

## What makes up a website?

---

The language of websites can be very daunting if you don't work with the internet on a regular basis. And if you're in the sort of business where you rarely have to even think about computers, well, that can make it even harder!

With that in mind, here's the **MoshPit Publishing** Quick Guide to Websites!

### 1. First up, you will need a 'domain name'

A domain name is like your street address. People use your street address to find you. Computers on the internet use your domain name to find your website.

General usage domain names start with **www** which is short for World Wide Web.

The next part of the domain name is the name you choose for your domain name. In our case, it's **moshers**. You can't use an apostrophe with a domain name, so we couldn't have **mosher's**.

The next part of the domain name will usually tell others a little bit about your business. If it's just **.com** (or 'dot com') then that usually suggests it's a business. If it's **.org** (or 'dot org') then that suggests it's a charitable, fundraising or not-for-profit organisation. You can also have **.biz** and **.net** and **.tv** to mention a couple of others.

After the **.com**, **.biz**, **.org** or **.net** there often comes a country indicator. You can tell that we're an Australian business because our domain name is **www.moshers.com.au**.

If we wanted to set up business in Canada, we could register **www.moshers.com.ca** or in New Zealand we could register **www.moshers.nz** – both of these names are currently available.

You don't necessarily have to have a country indicator at the end of your domain name, you can just have **.com**. For instance, there is a **www.moshers.com** in existence which belongs to a jeweller in America. Then there is a **www.moshers.org** which belongs to a landscaping company in America.

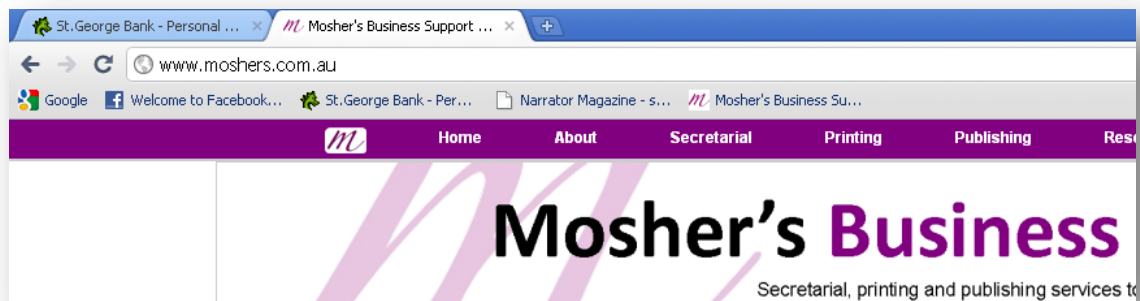
By typing these addresses into your 'browser' your computer will go looking for where the pages sit on the internet, then bring them so that you can look at them. This is how you look up a website, by typing the domain name In this case

---



---

www.moshers.com.au) into your 'browser'. Here, the browser is *Google Chrome*, but you might use *Internet Explorer*, *Mozilla Firefox*, *Safari* or something else again:



A domain name is also known as an URL (pronounce 'earl' or said as individual letters as in: 'you-are-ell') – this is short for Uniform Resource Locator.

## **2. Next you will need some 'hosting space'**

If your domain name is the equivalent of your address, then your hosting space is the equivalent of your house. Your hosting space is room on a computer somewhere in the world that is (nearly) always connected to the internet. This type of computer is generally called a server.

## **3. And last but not least, you need 'content'**

Your website text and pictures are known as 'content' and they are created in internet-friendly pages. These pages are then sent from the computer on which they are created to the computer which will 'host' them.

(Sometimes these pages are created directly on the computer which is hosting them. If you purchase a 'template' site then you will 'log in' each time you wish to make changes to your site and as you do them and 'publish' them, they will take effect immediately. The hosting company provides the software for your website and you can choose the template which appeals most to you, then change a few basic items such as the colours, the headers, the text size and type etc.)

***Now, the next time someone types your domain name or URL into their browser, their computer will go hunting across the world, via the internet, for that URL (address) and, when it finds it, will virtually knock on the door of the server which is hosting your website and ask your pages to come out and play!***