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So What Is A Domain Name and a Website?

Geeks and nerds today toss around terms like *website*, *domain name* and *web hosting* every minute of the day, but what do these terms *really* mean? Here's a simple analogy Small Business Pioneers dreamed up that might help.

An "Internet domain address" (the www dot com part, also known as the "domain name") works like an address painted on your mailbox. Like postal mailing addresses, the domain name is unique and maps to exactly one spot. Great domain names are easy to spell, short and descriptive - although most of these have been registered long ago. The '.com' extension is the most popular and recognized extension, followed by '.net', '.org', '.edu' and '.biz'. You'll find a more complete list on <http://smallbusinesspioneers.com/dotcom>.

Continuing with our analogy, you need a parcel of land on which to park the mailbox, house, cars, etc. The land stores all those items just like "web hosting" provides a lease for storage space to hold your website. Network bandwidth, much like water and sewer lines, provides the infrastructure that connects the website to the internet.

The house, décor, and landscaping make up the "website." Professional web designers and developers are the interior designers, landscapers, architects, and plumbers of the Internet.

Securing your domain name on the Internet is pretty inexpensive although some of the big daddy fish charge a premium for additional services like private domain registration. Private domain registration keeps your personal contact information hidden from junk mail marketers, identity thieves and other sharks that feed on heavily advertised, discounted public domain registration offers. Small Business Pioneers offers top quality, managed, private domain name registration at <http://smallbusinesspioneers.com/dotcom>.

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