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Domain vs web hosting: what is the difference?

Domains & DNS

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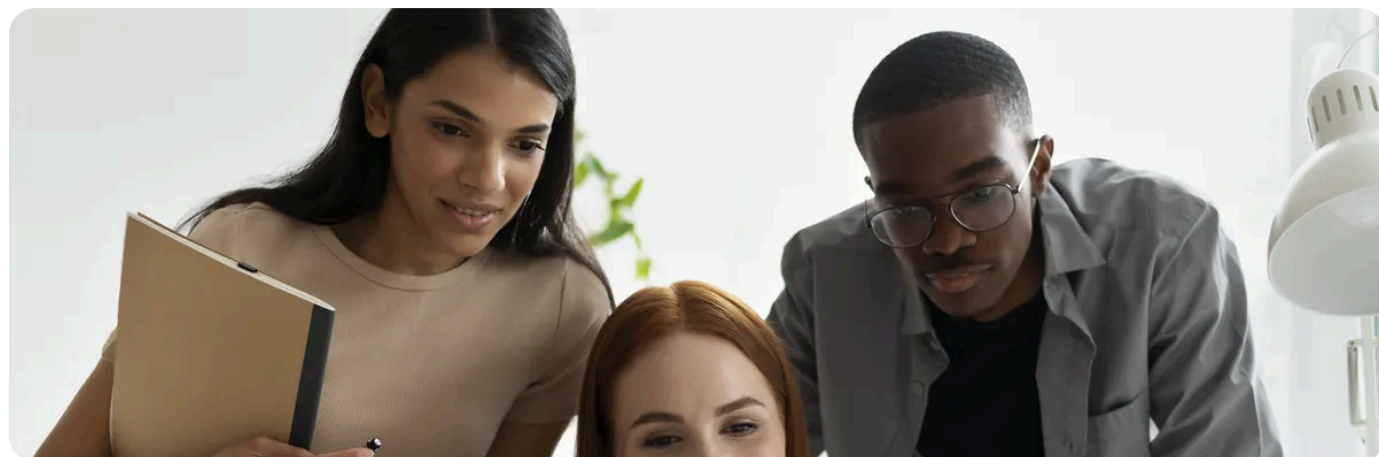
Domain vs web hosting: what is the difference?

 Domains & DNS

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 2 min read



These are two different things, bought separately, and mixing them up is one of the most common confusions when starting out.

What it is

Domain	The address . It is the name people type into the browser. On its own it stores nothing - it is just a name reserved in your name.
Hosting	The space . It is where the site files, mailboxes and databases live, on a server connected to the internet 24 hours a day.

The most useful comparison is property: the domain is the **address**, the hosting is the **house**. You can own an address with no house, and a house with no address - but only with both can anyone visit you.

? What happens if you only have one

- 1 Domain only** - the name is reserved for you (nobody else can register it), but anyone who goes there finds no site, and cannot e-mail you at that domain.
- 2 Hosting only** - you have the space and the site can exist, but it is only reachable through a technical address. No customer will memorise that.

? What connects them

DNS is what points the domain at the hosting. That's why, if you buy the two in different places, you have to set that pointing up - see **how to configure a domain's DNS** . Buy both from us and it is already done.

**What about professional e-mail?**

It needs both as well: the domain gives you the *@yourcompany* part, and the hosting (or an **e-mail plan**) stores the messages.

**They renew separately.**

They are distinct services with their own invoices and dates. An expired domain takes the site down even with the hosting paid - and the other way round.

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