reserved, but **on its own it shows no website and receives no e-mail**: the domain is just the name. The website needs somewhere to live (hosting), and e-mail needs a mailbox service. Registering the name now, before you have the rest, is a normal and cheap way to hold it.

What works and what does not without hosting

Thing	With the domain alone
The name is yours and nobody else can register it	Yes, as long as it is renewed.
Showing a website	No. The site's files on a server are missing, and so is the domain pointing there.
Receiving e-mail on the domain	No. An e-mail service is missing. See **the Professional E-mail plan**.
Managing DNS records	Yes. The domain's DNS management is available even without hosting with us.
Moving to another provider later	Yes, it is a transfer. See the **transfer page**.

After registering, step by step

1. **Register the domain** through **domain registration**, with your real details. The contact details must be those of whoever will own the domain.

2. **Keep the login safe and set up renewal.** A domain is paid every year, and if renewal fails the name can be lost. See the **renewal** page.

3 **When you have the site or the e-mail, point the domain.** Registering and then pointing are two separate steps. See **pointing your domain to us: nameservers, step by step**.

4 **If the domain does not open after pointing it**, the cause is usually one of three. See **registered the domain and it still does not open**.

Two cautions while the domain waits

Keep the registration e-mail address and the panel login safe: renewal notices go there, and an address that no longer exists is the commonest way to lose a domain. And check the holder's details on the **WHOIS lookup**, so you know what is public and that the name is registered to whoever should hold it.

A domain with nothing behind it may show an error or a parking page
, and whoever lands there may not realise the name is yours. If it will take a while to build the site, put at least a simple page saying who you are.

Not decided yet what to do with the domain?
See **domain vs web hosting: what is the difference** and, to pick the name, the **AI domain name generator**.

NEED A HAND?

Registered the domain and now want the site or the e-mail? Tell us what you want to do and we will name the next step.

Open a support ticket →

The records you can add without hosting

In My Interweb, on the domain, DNS management lets you add records with no hosting plan at all. The types available are A, AAAA, CNAME, MX, TXT and SRV:

- **A and AAAA:** point the domain to a server's IPv4 or IPv6 address, for example a site hosted elsewhere.
- **CNAME:** make a subdomain, such as www or shop, follow another name, as site builders and shop platforms often ask.
- **MX:** deliver the domain's e-mail to an outside mail service, with the values that service gives you.
- **TXT and SRV:** ownership checks (search engines, mail services), SPF, and services that ask for an SRV record.

These records only take effect while the domain uses the nameservers that came with the registration. If you move the nameservers to another provider, the records are managed there instead.

SEE ALSO

- **Domain vs web hosting: what is the difference?**
- **Pointing your domain to us: nameservers, step by step**
- **The Professional E-mail plan**
- **Domain registration**

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