

How to Check Where Your Domain is Being Hosted

You may have a domain name for your business or yourself but you might have forgotten where it's registered, who is hosting the website, or who is hosting email. Your domain can be split up between hosts, so knowing where to find what can be a puzzle.

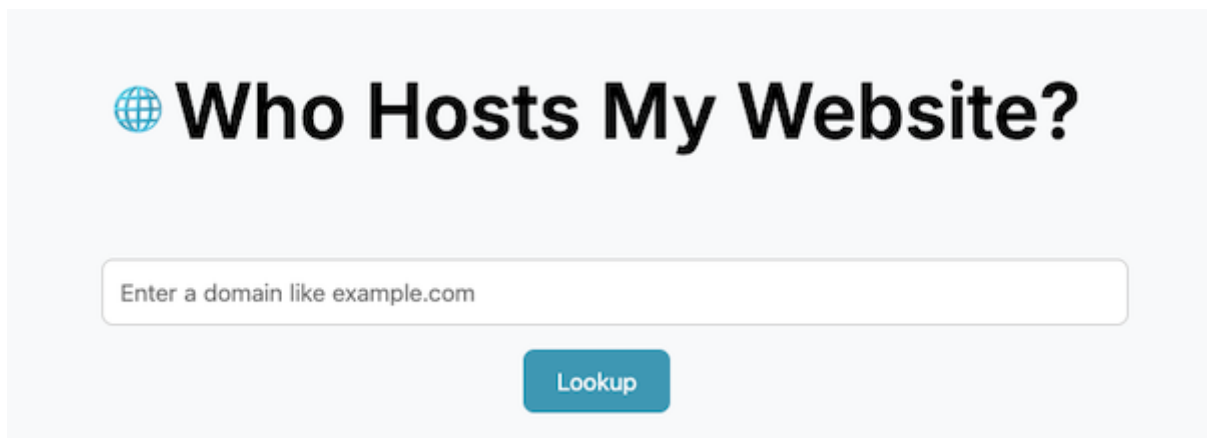
With the tips here, you should be able to figure it out.

This article will cover the following:

1. Do a “whois” on the domain
2. Look up your DNS records
3. Find out more about those IP addresses
4. Find out more about who hosts your email

Wait... Here's the Cheat Code

Before going on, you might want to check out WhoHostsMyWebsite.com, which is a tool I built to help people find out where their website is hosted.

The image shows a web interface for a tool titled "Who Hosts My Website?". At the top, there is a blue globe icon followed by the title in a large, bold, black font. Below the title is a light gray rectangular input field with the placeholder text "Enter a domain like example.com". Underneath the input field is a blue rectangular button with the word "Lookup" in white text.

Step 1: Do a “whois” on the domain

The first place to always check is the “whois” (who is) record for your domain name. This lookup will tell you where the domain name is registered and where the DNS is.

Head over to lookup.icann.org and enter your domain name.

This resource is good because it clearly shows all the information you need to know:

Domain Name Registration Data Lookup

Enter a domain name

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

tonyherman.com

By submitting any personal data, I acknowledge and agree that the personal data submitted by me will be processed in accordance with the ICANN [Privacy Policy](#), and agree to abide by the website [Terms of Use](#) and the [Domain Name Registration Data Lookup Terms of Use](#).

Domain Information

Name: TONYHERMAN.COM

Registry Domain ID: 73410120_DOMAIN_COM-VRSN

Domain Status:

[clientDeleteProhibited](#)

[clientRenewProhibited](#)

[clientTransferProhibited](#)

[clientUpdateProhibited](#)

Nameservers:

BIRMAN.EZOICNS.COM

CUSCUS.EZOICNS.COM

Dates

Registry Expiration: 2024-06-26 14:06:51 UTC

Created: 2001-06-26 14:06:51 UTC

Registrar Information

Name: Wild West Domains, LLC

IANA ID: 440

Abuse Contact Email: abuse@wildwestdomains.com

Abuse Contact Phone: tel:480-624-2505

Notice the nameservers section (this is DNS) and the registrar information.

The registrar is where you registered the domain name. In this case, it's with Wild West Domains, which is a reseller for GoDaddy.

With the domain name servers (DNS), this is where all the records are kept saying which parts of the domain name go where. There's a host for DNS. The host may be at the same place you registered the domain, with your hosting company, or somewhere else.

If you ever move your website to another hosting company, you need to check where DNS is hosted. If it's hosted with your old website host, they may stop hosting your DNS for you, which will bring down your website and email. **There are sometimes tricky names for DNS hosts.**

What Is DomainControl.com?

GoDaddy uses DOMAINCONTROL.COM for their DNS hosting. Most people don't know that DOMAINCONTROL.COM is GoDaddy. If you're not sure who the DNS host is, then go back to the top and enter the domain name found under the nameservers to find out more about that host.

For example, if the nameservers show up as:

NS19.DOMAINCONTROL.COM
NS20.DOMAINCONTROL.COM

Why are there 2 nameservers?

That means there are 2 nameservers – one is primary and one is secondary (a backup – in case the first one's not available). Sometimes there are 4 or more nameservers listed but having two is usually good enough.

What you'll do is remove the first part of the domain (the sub-domain), which is:

NS19.

and then just do a whois lookup on:

DOMAINCONTROL.COM

to find out more about who that is. Here's how that looks:

Domain Information

Name: DOMAINCONTROL.COM

Registry Domain ID: 92924903_DOMAIN_COM-VRSN

Domain Status:

[serverDeleteProhibited](#)

[serverTransferProhibited](#)

[serverUpdateProhibited](#)

Nameservers:

A1-245.AKAM.NET

A11-64.AKAM.NET

A20-65.AKAM.NET

A6-66.AKAM.NET

A8-67.AKAM.NET

A9-67.AKAM.NET

ANS01.DOMAINCONTROL.COM

ANS02.DOMAINCONTROL.COM

Dates

Registry Expiration: 2027-11-01 11:59:59 UTC

Created: 2002-12-08 07:27:56 UTC

Contact Information

Registrant:

Organization: Go Daddy Operating Company, LLC

Mailing Address: Arizona, United States



You see here that GoDaddy is the registrant for DOMAINCONTROL.COM.

At this point, you know:

- Where the domain is registered
- Where the DNS is hosted

Step 2: Look up your DNS records

Next, let's look at your DNS records and find out where the website and email is being hosted.

Head over to DNSChecker.org and enter your domain name.

Here's what it looks like for tonyherman.com:

DNS Lookup

DNS Lookup tool finds all DNS records of a given domain name. The records include but not limited to A, AAAA, CNAME, MX, NS, PTR, SRV, SOA, TXT, CAA.



Enter a domain name and select record type to get a specific record or keep default to fetch all DNS records.

Enter any Valid URL:



tonyherman.com

ANY

Enter Domain URL and Select DNS Record Type above, or Select "ANY" to Fetch All DNS Records.

Lookup DNS

A

Type	Domain Name	Address	TTL
A	tonyherman.com	34.230.210.117	59

AAAA

Sorry no record found!

CNAME

Sorry no record found!

MX

Type	Pref	Domain Name	Hostname	TTL
MX	10	tonyherman.com	mail.tonyherman.com	14399

NS

Type	Domain Name	NS	TTL
NS	tonyherman.com	birman.ezoicns.com	21599
NS	tonyherman.com	cuscus.ezoicns.com	21599
NS	tonyherman.com	drever.ezoicns.com	21599
NS	tonyherman.com	quokka.ezoicns.com	21599

PTR

Sorry no record found!

SRV

Sorry no record found!

SOA

Type	Domain Name	Primary NS	Responsible Email	TTL
SOA	tonyherman.com	cuscus.ezoicns.com	awsdns-hostmaster.amazon.com	899

TXT

Sorry no record found!

CAA

Sorry no record found!

Here's a guide on how to read this:

- The “A” record is the IP address of the **website hosting**
- The “MX” records define where your **email is hosted**

Those are the main records you need to know. The TXT records are used for validating domain ownership with different services or sometimes for certain email hosts. PTR and SRV are mainly used for some email hosting as well. And CNAME records are also for website hosting, like the “www” version of your website or other sub-domains you might have.

Now, with an IP address, you're only getting half of the story because DNS is really for computers to turn domain names into IP addresses so they can go get what they need. So, to find out what's really going on, you need reverse that and find out who owns the IP address block that is mentioned.

At this point, you know:

- Where the domain is registered
- Where the DNS is hosted
- The IP address of the website hosting
- The IP address or host for email

Step 3: Find Out More About Those IP Addresses

Now, to find out more about those IP addresses, you need to do a reverse DNS lookup. Again, since DNS turns a domain into an IP address, you need to reverse that since we're following the trail backwards.

In our example, the IP address for tonyherman.com is 34.230.210.117. Let's head over to [MXToolbox](#) (also helpful with email-related information) and do that lookup:

MX TOOLBOX® Upgrade

Home MX Lookup Blacklists Diagnostics Domain Health Analyze Headers Free Monitoring

SuperTool Beta7

34.230.210.117 Reverse Lookup

ptr:34.230.210.117 Find Problems

Type	IP Address	Domain Name
PTR	34.230.210.117 Amazon.com, Inc. (AS14618)	ec2-34-230-210-117.compute-1.amazonaws.com

	Test	Result
✓	DNS Record Published	DNS Record

Your DNS hosting provider is "UltraDNS" [Need Bulk Dns Provider Data?](#)

[smtp diag](#) [blacklist](#) [subnet tool](#) [d](#)

Reported by [pdns1.ultradns.net](#) on 3/11/2020 at 3:09:25 PM (UTC -5), [just for you.](#)

The result is that it's showing my website is hosted at:

[ec2-34-230-210-117.compute-1.amazonaws.com](#)

but that's not actually true. In a lot of cases, this will give you the final answer but I'm using a CDN (content delivery network) called Ezoic, which helps speed up my website and they are using the Amazon Cloud to support their network. So this is a little bit of a dead end for this example (again, this often works). If you end up in this case, there may be a workaround.

If this applies to you, then go to [SecurityTrails](#) and do the same lookup in their historical DNS records.

Click on the Historical Data tab and you'll see what info they have:

SecurityTrails

DOMAIN

DNS Records

Historical Data

Subdomains 6

Sign up for an API key now!

tonyherman.com

Historical Data

IP Addresses	Organization	First Seen
3.214.21.122 Q	Amazon.com, Inc.	2020-03-08 (2 days)
18.204.242.255 Q	Amazon.com, Inc.	2020-03-06 (4 days)
35.153.250.12 Q	Amazon.com, Inc.	2020-03-04 (6 days)
34.237.101.58 Q	Amazon.com, Inc.	2020-03-03 (7 days)
3.95.122.236 Q	Amazon.com, Inc.	2020-03-02 (8 days)
34.237.101.58 Q	Amazon.com, Inc.	2020-02-29 (10 days)
35.153.250.12 Q	Amazon.com, Inc.	2020-02-28 (11 days)
34.239.215.123 Q	Amazon.com, Inc.	2020-02-26 (13 days)
67.192.51.67 Q	Rackspace Hosting	2016-04-05 (3 years)
72.3.150.173 Q	Rackspace Hosting	2015-07-17 (4 years)
66.170.13.242 Q	SupraNet Communications, Inc.	2015-05-02 (4 years)
72.3.150.170 Q	Rackspace Hosting	2012-03-20 (7 years)
67.192.51.67 Q	Rackspace Hosting	2008-08-31 (11 years)

There, we can see the 67.192.51.67 IP address, which is at our host, Rackspace, and that's where the site is actually hosted. You can [set your computer's host file](#) to check this if you want.

At this point, you know:

- Where the domain is registered
- Where the DNS is hosted

- The IP address of the website hosting
- The IP address or host for email
- The website host

Step 4: Find Out More About Who Hosts Your Email

I have a whole write up on finding out [how to find your email host](#). Go there and read it.

At this point, you know:

- Where the domain is registered
- Where the DNS is hosted
- The IP address of the website hosting
- The IP address or host for email
- The website host
- The email host

Final Words About Where a Domain Name is Hosted

Finding out where parts of your domain is being hosted can take a little work but as you can see, there are some great online tools to use to find this information. Another place to look is to whomever pays your bills because your website hosting and email hosting providers should be charging you for their services. See who you are paying is also a good way to find things out. Basically, get all the clues you can and put things together... it's kind of like a puzzle, which can be fun – so don't get frustrated but have fun with it.

I have another good article on this topic:

[How to Find Out Where a Website Is Hosted](#)

Got comments or questions?

Ask them below or leave comments to help others – like anything I might have missed.

Original article: <https://tonyherman.com/check-domain-information/>

PDF version: https://tonyherman.com/check-domain-information/?apa_pdf=1

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