

# Domain Name Basics

Most computers on the Internet have a name and a number associated with them. The number part is called an IP address and the name part is called a domain name.

## Domain name basics:

- Valid domain name characters include letters, digits, dashes, and periods.
- A domain name cannot begin nor end with a period or dash.
- Please be sure to use a valid top level domain.
- If you are requesting a “.com”, “.net”, “.org”, “.biz”, “.info” or “.us” top level domain name, you are limited to a maximum of 63 characters total (including the top level domain name ex: “.com”).
- Domain names are typically registered with a domain name registry service, e.g. Internet Names WorldWide (a division of Melbourne IT, an ICANN accredited registrar).
- Note: Commerce Connections does not use Network Solutions (InterNIC). In our opinion, we found them very difficult to do business with and generally very deceptive in their business practices.
- Depending on the top level domain you request (the top level domain is the last part of the domain name such as 'com', 'net', 'org', etc), the domain name registry must be consulted for specific guidelines.
- The '.com', '.net', and '.org' top level domain names may be registered with any registry service.

## Examples of domain names that can be register:

- example.com
- example.net
- example.org
- anextremelylongname.net

## Examples of domain names that can not be registered:

- www.example.org
- http://example.gov
- illegal\_characters.net
- any-domain-name-longer-than-the-allowed-maximum-sixtythree-characters.com

## Why not?

- A registry service will not register www.example.org because a registry service can only register the last two sections of a name. If you wanted a web site with the address www.example.org you would register example.org with the registry service and the www. part of it will be added to the name by your Internet Service Provider (ISP) or by the System Administrator at example.org.

- A registry service will not register 'http://example.gov' because the 'http://' part is not part of the name. The registry service would accept 'example.gov' as a domain name, but the 'http://' part should not be included here.
- A registry service will not register 'illegal\_characters.net' because it contains an illegal character '\_'. Domain names can only contain letters, digits, and dashes.
- A registry service will not register too long a domain name... 'a-name-longer-than-twentysix-characters.com' because domain names with fields longer than 63 characters are not allowed.

**What should I do?**

**Dial 888-638-9356 toll free nationwide. We look forward to your call!**

**In advance, *Thank You!***

**Provided by: [www.CommerceConnections.com](http://www.CommerceConnections.com)**