



Website Basics

So, you want to be on the internet but don't know where to start? Here is a brief explanation of the basics.

1. Domain Name

A Domain Name is your address on the internet. For example, my domain name is "www.wilmat-software.com.au". When someone types this address into a web browser my web pages are displayed. The first step to having a website for your business is to have a domain name. Domain Names can be registered through a domain name registrar, such as MelbourneIT.

2. Hosting Your Domain Name

Once registered, your domain name must live somewhere, it must have a physical location. This is called "hosting". There are many companies that provide hosting. The company I use to host my domain name is a US based company called A Small Orange. My hosting package allows me to "sub-host" other domains. In fact, my www.equitrain.net website is hosted on A Small Orange and my www.wilmat-software.com.au website is "sub-hosted" on the equitrain site.

3. Web Pages

The hosting company has a "web-server" which is simply a computer that stores your web pages. A web page is simply a document, like a word processing document, that contains text, pictures and links to other documents on your web site or on another web site.

4. How Does it Work?

Good question! When someone types my domain name (www.wilmat-software.com.au) into their web browser, the web browser will search the internet for the company that has registered my domain name. On the domain name registration is the address of the web server of the hosting company. The web browser will look up my registration details and locate the address of the hosting company's web server. The browser will then search the hosting company's web server and will find and display my web pages.

5. That's Too Much Information, I Just Want a Web Site!

Okay I understand, that's where I can help. If you would like to have a website and are starting from scratch this is what I can do:

- arrange the registration of your domain name
- host your web site on my www.equitrain.net site
- design and develop your website – using your logos, colour scheme and photos

6. What Will that Cost?

- Registration of your Domain Name - \$140 every two years
- Hosting Your Domain - \$132 per annum
- Web Pages – price will vary depending upon the number of pages in your site and the complexity you require. As a guide \$550 will get you a basic web site using your logos, colour scheme and photos. A more complex web site where you can add your own news items, pictures and videos can cost upwards of \$5000.