



1. Obtaining a domain name and getting a web hosting are two different, separate things.

- You need to arrange for both in order to have a website.

2. Your domain name is your URL: www.bettyopolis.com, for example.

- When you register your domain name, you're basically paying a fee for the right to use the name for a period of time.
- You obtain and register your domain name with a private registrar.
- Some registrars are: **GODADDY.COM, REGISTER.COM, DOMAIN.COM.**
- It is also very common to register your domain name with your hosting provider.
- It costs about \$10/year.
- You just go to one of the above registrars and see if the name you want is available. If it is, you buy it.
- It's wise to see if a domain name is available before you name your business.

3. Hosting is renting space on a web server that "serves up" websites.

- A hosting provider is the server where your website lives on the internet. You basically rent server space from a company.
- Some hosting providers are: **GODADDY.COM, DREAMHOST.COM, SUPRANET.COM**
- Many hosting providers also are domain registrars, which is very convenient.

4. Questions to think about as you choose a hosting provider

- Technical support - can you talk to a person?
- Data transfer/bandwidth - the measure of how many pages and how much data the hosting company will let you send to your visitors each month. If you think you'll get big at some point, you might want to see how flexible the hosting provider is.
- Add-ons: does the provider allow you to check your stats using cPanel or some other software? How do you get and store your email? Can you use CGI scripts and which scripts? Are PHP and mySql installed? Are the management utilities for those languages and databases installed?