



**Your Website Coach**



### ***Domain Basics – 4/11/07***

Lately I've been getting a number of requests for information on **domain registrars** and **web hosts**. People are having difficulty understanding the difference between the two, as well as the function of each service. Let's start with the domain registrar. You must register your domain name – yourcompany.com – with a domain registrar. Godaddy.com, register.com, networksolutions.com; are a few of MANY registrars. The difference among these companies, when talking about domain name registration, is generally cost. Some of these companies charge \$8.95 for a .com, .org, .net and some charge \$35 for the same. The higher charge does not indicate that there is more functionality, this is simply a domain registration and there is no other functionality to consider. For an additional fee, you may get Private Registration which maintains your privacy in the **whois** database. So what is whois? It is a gargantuan database that holds the basic information (owner, address, email, etc.) on a domain name. It used to be that there was only one whois database, but now most of the registrars maintain their own version of whois and sometimes the information is incomplete. You can go to any registrar and click on whois to see if a domain name has been taken AND if it is not a private registration, who registered it.

Not long ago, registrars did their thing (register domain names) and web host providers did their thing (host websites). If you take a look at the names I mentioned, you'll see that they now offer everything from domain registration to web hosting and beyond. They offer One-Stop Shopping to make it easier on you, their customer. I'm often asked if one registers their domain name with a company, must they also host with the same company. The answer is no. There are many times that you get a great deal on domain registration with a company, but they don't have the web hosting package you need for your site, i.e. e-commerce, live streaming, etc. You may register with one company and host your site with another – people do it all the time. The only benefits derived by registering and hosting with the same company; is having your data in one spot and a potential price break on services. FYI – you can reserve a domain name and purchase an email account on that domain name without a web host. This is useful to one who is setting up shop but doesn't yet have a website. They can begin using their new email right away which is a form of advertising the site that is yet to come.

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