

The Internet

FTP, Domains, Email and Hosting – an Introduction

FTP

FTP is the process by which we upload or download files to and from the Internet. Using host domain address and user name and password we can control the content of any website or other situation where we store files for access via the internet.

Domain host names for FTP

Domain host names for FTP information log ins are usually either the domain itself – mywebdomain.com (without the 'http://www'). Sometimes a host log in will require an address like upload.mydomain.com, or ftp.mydomain.com. Usually this is specified in information provided by the host account company. For example, at the university, the log in for city campus webspace is saturn.lgu.ac.uk, there is no http or www, and no other information is required except your own user and password details.

Terms:

FTP - FILE TRANSFER PROTOCOL

Local Server – your own hard drive

Remote server – where you host your files on the internet

Ftp and Dreamweaver

FTP and Dreamweaver is a very straightforward process. Dreamweaver provides a simple in built facility to FTP to any host using its own interface. This makes it a simple process to control files on any website you may be developing using Dreamweaver.

- It begins by asking you to name the site
- Then it asks you if you are going to use 'server technology'. This is whether or not your website is passive, or uses technology like PHP/MySQL.
- Then you must specify where your files are stored on your local drive
- Then you must specify how you wish to connect to your remote server (this is the internet host space you are connecting to.) this is where you usually specify 'FTP'.
- This is where you enter the domain address name, and your own user name and password details
- Then you must specify which folder you want to upload your files to – this is to make it easy when uploading, as you may have many folders hosting many different websites.
- You can also test the connection at this stage
- If more than one person is working on the files in a virtual environment, you can enable check in and check out, so you don't both try to edit a file at the same time
- You can view either the remote files or the local files, as well as change the log in and other information at any time.

DNS (Domain Name System)

The domain name system is a hierarchy of names for the files and directories associated with all the computer servers that are accessible via the internet. Everyone who hosts domain names must be registered to do so. These are the companies we usually purchase our domain name(s) and web space from. Every computer server has a unique name, or DNS. We access their computer server when we upload or download our files from their host space.

USA

'American' Domains are regulated by internic.net. domains looked after by internic are .com, .net, .org as well as others like .tv, .us, .biz etc. (<http://www.internic.net>)

UK

'UK' Domains are regulated by nominet.org.uk. these would include .co.uk, and other .uk specific domain addresses. (<http://www.nominet.org.uk>)

WhoIS and Tags

The **whois** facility is used to establish who owns a particular domain. It will tell you the name, address and email of the holder, as well as the date of registration and expiry/update. This way, if you are looking to purchase a domain already registered, you can contact the present owner of the domain. It is a legal requirement of all domain holders to have their details available on the whois, unless they are personal web domain holders.

Every domain has a **tag**, which can be viewed via the whois facility. The tag represents the company that is administering that domain. A list of tag holders is available via the Internic website, and via the Nominet website, depending on the domain(s) concerned. All tag information is public.

If you wished to transfer a domain from one company to another, you would apply to change the tag. This is usually done by the domain holder (the owner), first obtaining permission from the present tag company, to move the domain to the new tag company. There are thousands of tags, visit the Nominet website to see.

<http://www.nominet.org.uk/registrars/becometagholder/taglist>

Purchasing and Hosting Domains and Websites

You can purchase a domain without having to have web space, and purchase web space without a domain name. you can also purchase email hosting without having to have web space. Many different deals are available via many companies on the internet. Some of the most well known in the UK are 1 and 1 hosting, Low Cost Names, Pipex, or Demon Internet. There are many free deals also available, for example as an added bonus of purchasing broadband or dial up connection deals from companies such as Virgin.

To utilize server side technology, for example PHP/MySQL, you must usually pay extra fees. However, at the present time, the cost of such hosting is not preclusive.

Email Purchase and Hosting

Usually you must own the domain that the email is associated with in order to set up email hosting, including 'POP 3' email, for use with Outlook, Outlook Express or email clients such as Eudora or Mozilla Thunderbird. It is also possible to set up both specific email addresses associated with a particular domain (myname@mydomain.com), as well as a 'catch all' email account using the *@mydomain.com address. This can depend on who is hosting your domain. It is also often possible to access email accounts both via the web and via pop 3 email clients.

POP 3

POP3 requires a name for the email account, as well as a username and password. This is unique to the email account, and not the same as the username and password of the main domain hosting account.

Other Information

Free software for FTP

Ace FTP

Smart FTP

This is a document in progress, so will be updated regularly in the future, as changes and new information become available.