

What is a domain name?

Wikipedia states, “The most basic functionality of a domain name is to provide symbolic representations, i.e., recognizable names, to mostly numerically addressed Internet resources. This abstraction allows any resource (e.g., website) to be moved to a different physical location in the address topology of the network, globally or locally in an intranet, in effect changing the IP address. This translation from domain names to IP addresses (and vice versa) is accomplished with the global facilities of Domain Name System (DNS).”

Who regulates domain names and sets policy in Australia?

The Australian Domain Name Administrator (better known as auDA). See their website at www.auda.org.au for everything you ever wanted to know about domain names in Australia. They also operate the auDA Foundation, a charitable trust that was established by auDA to promote and encourage education and research activities that will enhance the utility of the Internet for the benefit of the Australian community.

What do you like in a domain name?

- One that accurately reflects the type of the organisation?
 - In a survey of 800 non profit organisations 43% had domain names outside .org.au.
 - Is there really a need to register multiple domain names?
- A name that is easy to remember – or even guess?
- Short to type?

How do you obtain a domain name?

Contact any registrar. Registrars typically have easy to navigate web sites with useful information.

See an overview of registrar pricing at the “What's In A Name” website at www.whatsinaname.com.au

Important Tips

Check your Whois entry to find out who receives notifications and updates about your domain name. You can do this from your registrar's web site or at www.ausregistry.com.au

- Do you know the username/password to manage your domain name via your registrar's website?
- Do you know the password or key required to access and modify the settings of your domain name?
- Do you know when your domain name expires?
- Be aware of domain name scams such as false letters in the post and fake email requesting information.