



moonfruit

DOMAIN AND EMAIL GLOSSARY

**The phrases and terms you may encounter,
when registering a domain name...**

Don't know your 'Registrar' from your 'Registry'? No idea what a 'Name server' actually does? Well, don't worry. You're not alone.

We endeavour to make the process of buying a domain name as easy as possible, but it's inevitable that you'll still come across a little 'jargon' along the way.

This is why we've taken all those technical terms and broken them down into simple, straight forward language that we all can understand.

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Domains

Domain name

A domain name is an address people use to find your website online
e.g. www.yoursitename.com.

So, anyone wanting to take a look at your site would simply type the domain name into the address bar of any browser window, and hit the return key of their keyboard.

The domain should be memorable, unique and contain less than 63 characters (no spaces). They are not case-sensitive.

Registrant

That's you that is...Yep. If you buy a domain name, you become the registrant AKA the owner of the domain name.

Registrar

When you buy a domain online, you do so through a domain registrar. Basically, this is a company that sells domain names. You may have heard of some of them e.g. 123-reg, Godaddy, Gandi...

You pay them for a domain name and they create it with the domain registry. You can then manage the domain directly through the registrar's interface.

Registry

A domain registry is an organisation that manages domain names for a given extension (Top Level Domain. Please see below). When you buy a domain online, they create it and register it as no longer available.

Gandi

Because we can't host domains directly, we register them on your behalf with our registrar partner Gandi.

When you place your domain order, we register it with gandi.net. You are the owner of the domain just as you would be had you registered it with them yourself. The only difference is that we take care of all the technical settings automatically, so that it can be used with your Moonfruit website.

This doesn't make any difference to you at all, unless you want to take the domain to another provider. In which case we can release the domain to you, and give you login details to access the domain management directly through gandi.net yourself.

To do that you need to contact our support team.

Handle

When you register your first domain name, Gandi allocate you a domain 'Handle'. This is a unique ID that is also linked to any further domains you register through your Moonfruit account.

Domain voucher

Domain vouchers are allocated annually, when you renew a higher subscription (Standard, Plus or Max), and can be spent to register, renew or transfer domain names.

Each voucher is worth £11.99, the same price as a single domain registration.

Nominet

Nominet are the domain registry for .uk domain names. They manage the use of .uk domains and authorise the registrars who sell them.

ICANN

The 'Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers'. ICANN were formed due to a need to have a central body who controlled the rules and regulations in terms of domain names.

They regulate the registration and the use of domain names for the Generic Top Level Domains, such as .com, .net or .org. Registrars and Registries have to comply with the rules edited by ICANN.-

Whois

When a domain name is registered, certain information regarding the owner have to be made public. The Whois directory acts as a data base containing this information.

However, some personal details e.g. address, email address, phone number can be hidden during the registration process, or at a later date by the registrar. We do provide private registration.

TLD

A TLD (Top Level Domain) is the final part of a domain name i.e. the bit that comes after your actual site name e.g. .com, .net, .co.uk. It is also known as the 'extension'.

There are actually two types of TLD:

- > Generic. Called 'GTLDs', these cover .com .net .org .biz .info .name etc.
- > National (one per country). These are called 'CCTLDs' for 'country code TLD' and cover .uk for United Kingdom, .fr for France, .eu for Europe etc.

For each TLD, a worldwide database guarantees that each domain name is the only one in the world. The organization that manages this database is called a registry.

Register

When you buy a domain name from a registrar, they contact the registry and they 'register' the domain for you. That unique domain then belongs to you for as long as it is required.

Renewal

When you buy a domain name it is registered to you for the chosen number of years. When that period is over you need to renew the domain.

Registrars send reminders well in advance of the expiration date to ensure there is no break in service.

Note: Some registrars will also let you renew for multiple years in advance.

Transfer

This is when you move a domain you own between registrars.

So, if you already own a domain, but wish to leave and start again with another host, then you can take the domain with you.

Expiration date

When you register a domain name, it belongs to you for a limited time (Usually 1 year). The end of this period is marked by the expiration date, by which you should renew your domain name to continue uninterrupted use.

Redemption period

If your domain does expire you still get a limited amount of time to renew it (usually 1 month from the expiration date, but that depends on the TLD). If you don't renew within that time, the domain will enter a Grace period. This means that the domain can still be recovered, but you will be charged an extra 'restore' fee.

However, the redemption period itself is limited and your domain will become available for anyone to buy at the regular price after the Redemption period (usually 65 days after the domain expiration date, but that depends on the TLD).

Restore

The process of recovering a domain name during the Redemption Grace period.

Pointing

IP pointing is when you get your domain name provider to 'point' a domain name directly to our servers/your site using the DNS records. Then, anyone who types the domain in a browser gets taken to your webpage.

Forwarding

This is another way of getting your own domain name to redirect to your site. However, it uses a frameset which masks the content, meaning that search engines cannot correctly index the site or content. In other words your site will be harder to find in search engines. It can also cause display issues, especially on mobile devices.

It also prevents you from using some Moonfruit features (Shopping, Services etc...)

We recommend that you transfer the domain over to us, or use IP pointing instead of web forwarding.

Name server

A 'name server' could be regarded as an address book that holds the details of your domain name and the IP address it relates to.

Name servers allow accessing network/internet content from a domain name. They know where your computer needs to go to find web or e-mail content related to this domain name, thanks to a so-called Bind File, where the DNS records (A, CNAME, MX...) are stored.

They are held all over the internet and update each other whenever changes take place. So, say you registered a domain, it would use your registrar's name servers. If you then transferred the domain to us, it would switch to ours.

However, if you do register or transfer a domain through us, we take care of the changes on your behalf.

IP address

Internet Protocol (IP) is a system that allows computers to exchange information across networks.

Every network has a unique number (IP addresses), which allows computers to know where to find one another and share information.

In terms of using an IP address with a domain name; the domain simply associates words with an IP address, such as telephone directory. So, if you have a website with us, we will link it to the IP address of our webserver. So anyone typing your domain name in a browser would be taken to your website.

Basically, think of the IP number/domain as a phone number in a huge telephone book filled with IP numbers/domains. So, someone could pick your domain out of the book, ask their computer to find that address and pull up your website.

A Record

The 'Address record' specifies the IP assigned to a domain name. So, anyone who types the domain name gets sent to the IP address and the right website.

MX Record

A 'Mail exchanger record' is a record that identifies the mail server responsible for accepting emails through the email addresses associated with the domain.

TXT Record

A TXT (text) record is used to contain any text information related to your domain name. You can add any text you wish to them and can be used to verify a domain e.g. with Google or other search engines.

CNAME

An abbreviation of 'canonical name'.

This is a record in the DNS which can be used to create sub-domains. So, if you own yourdomain.com, you could use the CNAME to create the aliases www.yourdomain.com or/and info.yourdomain.com.

'www' addresses (or any subdomain address) point the domain name to our CDN server (Content Delivery Network). They usually load faster than the default address or the yourdomain.com address, as they are delivered to the visitor from a closer location (we have CDN servers on each continent), so it's always a good idea to specify the 'www' address as your Preferred Site Address.

TAG

Identifies the registrar for a given .uk domain name. If you bought a .uk domain from us, the TAG would be GANDI (our domain registrar).

Email

Email address

An address acts as a unique identifier for a particular mailbox e.g. yourname@yourdomain.com.

This can then be used to send and receive emails.

Mailbox

This is an account you create which allows you to view, save and send emails. When you register or transfer a domain name through us, we provide you with up to 5 mailboxes, all with individual email addresses.

Webmail

Webmail allows you to access your emails online, without using an email application on your computer. The most common examples are Hotmail, Gmail and Yahoo.

Of course we provide our own webmail, with any domain registered with us. Our webmail partner is Roundcube.

Alias

If you register a domain with us, then you'll have the option of creating up to 5 individual mailboxes associated with that domain.

Each mailbox has 1 primary address, but you can add an unlimited number of alternate addresses as well. These are your 'alias' email addresses.

So, say you created a mailbox with the primary address yourname@yourdomain.com, you could later add info@yourdomain.com and admin@yourdomain.com as aliases. Any mail sent to any of these address will then be delivered to the same mailbox.

Note: Please be aware that you cannot login to Webmail using an alias and all alias addresses MUST be unique across the whole account.

Creating any duplicate addresses (you can only use an address once, whether it's for a mailbox, or an alias) can cause a conflict and mail may NOT be delivered.

ISP

Your ISP or Internet service provider is the company who supply your Internet access.

NSP

Network service provider. Your phone and the people who provide your phone internet access, when you're not connected to wi-fi.

SMTP

Simple mail transfer protocol used as your 'Outgoing mail server'. This is for sending mail across networks.

POP

Post office protocol. For receiving mail from a remote server i.e. your 'Incoming mail server'

IMAP

Internet message access protocol. Used for incoming mail. Enables you to keep a copy of the messages while you download them on your computer, via a mail client application such as Outlook

SSL

Secure sockets layer. A secure way of communicating via email.

Port

A port is a way of identifying applications running on your computer. The port number, along with your computer's IP address makes connection possible. So, if your IP address is your house address, think of the port number as the post/zip code.

Incoming mail server

The server address where incoming mail is stored, and then downloaded to your email client.

Outgoing mail server

The server address which picks up outgoing email sent to it by your client.