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# **Cheap Domain Names - The Advantages And Disadvantages**

An address has to be entered, to browse a web site - this used to be a string of number but now, fortunately, is a string of characters. What is entered is usually a business or site name, in the form of a descriptive word or it may be a phrase that describes what the site is about. Be sure you understand the difference between the many companies that offer complimentary domain names, and the companies that specialize in selling cheap domain names. Domain names that are really just an extension of the host's domain name are usually offered for free.

Names that are simply tacked on to the hosting company's domain name, so that will need to be typed in as well are what we refer to as sub domains. This means that the domain name will be longer than usual and probably hard to remember. Buying a new domain name will get around this difficulty. Cheap domain name companies are all competing with each other to offer you a good deal, so finding an affordable name is very doable.

The price of a cheap domain name can be anything from completely free up to around seven dollars. To get a free domain name a customer must usually pay for web hosting, so it is still being paid for. There is no need to get a web hosting package if you purchase a separate paid for domain name. Paid for domain names are available for upwards of one dollar.

A customer must follow the same process for registering a domain name whether they bought a cheap domain name or paid a regular price. When buying a domain name a customer's first step is checking that the name they want is still available. To find out if the desired name is still available then a customer will enter the name into an appropriate text box and select the extension wanted. The page will then tell them if the domain name is taken or not, if it is then they can purchase it, if not they will have to decide on a different name. Some company's are helpful and will suggest alternative domain names when the one chosen is unavailable.

The advantage of using cheap domain names is that it is possible never to receive the domain name if you try to purchase it through an unscrupulous company. Wait for the domain to activate. When customer emails customer support after a few days waiting for the domain to become active, they find that is a waster of time too.

If a cheap domain name company is fraudulent then they are unlikely to be registered with the Better Business Bureau, so checking with them is a good first step in protecting yourself. Making sure that businesses operate in a way that is acceptable and not fraudulent is what the Better Business Bureau does. Suspicious companies will not usually have the normal land based contact systems such as an address or phone number, so checking for these is a good second step to see if the cheap domain name company may be fraudulent. Another place to check is message boards that are dedicated to webmasters, ask if anyone knows if the company has a good or bad reputation.

A good reason to stay clear is if you are unable to find someone who has dealt with the company you are considering. If the company you are considering is reputable then there is no other disadvantage to getting a cheap domain name with them. All domain names work in the same way whatever was paid for them, so if a person can take advantage of a company offering cheap domain names then they should.

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