

# How to create your own website under \$20

Domain.com + great web hosting offer +  
other free softwares < \$20

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# Introduction

Over the past ten years, internet has become a major telecommunication in human civilization. So, you had taken a great step to be a webmaster.

Becoming a webmaster, you could:

- have your own blog to state your ideas,
- sale your product without much cost,
- have a prospect of more than 1 billion surfers worldwide.
- make the official website for your company or organization.

Setup the website is easy and you can do it by yourself:

- with cost under \$20,
- without buy a server to start your website,
- without certificate needed on computer science, programming, etc.
- as long as you have a basic knowledge of using Microsoft Word, have your own computer and internet connection.

## First step:

# Buy domain name for your site

Your domain name is identity of your site. So, you should consider many things on choosing a good name for your site.

Your domain name should describe your website content. The general keyword that people searching for that topic is the best choice to put as a domain name. “www.bicycleshop.com” is advisable rather than “www.michaelshop.com”.

Short domain name is recommended so that people would remember easily. People able to remember “coffeezone.com” compared to “mycaliforniacoffeehouse.com”. It also would reduce the misspelling of word if people try to access to your site.

Nowadays, to get name of your pleasure sometimes had been taken by others. So, first thing to do is make a list of the names you want for your site.

Even when you searching for domain name available or not, .com had been taken but other dot like .net, .org, .info, is available. So is it a good choice to take other than .com for your domain name? Its recommend your site to have .com suffix since people searching for .com first rather than other suffix.

In choosing a domain name, avoid combining numbers and character together. People are rarely to search keyword including numbers such as “giftshop4u.com”, or “giftmart2u.com”. Domain name with character and dash only is a good name.

Nowadays, domain names are registered by people are very fast. Almost all one-word domains in English had been registered earlier by others that had been in this industry since 1990s. You must buy your domain soon if you don't want to get “www.the-domain-that-hate-by-others-except-you.com”.

To buy the domain you don't have to have a website or to pay for web hosting. You must act earlier and that's why I put this action as a first step to create a website.

So register your domain as soon as possible. To know where to register the domain and keeping our aim to creating website below \$20, then go to [www.hostcounselor.com](http://www.hostcounselor.com) for more details.

## Second step:

# Developing your site

To develop the site, firstly you should design the interface of your web pages in harsh papers. You should also write the content of your website as well.

For the beginner, it's good to start your webpage with simple elements that consist:

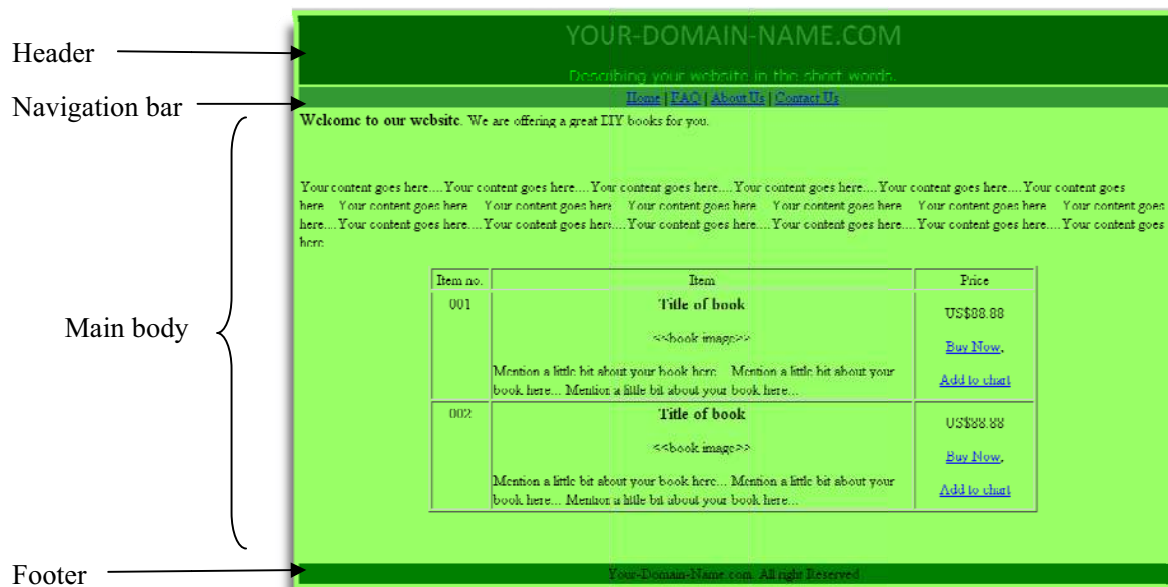
**Header:** To show name of your website and also it's simple description. Domain name of website is the best name to put as header of page so that people would remember and they will visit your website again.

**Navigation bar:** Put links to other web pages

**Body:** Content of your website in words and a picture.

**Footer:** Show your name or company.

## Example of simple and professional look webpage:



## Tips on make a great, effective webpage:

- Pick a color theme for your website.  
In the example above, theme of webpage is green. Avoid putting too many colors that makes your webpage like graffiti or mural. This will make your website looks unprofessional.
- A modern-look webpage is not a criterion that makes it effective.  
Visitors are not going to be looking at your pretty logo and they're not going to be passing judgment on your background color. What they're looking for is the content

and structure of your page. Therefore, make your content useful. Make it something they'll want to quote on their blogs.

- Avoid using a multimedia embedded in the webpage such as flash, java, etc.

You have to know that not everyone has java installed on their computer. So you may lose your visitors because of that or otherwise you really know that your visitor may not have a multimedia installed on their PC or your website is really descriptive about multimedia, technology, etc.

- Good Navigation system.

Almost all the pages must have some links to other pages of your site. Try to make the hyperlinks clear so that visitors can easily find them. Moreover, graphic images, like buttons or tabs, should be properly labeled and easy to read, instead of making them flashy. Make sure your webpage does not contain broken links. This will make your website turn down in search engine ranking.

After designing your webpage on a piece of paper, you can proceed by creating your webpage using a webpage editor such as Microsoft Office FrontPage or Adobe Dreamweaver.

If you don't have Microsoft Office FrontPage software in your computer, you may install the Microsoft FrontPage from Microsoft Office installer. Usually, the Microsoft Office FrontPage is including together with other Microsoft Office software but you need to install it separately.

But, if you don't have Microsoft FrontPage, you can download free software called NVU (pronounced N-view) from [www.nvu.com](http://www.nvu.com).

Things to consider during designing a webpage:

- Don't create a webpage width more than 700 pixels.  
The fact that screen monitor is 800x600 pixels are still wide used today. So, ask yourself, do you like to read a website that have a horizontal scrollbar? It brings difficulties to the visitors to read your page and makes them leave your site.
- Make sure all images in your webpage is formatted by .jpeg, .jpg, .gif only and it recommended that every image capacity under 30 kb.  
Never put image with .bmp format. It takes a long period to load. There are many studies which show that visitors leave a site for another if the web pages do not download within 2-3 minutes. You can reduce your image or convert it into .jpeg format by using image editor such as Adobe Photoshop. Otherwise, you can use free software like PIXresizer from <http://bluefive.pair.com/pixresizer.htm> to

resize your image. Make sure that every image has a maximum 72 dpi (dot per inch). This is because, a larger number of dpi won't show on the screen and you just waste the hosting storage and your bandwidth for your heavy image. You can reduce the dpi of image using PIXresizer.

- Use standard font families.

Yes, you can choose to use "Rockwood LT Standard" as your font on your page, but the chances that one of your readers will have that font as well is pretty low. Sticking with fonts like Verdana, Geneva, Arial, and Helvetica may seem boring, but your pages will look better and the designs look correct on more browsers.

- Test your pages in multiple browsers.

Writing web pages that work only on the most modern browsers is not an intelligent action. If your webpage looks good in IE7, it doesn't mean looks exactly in IE6 or earlier.

## Third step:

# Upload web pages to the server

To make your website visible to the others, you need to upload your web pages to the server from web hosting you pay. If you don't yet buy a web hosting yet, go to [www.hostcounselor.com](http://www.hostcounselor.com) for more information and guidelines.

When you want to upload your homepage website, name it as 'index.html'. This is because the server will automatically detect file name index.htm as a homepage as visitor search your website by your domain name.

### How to upload your file to your webhosting:

1. Login to your webhosting account. Most of webhosting today use a cpanel as account management for their customers. So, you can just login to your account via <http://www.your-domain.com/cpanel>.
2. After you login to your account, click 'File Manager'.

3. Then, click on icon of 'public\_html' folder (do not click words!). Any file you upload in this folder is accessible through your visitors.
4. Now, you upload your 'index.html' by click at 'Upload File(s)'.
5. To make your website organized, make a new folder by clicking 'Create New Folder' and put any file such as image or webpage. As an example, if you create folder name 'image' and you put file name 'cake.html', then your URL will appear as <http://www.sweetshop.com/image/cake.html>.
6. If you put images on your webpage, you have to upload your images as well. You have to remember html file is not like .doc file that can include the image into the file. So, is advisable to make a specific folder name image and all images on entire website will put in this folder.

Anything else to know about web, you can continue to read at [www.hostcounselor.com](http://www.hostcounselor.com). In the web site, there is a guideline to buy a domain name, web hosting, how to make connection between server and so on.