

Domain Registration and Website Hosting.

(Adapted from paper as used on IT Degree Course. Updated December 2025)

Recommendation: A business or other organisation should always separate the domain registrar from the provision of a website (developer and hosting provider).

The domain is simply the 'address' that allows people to locate and browse your website. It points to your web hosting service. The best practice in the industry is to separate the Domain Registration from the provision of a website, and this paper explains why.

If you hand over control of your domain to your web developer, who normally hosts the site, then your domain can become a hostage, or become unavailable.

You may need to switch website provider due to any number of reasons including:

- Provider goes out of business
- Poor performance or excessive cost
- Failure to deliver service promised
- Poor reliability
- New website provider for additional function

If your website developer or host has control over the domain then you may have trouble getting control back, or they may try to charge a fee for the release.

They might insist on full payment for services which you feel were not delivered adequately.

If you keep the domain with a separate registrar, then you will always own the domain, and at a moments notice can point it at a different web host.

It will be your responsibility to renew the domain registration when the expiration period approaches – but most registrars will automatically renew providing you have provided them with payment card details. All the domain registrar does is feed your website location into the "Domain Name System". There is no performance or other benefit from having a UK based registrar – but there is a slight performance advantage to having a UK based hosting server.

More details:

Registering the *Siophavards.cymru* and *havards.wales* domains with a dedicated company (the current registrar is Porkbun) rather than your web host gives you better security, avoids single points of failure, and makes it easier to switch providers. Porkbun has recently been named as best website registrar by **USA Today** for each of the last three years.

Keeping your domain and website services separate provides several major advantages:

- **Complete Ownership Control:** If your website provider ever suspends your account (or holds your site hostage during a billing dispute), having a separate registrar ensures your domain remains under your control and can point to a new host within minutes.
- **Better Security:** It eliminates a "single point of failure." If your hosting provider is hacked, your domain name settings remain locked in a completely separate, secure account.
- **Easier Migration:** Moving your website to a new platform requires simply updating your DNS settings at your domain registrar. If your domain is bundled with your host, transferring it out can be a tedious and stressful process.
- **Lower Long-Term Costs:** While website builders often offer the first year of a domain "free," their renewal prices and domain privacy add-ons are typically much higher than a dedicated registrar.

- Domains are controlled by ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) and Registrars are required to follow a strict set of globally defined processes and standards to operate. These rules ensure the security, stability, and fair transfer of domain names across the internet. On the other hand, there is little control over who can offer a hosting or web development service. So being registered with an ICANN approved registrar ensures the security of your domain. Should a domain registrar get into any sort of trouble the domain management would move to a different accredited provider so your domain would be safe.
-