

Web Hosting and Domains

Web Host: A company that holds your web page files on their servers
You will purchase a **hosting account** from this host
Note: Hosts generally make you pay for the full year up-front.

Domain: The name that is typed in the address bar of the browser
Example: wartytoad.com
Each domain is registered by a company

- This is usually taken care of by the host at the time you purchase your hosting plan
- If you change hosts, but want to keep your domain, you will have to transfer the domain to the new host. *(There is usually a small fee and about 1 wk wait time.)*

It's often best to purchase the domain from the hosting company at the same time as you purchase your hosting account. Often the first domain is free with the hosting account purchase.

Popular Hosts:

BlueHost

iPage

My current recommendation

DreamHost

HostGator

Choosing a Domain Name:

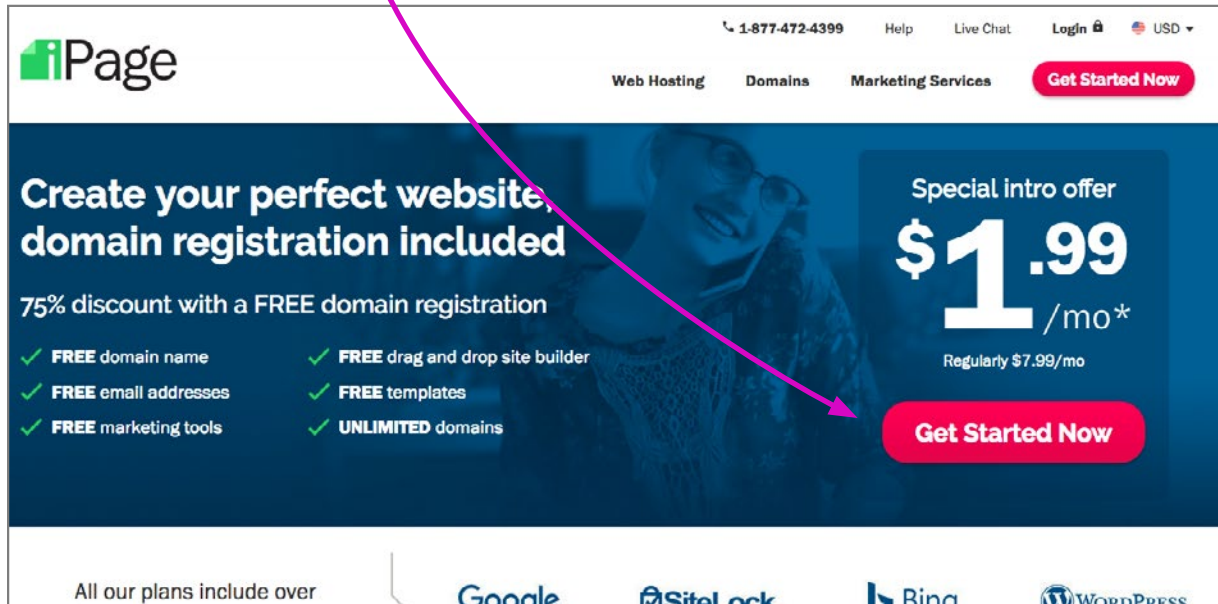
- Take your name before someone else does
- Avoid hyphens, underscores, and numbers
- Make it easy to pronounce
- Make it short
- .com is the preferred TLD (top-level domain)
- Look at it in writing to make sure unintentional words aren't formed

If you can't use your name,

- Try using a middle initial, but keep it short
- Or combine your last name with a meaningful keyword like "design"

1 There is usually a big call to action button on the home page. Click it to continue.

iPage example:



The screenshot shows the iPage website home page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the iPage logo, a phone number (1-877-472-4399), and links for Help, Live Chat, and Login. Below the navigation bar, there are links for Web Hosting, Domains, and Marketing Services, along with a prominent red 'Get Started Now' button. The main content area features a large blue banner with the text 'Create your perfect website, domain registration included' and '75% discount with a FREE domain registration'. A list of benefits includes: FREE domain name, FREE email addresses, FREE marketing tools, FREE drag and drop site builder, FREE templates, and UNLIMITED domains. A 'Special intro offer' of '\$1.99 /mo*' is displayed, with a note that the regular price is '\$7.99/mo'. A second red 'Get Started Now' button is located at the bottom right of the banner. At the bottom of the page, it says 'All our plans include over' followed by logos for Google, SiteLock, Bing, and WordPress.



ADULTING TIP:

For all hosts, be sure to check the regular price in addition to the “introductory” price.

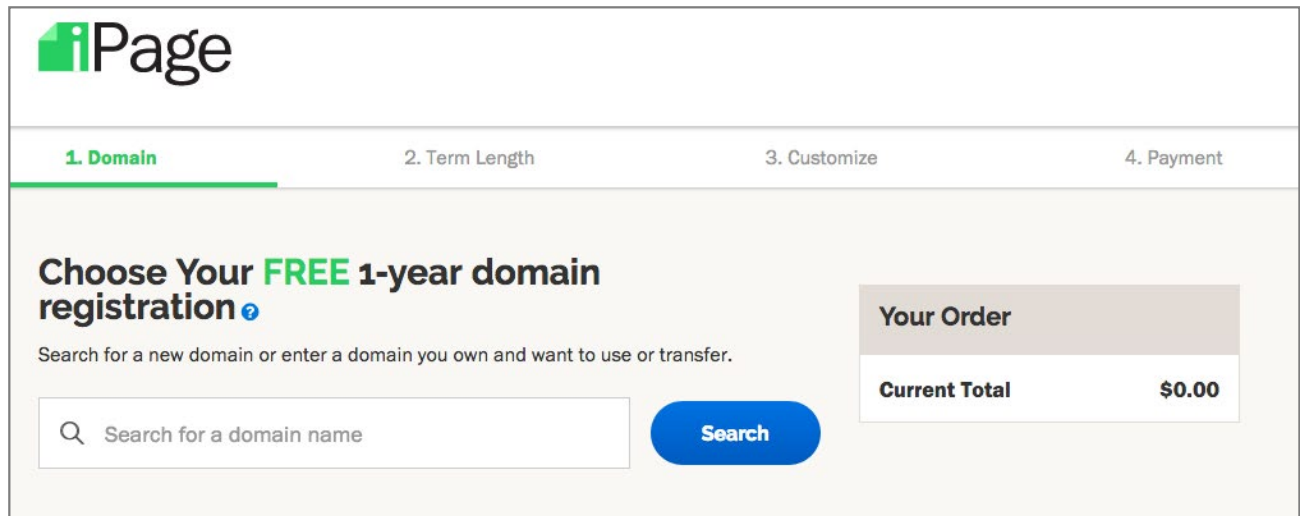
A link to the regular rates might be in the fine print at the bottom of the screen.

Example of Regular Rates (Verify the current regular rates at the time that you are signing up):

Regular rates for the iPage hosting plans		
Go Plan	Introductory Price	Renewal Price
12 month term	\$2.99/mo	\$9.99/mo
24 month term	\$2.49/mo	\$8.99/mo
36 month term	\$1.99/mo	\$7.99/mo

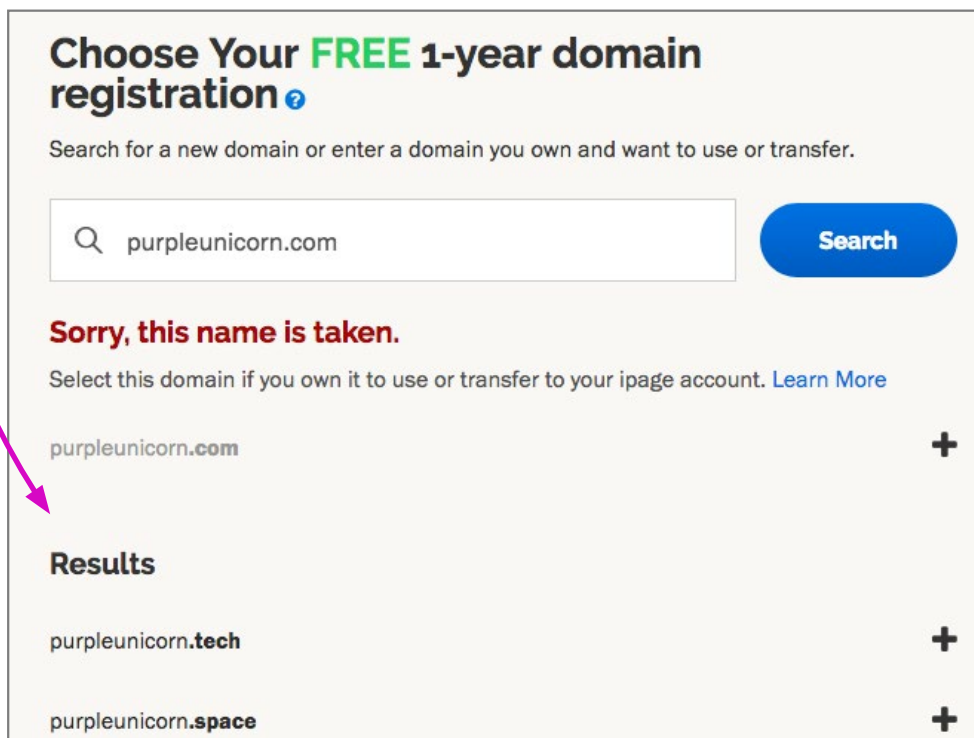
2 Select a domain.

Note: Some hosts have you choose a plan before getting a domain. If so, proceed to that step in this handout.



The screenshot shows the iPage website's domain selection process. At the top left is the iPage logo. Below it is a progress bar with four steps: 1. Domain (highlighted in green), 2. Term Length, 3. Customize, and 4. Payment. The main heading is "Choose Your FREE 1-year domain registration" with a help icon. Below the heading is a search prompt: "Search for a new domain or enter a domain you own and want to use or transfer." There is a search input field with a magnifying glass icon and the placeholder text "Search for a domain name", and a blue "Search" button. To the right, under the heading "Your Order", there is a table with one row: "Current Total" and "\$0.00".

If your 1st choice is taken, other options will be recommended to you.
However, try to stay with a “.com” extension.



This screenshot shows the same iPage domain selection interface as the previous one, but with the search results. The search input field now contains "purpleunicorn.com" and the blue "Search" button is visible. Below the search prompt, there is a red message: "Sorry, this name is taken." followed by the text "Select this domain if you own it to use or transfer to your ipage account. [Learn More](#)". Below this, there is a list of domain suggestions, each with a plus sign to its right:

- purpleunicorn.com +
- purpleunicorn.tech +
- purpleunicorn.space +

The word "Results" is positioned above the list of suggestions. A pink arrow points from the text box above to the first suggestion, "purpleunicorn.com".

Choose Your FREE 1-year domain registration

Search for a new domain or enter a domain you own and want to use or transfer.

Q wartytoad.com **Search**

Nice, your domain name is available!

wartytoad.com ✓

Your Order

Domain Name	wartytoad.com	\$0.00
Current Total		\$0.00

Next, choose my term

Once successful, click this.

3 Select your plan—Make edits to your order

Note: Some hosts have you set up an account before you choose a plan. If so, set up an account.

Phone Number

Address.

Last Name

Address 2

Optional

Postal Code

State

Select state

Your Order

Domain Name CHANGE	wartytoad.com	\$0.00
Web hosting CHANGE	3 Years @ \$1.99/mo Renews 5/1/21 @ \$7.99/mo	\$71.64
Additional Products		
	Website Security \$ 1.66/mo Remove	\$19.95
	Website Backup Basic \$ 1.00/mo Remove	\$35.98
	Domain Privacy ? Renews 5/1/19 @ \$12.99/yr Remove	\$9.99
Current Total		\$137.56

Change the term now or on the next screen.

This is NOT your final price!

Hosts will try to sell you a million options, from extra security features to web design templates. Technically, you need none of these options. But consider keeping Domain Privacy.

<input type="checkbox"/> Phone Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
address.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Last Name	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Address 2	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="Optional"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> Postal Code	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="checkbox"/> State	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="text" value="Select state"/>

Your Order

Domain Name CHANGE	
wartytoad.com	\$0.00
Web hosting CHANGE	\$71.64
3 Years @ \$1.99/mo Renews 5/1/21 @ \$7.99/mo	
Additional Products	
Website Security	\$19.95
\$ 1.66/mo	
Remove	
Website Backup Basic	\$35.98
\$ 1.00/mo	
Remove	
Domain Privacy ?	\$9.99
Renews 5/1/19 @ \$12.99/yr	
Remove	
Current Total	\$137.56

Current Total **\$35.88**

[Next, customize my plan](#)

4 Enter Billing Info and Purchase.

Phone Number	
Last Name	
Address 2	
Optional	
Postal Code	
State	Select state

ly to the first term. Money-back
acy. **All plans and products**

Your Order

Domain Name CHANGE	
wartytoad.com	\$0.00
Web hosting CHANGE	\$35.88
1 Year @ \$2.99/mo	
Renews 5/1/19 @ \$9.99/mo	
Additional Products	
Domain Privacy ?	\$9.99
Renews 5/1/19 @ \$12.99/yr	
Remove	
Current Total	\$45.87

By clicking "Purchase Now", you are agreeing to iPage's Auto Renewal Policy, [Terms of Service](#), [Cancellation Policy](#), and [Privacy Policy](#).

Purchase Now

5 Either on screen or in an email, you will be given a username and a password. You might be asked to set this password yourself. **WRITE BOTH OF THESE DOWN.**

Auto Renewal & Manual Renewal

As of the time of writing this, iPage automatically renews your account at the end of your term. If you'd like to set your account to renew manually instead of automatically, do this:

From the home page go to: Domains > DomainCentral

Click the word "Auto"

At the bottom of the page, select "Manual Renewal"

Click "Save"

The screenshot shows the DomainCentral interface. At the top, there's a header "DOMAINCENTRAL". Below it, there's an "Alerts" section with a link to "Recent Domains (1 Notification)". The "My Domains" section contains buttons for "Search my domains", "Register new", and "Add existing", along with a search box for "Search your current domains" and a "More Options" link. A table lists domains with columns for "Domain", "Expires (Days Left)", "Privacy", and "Renew". A pink arrow points to the "Auto" renewal option in the table. Below the table, there are navigation links: "Overview", "Pointers", "Transfer", "Contact", "DNS", "Nameservers", "Security", "Subdomains", and a blue "Renew" button. The "Renew Domain" section shows "Renew willrobmason.com:" with a dropdown menu set to "2 Years for 33.98" and a "Renew" button. The "Renewal Schedule" section shows "domain set to renew Automatically" and two radio buttons: "Automatic Renewal" (unselected) and "Manual Renewal" (selected). A pink oval highlights the "Manual Renewal" option and the "Save" button below it.

DOMAINCENTRAL

Alerts

▶ [Recent Domains](#) (1 Notification)

My Domains

Search my domains Register new Add existing

Search your current domains

[More Options](#)

Modify Selected Domains

<input type="checkbox"/>	Domain	Expires (Days Left)	Privacy	Renew
<input type="checkbox"/>		May 01, 2019(365)	Enabled	Auto

[Overview](#) [Pointers](#) [Transfer](#) [Contact](#) [DNS](#) [Nameservers](#) [Security](#) [Subdomains](#)

Renew Domain

Renew **willrobmason.com**:

2 Years for 33.98

[Domain Pricing Information](#)

Renewal Schedule

domain set to renew Automatically

Automatic Renewal

Manual Renewal