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Lifetime Email Addresses part 3

By Stephen Cope

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Checking Domain Name availability

Having decided on a domain name we now need to check its availability before we can register it. All registrars that can register a .name domain name also have a facility for checking its availability. So to check the availability of your domain name go to either any of the .name registrars a complete list is available here: <http://www.gnr.name/registrarlist.html>

Before you Purchase

If you check on one or two of the registrars above you will notice that there can be a great variance in price. The most logical choice is to choose the cheapest. Before you choose you should be aware that on its own a domain name is not of much use so please read on.

Domain names–Email Addresses and Websites.

A domain name is an address. A domain name is not a mailbox or a website! Once you've purchased a domain name you need to link it to a website and/or mailbox. So when purchasing a domain name from a registrar you need to find out if it includes any of the following in the price or are they extra.

- a) website and/or email forwarding
- b) website hosting
- c) pop3 mailboxes and/or webmail.

To access email sent to your email address you will either need to forward that email to an existing address or have it sent directly to a mailbox. This was discussed in part 1 available at my websites see below.

Email Forwarding

This is the same technique as is used in standard mail forwarding when you move house. Letters addressed to your old address are forwarded on to your new address. The main difference is that with normal mail the forwarding is usually temporary (i.e. 3–6 months), whereas in email you could do it for as long as you want.

So as an example my new lifetime email address is `steve@lifetime.name` and I have an existing hotmail account of `stevelifetime@hotmail.com`. I arrange that any email sent to `steve@lifetime.name` is forwarded on to `stevelifetime@hotmail.com`

Mailboxes

Email is stored on a email server in mailboxes. The mailbox is in effect the physical storage equivalent to a physical mailbox for letters. The mailbox is in turn linked to an email address or addresses. It is very common to have email from multiple email addresses forwarded to a single mailbox for storage

and access. The address is not the mailbox and the mailbox is not the address, they are different. To read email in your mailbox you need to access the mailbox using appropriate email software

POP3

Almost all email on the internet is currently retrieved using the POP3 Protocol using an email client like Outlook Express, Incredimail, Eudora. Because POP3 is the most common method of retrieving email you often see the term POP3 mailbox being used. With POP3 the email is usually moved from the server and placed on the client machine.

Webmail

This is becoming a very popular way of accessing email using a web browser using the http protocol. With Webmail the email remains on the server and so can be accessed from various client machines. This type of access is ideal for people who travel and need to have email access regardless of location.

POP3 and Webmail

It is also very common that email can be accessed from you mailbox using either webmail, POP3 or both.

Account Management

Whether you are going to use email forwarding, Webmail, POP3 etc you should also take into account how easy the registrar makes it to configure and reconfigure you domain name. Most use a web control panel interface. You should check if there are any extra charges for configuration/reconfiguration. For example let's assume that you've been using email forwarding from `steve@lifetimeemail.name` to `stevelifetime@hotmail.com` and have now decided to use a yahoo account `stevelifetime@Yahoo.com`. Can you make the change yourself? How easy is it? Do you have to pay extra. These are the things you should be aware of when

deciding on a domain registrar.

Using the Registrar to Host your Website/Mailbox

If you currently don't have a mailbox/ website then I would choose the package from the domain name registrar. I wouldn't choose to register the domain name with one company and host it with a different one, unless I had already, for some reason, purchased one or the other. The normal practise with lifetime email addresses is to use the domain name registrar to forward the email to an existing mailbox (your ISP mailbox or hotmail account).

You domain Name and Website

These articles have concentrated on email. However you have purchased a domain name and this name can be used for your website. So not only can you have email at steve@lifetime.name you also can have a website at www.lifetime.name. If you want to learn how to make your own website then <http://www.build-your-website.co.uk/> has information and tutorials suitable for beginners.

Part 1 of

Part 2 of

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and

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Email addresses

All email addresses have the form `name@domain-name`. The `domain-name` is a name that is registered on the Internet, by yourself or by another company. Today it is common for all companies to register their own domain name and so all email addressed to that company would be addressed to `someone@company-domain-name`.

For individuals it is common today to use the domain name of your email provider, usually your ISP ,and the email has the form `you@ISP-domain-name`. So if your name is John Doe and you have an email account with Yahoo, then your email address would be: `johndoe@yahoo.com`.

Email Addresses and email accounts

Lifetime Email Addresses part 3

An email address is not an email account! You can have an email address and not an email account, in which case you would use email forwarding to forward the email to an address that had an account. Without an email account you cannot access or store email. Email accounts are always linked to email addresses but the addresses are not always linked to email accounts. Addresses can and often are linked to other addresses (email forwarding).

As an analogy assume you live at No 9 bridge road (your address) and your house (account) gets destroyed in a storm. You decide not to rebuild the old house; as it wasn't very stable anyway, and you move to a new house at 20 King street. In order to get mail that was addressed to 9 bridge road to come to 20 king street you go to post office and arrange for you mail to be re-directed. You can continue for this arrangement for as long as you want, normally until you have notified everyone of the change of address, but if your willing to pay you can do it for a lifetime.

Theme based or Personalised email addresses

Many companies offer email addresses (many free) with unusual domain names. Like you@smileyface.com or you@backstreet-boys.com you@Iluvyou.com. They can be very amusing and very easy to remember but maybe not an address for a lifetime.

Lifetime email addresses

Many of us use the email accounts that come, usually free, with our ISP (Internet Service Provider) account. The problem with these type of email accounts is that you loose them if you change ISP or the ISP closes. Changing ISP is very common, for cost reasons or because you move locations etc. Lifetime email addresses are a great idea just like lifetime phone numbers. Unfortunately the definition of a lifetime varies! Usually if you no longer subscribe to the particular service your lifetime email address comes to the end of its life! My idea of a lifetime email address is an address that stays with me until I cease to exist and not the email provider! So how do you get a lifetime email address? and what methods are used to provide them.

Purchase an email account separate from your ISP

There are many companies offering email accounts that you purchase and can keep and use for a Lifetime form anywhere in the world. Many offer a variety of domain names to chose from and various

email service like email forwarding web mail etc.

The problem with this type of arrangement all hinge around the fact that you don't control the email address and therefore must continue to maintain an account with them, if not your lifetime email address is over! So why wouldn't you continue to maintain an account with them? There a many reasons for wanting to change, such as:

- * Price increases

- * Service is not of sufficient standard

In effect they are little different from ISP email accounts, except that they are non-geographic.

Email forwarding

This is a popular technique for providing "lifetime email addresses". The email provider never re-allocates your email address and forwards all mail addressed to this address to another address (your current address) which you provide. This is commonly provided by universities and colleges for students.

The problem with this type of arrangement all hinge around the fact that you don't control the email address. There are things that could happen that would mean you don't receive email from this address; such as:

- * The email provider changes its policy and decides stop the service or charge for the service.
- * The email provider ceases to exist and hence doesn't renew its domain name.
- * You change your email provider and forget to inform the other email provider to forward to a new address.

Register your own Domain Name

This is the only way to guarantee that you truly have a lifetime email address. Because you register your own domain name you have complete control. The advantages are:

- * Complete control of domain name– you choose it and it's registered to you not to an email provider.
- * Complete control of the email addresses
- * Unlimited email addresses.
- * Can be cheaper if you need lots of email addresses.
- * You could have a domain name for all the family.
- * You can use it for your Website as well.

The disadvantages are

- * More complex as you have to a) register the name and b) find an email provider.– Most domain name providers will also provide mailbox space and forwarding services.
- * Can be more costly.
- * Need to renew the domain name each year or you will lose it.

This is my preferred method and so if you are Interested in registering your own domain name and using it for email I will be covering it in a future articles.

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