



Let's Get Started...

My clients range from people who have just started using email (and even one who refuses altogether) to computer programmers who can't be bothered learning HTML (web design code). When I told my mother I was designing websites, she asked, "What does it *mean* when you have a website?" So, in deference to my mom, I'll start with the basics.

A Home For Your Website:

We need to find a place for your website to live, aka a web hosting service. An internet hosting service allows individuals and organizations to showcase their own websites via the World Wide Web.

Many Internet Service Providers (ISPs) offer packages that include web hosting. I recommend Cruzio for my clients because they are local and nice people. However, my clients use Yahoo, Go Daddy and a variety of other ISPs. Are your eyes starting to glaze over? Okay, then. I can host myself for \$15 per month via Cruzio's server.

A Name For Your Website:

We will need to purchase (register) a "domain" (name) for your website. You may do this yourself via credit card and then request that your ISP register that domain. The advantage is that your hosting service will make sure that the website points to their servers...so it will show up on the www without further ado.

Is this is way too geeky for you? Then I can research the name(s) you have in mind and, if available, register (purchase) on your behalf. That way, you won't have to worry about the next paragraph.

Building Your Site:

Now comes a tricky part. If you have already registered your domain and chosen a hosting service, I need to be able to access your URL (web site address) via File Transfer Protocol (FTP). I use Dreamweaver (web design software) to upload files so that I'm able to make changes quickly (and save you money). Hosting services will only provide me FTP access information with your assistance to respect your privacy. I can't upload your website unless...

I have the name of your hosting service (in case there is a special log-in on its home page) and the **username** and **password** to your control panel. That's it!

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