

What is a domain name and how does it work?

What is a domain name?

A domain name is the technical term used for the address of a particular website on the internet. The domain name tells your browser where to go and look to access the page you want to view. The domain name for this website is "netmarketingvideos.com" and you arrived at this page by clicking through one webpage to another, moving from one domain name to another, or by directly typing the address into the address box of your web browser.

Once the domain name is registered, the website does not automatically appear when visitors enter your domain name into their web browser. You have to upload your website to a computer that hosts the website and assigns a numeric address to your domain. This numeric address is called the IP address. The domain name and its corresponding IP address are stored in a database with every other domain and corresponding IP address. When visitors enter your domain name in their web browser, the domain name works like an address forwarding service, which forwards your visitors to the IP address where your website is stored. Domain names are used instead of the IP address because most people can remember a name easier than a series of numbers.

Top Level & Second Level Domain Names

There are different levels of domain names. Some domain names end in fewer dots and letters than others. Eg: The domain name **example.com** has fewer components than **example.com.au**.

Dot com (.com) domains were the first style of domain name to be introduced and these domains are a Top Level Domain (TLD) because they only have one suffix. Other Top Level Domain examples are .net, .info, .org etc.

A Second Level Domain (SLD) is a domain that is directly below a Top Level Domain (TLD). In many cases, the second-level domain is the part that you register. For example, in the domain **example.com**, "example" is the second-level domain.

There can be Fourth and Fifth Level domains, and so on, with virtually no limitation. An example domain name with four domain levels would be **en.example.com.au**.