

I want my own domain!

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I want my own domain!

By Anna-Marie Stewart

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Choosing domain names, or web addresses is a major thing when you want to do business online. Whilst a great, or even halfway decent domain name may not guarantee success, it can most definitely have an impact on just about all aspects of your online biz.

When choosing a domain name, your best bet is to get one that is short, concise and easy to remember, as this will minimise confusion. If you are going for a domain that could possibly cause a bit of confusion, then it's generally recommended that it falls into one of these categories: words that sound similar, common misspellings, hyphenated or non-hyphenated variations.

On the other hand, long domain names offer more flexibility in choosing a domain name, allowing you to be more descriptive about what your site is about or what it does.

Don't choose things like stuff4free.com or free-stuff-online though, as it makes it hard for the domain to be passed on to others through word of mouth. People can't actually "hear" whether it's 4 or four, and they can't "hear" the hyphens. Again, joe_bloggs.com looks ok, but try telling someone to go there, joe underscore bloggs dot com is just hard to say.

Personally I'm not a fan of dots, dashes and numbers in a domain name, I think I prefer them as letters all in a row, like stuffforfree.com, freestuffonline.com and joebloggs.com (or whatever else the extension may be).

Try testing out names on family and friends, together you could come up with a really great name, one you wouldn't have thought up on your own, and with a bit of luck it may not have been taken already.

Here are some various links that can be helpful to check out before trying to buy the domain name you want.

Domain naming idea generators:
<http://www.nameboy.com>

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<http://www.webmaster-toolkit.com/domain-name-generator.shtml>

Domain name exchanges:

<http://www.afternic.com>

<http://www.websitenames.com>

<http://www.thedomainexchange.com>

Domain registration services:

http://www.networksolutions.com/en_US/name-it

<http://www.easyspace.com/domains/domains.html>

<http://www.register.com/register.cgi>

You can use a whois search to look up domains that are already in use. This can be particularly useful if you're looking for information such as the name and address of the registrant, creation date, expiration date, billing contact, technical contact, administrative contact, and domain servers.

Domain search tools:

<http://www.whois.sc>

<http://www.domainsearch.com>

<http://www.domainit.com/domain-search-engine.htm>

Even if a domain name that you really want is taken, if no one actually has a site there they may just let the name lapse. So check the expiry on the domain name, and within a few months of it expiring you might just be able to grab it for yourself.

Happy hunting!

-----Resource Box-----

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Renew Domain Names The Best Way

By Sarah Williams

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When we say "renew domain names", the first thing that comes to our mind is to make some extensions on our domain names. Well, this is somewhat near to the truth for the term "renew domain names" involves a process of buying additional time to an accessible domain name registration. In most simple terms, when you want to renew domain names, it is understandable that you want to extend the term of time for a registered domain name.

For those who want to renew domain names, it is very important for you to know that the process of renewing a domain name can be done any time, however, it is always made within a few months of when a term of time for a certain domain name is about to reach its due date. And when you renew domain names, you should be aware that domain names can have a maximum of ten years of registration term that is attached to them at any given period of time. So with your desire to renew domain names, you can definitely keep the domain name before the due date and time again.

It is often considered that to renew domain names, you should then undergo for some processes, such as to process your renewal request. Since the basic principle when you renew domain names is to keep the domain name for another term, it is then explanatory that really into some stages nearest to the domain name expiration date. As such, when you renew domain names and since the domain name will be renewed in real time, you will ultimately be given a confirmation of your new expiration date.

And so for you to know the expiration period of your domain name before you renew domain names, you must then go for WHOIS domain name search which will display the expiration date of your domain name. Speaking of the expiration date of the domain name, it is common consideration that no matter when you renew domain names, the additional renewal time period is then added to the new expiration date of your domain name. Thus, if your domain name expires, let's say on October 10, 2004 and then you renew domain names for two years at any time before that date, your new expiration date will be on October 10, 2006. Of course, you don't need to worry when you renew domain names prior to the expiration date for the fact that you are not be penalized for such act and for being conscientious. So when you ask about the new expiration date of your domain, just remember such idea for domain name renewal.

Today, there are so many companies that are concerned about domain name renewal that send reminders via email and postal mail box for you to know the domain name expiration date. So it is then necessary that you keep your domain name updated with your recent contact information. And with the services offered today which will help you to renew domain names, you can check and update domain names at any time.

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