

About Domains

We know that some of our clients would rather not get involved in the technical details of how websites work. However, there is one area that you need to know about as a web site owner: domain names.

Your domain name is your real estate on the Internet. For example, we own the domain burgesscomputer.com and as a result, we can operate a website at www.burgesscomputer.com, as well as using email addresses such as mike@burgesscomputer.com.

A domain name is not the same as a website... you can own a domain name without hosting a website there right away. You may also point more than one domain name to the same website. Your website may change over the years, and the same website may be hosted in different ways, but you want your domain name to stay the same.

Registering Your Domain

Whether it is a first-time purchase or a renewal, you may choose to register your domain yourself or have Burgess Computer do it for you. Domains are purchased through *registrars*. There are many registrars to choose from.

You may purchase a domain name for one or more years, and some registrars offer a small discount for longer periods. Providing accurate, long-term contact information is important because the registrar will use it to remind you when your domain registration is about to expire.

IF BURGESS REGISTERS FOR YOU

We will list you as the owner and administrative contact for the domain, and list Burgess as the technical contact. We will pay the domain registrar using our account and then invoice you for that amount plus a service fee of:

Burgess Hosting Customers	Registration fees + \$14.95
Other Customers	Registration fees + \$19.95

IF YOU REGISTER ON YOUR OWN

Be sure to list yourself as the owner and administrative contact for the domain. You will probably want to make Burgess Computer your technical contact:

domain.admins@burgessinc.com

Burgess Computer
101 Centre St.
Bath, ME 04530-2551
US



6 oak grove avenue
bath, maine 04530
www.burgesscomputer.com
800.498.8642 or 207.443.9554

voice: (207) 443-9554
fax: (207) 443-7414

Avoid add-on services such as hosting and promotion for now, just register the domain and choose one of your free options, such as *parking*. One add-on that we do recommend is *private registration* (e.g. domainsbyproxy.com), which will help cut down on spam (see below).

If we will be hosting your website or email, we will be happy to keep a copy of your registrar information, including username and password in our secure database. Don't forget to send us this information as an extra precaution.

PRIVATE REGISTRATION

A service called WHOIS allows people on the Internet to look up contact information for domain names. Unfortunately, this can compromise your privacy since online marketers will obtain this published information. The alternative offered by most registrars is called private registration. This is a premium service that usually costs about one dollar per month. Burgess recommends that you consider this option.

Domain Transfer (DNS)

Most of the Internet is coordinated by servers. Web sites and email are provided by servers. In order to make your website or email "live" the domain name has to be pointed at the right server (each server is identified by a number, such as 69.20.65.41). Some technical steps are required whenever you want to publish a new website or switch from one hosting provider to another. These DNS changes may be relatively quick (less than an hour) or they may take 24-48 hours to take effect.

Burgess handles DNS changes for our hosting customers at no extra charge. If you are switching to a new host, your new provider will need to handle DNS. If we do not host your website or email, then our standard labor rates will apply.

Let us know if you have questions about domain names, registration, and DNS.