

GeneralPublicDomain

## **The Domain Name**

### **What is a Domain Name**

A domain name is your unique address on the Internet. Just like your telephone number, it's specific only for you! It allows to find you on the Web.

A domain name is written in this way: `www.domainname.xxx`

The `www`: (World Wide Web) identifies the service. It isn't a part of the domain name.

The `xxx`: is your domain name extension.

There are several types of extensions:

–international extensions:

`.com`: this is the most common extension. These are mostly commercial sites.

`.net`:

`.org`: this extension is designated to organisations (associations, international organisations).

–national extensions: specific extensions available for entities of that country

`.fr`: for France

`.be`: for Belgium

etc...

Attention: each one of these entities has to follow certain rules of attribution in order to launch the website with a national domain extension. In general, the national extension domains (like `.fr`) are more costly due to the extensive administrative procedures.

### **Why have a Domain Name?**

Having a domain name makes it easier to distinguish your site from other websites. Your domain name is protected and copyrighted. You can create an online community while your domain name helps others contact and get to know you online. You can create a network and supply e-mail accounts with your website.

### **How do I choose my domain name?**

#### **The rule**

Choosing a domain name may appear to be a difficult procedure, but it is actually very simple.

First, choose your extension (`.com`, `.net`, `.org`, `.info`, ...)

As for domain names, it's "first come, first served". If your desired domain name is already taken, use your creative abilities as there are limitless possibilities in inventing domain names.

Once you find a desired unused domain name, you can then register it and then the domain name will be yours.

For some national extensions (like `.fr`), precise rules of registration are required.

#### **A piece of advice**

For example, if you wish to create a domain name for your family, we advise you to make a list of the names

you want to use.

Next, check if all the names are available as domain names. You can do this through OVH on our whois page. Then select and register the domain name that best fits your project. You can also select several extensions for your domain name (.com, .net, .org, etc), which will increase your online visibility and reserve your domain name just for you.

### **Domain contacts**

Once you have registered a domain name, you need to assign to and represent it with contact information. Do not neglect this part of the process, because important legal matters pertain to intellectual property rights.

- The domain name owner

It can be an individual or a legal entity. The following information must be supplied (valid e-mail, postal address...). You need also to specify which information will be available on your site.

- Administrative contact

This person is the representative of the domain name. This person has an important role because he/she has the ability to change the data/information of the domain name.

- Billing Contact

This contact receives the bills and renewal requests. A valid e-mail address is mandatory for this contact.

- Technical Contact

This person assures that the website functions properly. This person is contacted in case of technical problems.

### **Why should I select my domain name through OVH?**

#### **Flexibility:**

OVH offers you the choice of registering your domain name. You may register your domain name for 1 year, 2, years, or up to 10 years!

You can transfer the management of your domain name to another website service provider or simply stay with OVH. OVH does not have any hidden rules. It's up to you to decide.

#### **Accreditation:**

In 2001, OVH received the ICANN Accreditation (International Organisation in charge of managing international extensions (.com, .org, etc). The attribution criteria is very strict. The company must show their creditworthiness and technical experience in the field.

#### **Low prices:**

Thanks to the ICANN accreditation, OVH does not need any middle man to provide domain names. This accreditation coupled with experience in the field, allows OVH to offer competitive prices without losing any quality in service.

**Associated Services**

We offer the following services along with the domain registrations.

- unlimited e–mail redirections: sending e–mails to the account you use the most.
- web redirections for redirecting your domain name towards a web space that you already possess.
- dynamic redirections: for forwarding your domain name to your computer.
- free anti–virus and anti–spam services.

You can manage all of these services by logging in to Manager in OVH.

You can also assign your domain name to an OVH website hosting service for free!