



# The Step-by-Step Guide to Making Your Own Website

## 1. Decide on a Domain Name

The first thing you need to do before anything else is to get yourself a domain name. Or at least decide what you want and determine what is available. Your domain name is the name you want to give to your website. For example, the domain name of the SheBuild website is [www.shebuild.org](http://www.shebuild.org). To get a domain name, you have to pay an annual fee to a registrar for the right to use that name. Getting a name does not get you a website or anything like that. It's just a name. It's sort of like registering a business name in the brick-and-mortar world; having that business name does not mean that you also have the shop premises to go with it.

- Detailed information on getting a good domain name can be found in the article [Tips on Choosing a Good Domain Name](#).
- After you read that, you will need to know the steps to registering a domain name and the things you need to look out for when registering. You can find a detailed guide in the article [How to Register a Domain Name](#).
- It may also be wise to take a look at some of the [Important Precautions to Take When Buying a Domain Name](#), just so that you don't commit the same mistakes that some newcomers make when buying a domain name.

## 2. Choose a Web Host and Sign Up for an Account

A web host is basically a company that has many computers connected to the Internet. When you place your web pages on their computers, everyone in the world will be able to connect to it and view them. You will need to sign up for an account with a web host so that your website has a home. If getting a domain name is analogous to getting a business name in the brick-and-mortar world, getting a web hosting account is comparable to renting office or shop premises for your business.

- There are many easy and cheap web hosters to use, but the ones we recommend are: [www.Dreamhost.com](http://www.Dreamhost.com), [www.hostgator.com](http://www.hostgator.com), [www.bluehost.com](http://www.bluehost.com)

After you sign up for a web hosting account, you will need to point your domain to that account on your web host. Most web hosters and web builders will have fairly easy step-by-step guides on how to do this. However detailed information on how to do this manually can be found in the guide [How to Point a Domain Name to Your Website \(Or What to Do After Buying Your Domain Name\)](#).

## 3. Designing your Web Pages

Once you have settled your domain name and web host, the next step is to design the web site itself. In this article, I will assume that you will be doing this yourself. If you are hiring a web designer to do it for you, you can probably skip this step, since that person will handle it on your behalf.

- Although there are many considerations in web design, as a beginner, your first step is to actually get something out onto the web. The fine-tuning can come after you've figured out how to publish a basic web page. One way is to use a 'Drag-and-drop' web editor to do it. Such editors allow you to design your site visually, without



having to muck around with the technical details or coding. They work just like a normal wordprocessor.

There are a number of free and commercial web editors around. One free one the SheBuild website was built from is [www.Wix.com](http://www.Wix.com) . Other good sites include: [www.weebly.com](http://www.weebly.com), [www.squarespace.com](http://www.squarespace.com), [www.voog.com](http://www.voog.com) [www.wordpress.com](http://www.wordpress.com).

Almost all these web builders are free, and will let you design, and develop a website for nothing at all. Some, like wix, will even host it and let you launch it free of charge. You simply wont have a dedicated domain name (your website address will be something like: [www.shebuild.wix.com](http://www.shebuild.wix.com)). But this is a risk free way to quickly and for free launch an idea and test it before investing in buying a domain etc.

TIPS: Here is an article you might want to read on [Appearance, Usability and Search Engine Visibility in Web Design](#). It takes a brief look at some of the real world issues that every web designer must deal with.

#### **4. Testing Your Website**

Although I list this step separately, this should be done throughout your web design cycle. I list it separately to give it a little more prominence, since too few new webmasters actually perform this step adequately.

You will need to test your web pages as you design them in the major browsers: the latest versions of Internet Explorer (version 11 at the time of this writing), [Firefox](#), [Safari](#) and [Chrome](#). You should also click on all pages and links to make sure they work and all images etc load properly etc.

#### **5. Collecting Credit Card Information, Making Money**

If you are selling products or services, you will need some way to collect credit card information. If you are using a website builder many of them have this step easily integrated and can easily set up an online store. If you are need some help, here is a step by step guide on [How to Add an Order Form or a "Buy Now" button using PayPal to a Website](#) for those using PayPal.

If you need advertisers for your website, again most web builders will easily help you integrate Google Adsense and other web advertisers into your website. But for more information you might want to read [How to Make Money From Your Website](#) and the follow-up article [How to Increase Your Website Revenue from Affiliate Programs](#). A list of advertisers and affiliate programs can be found on [Affiliate Programs: Free Sponsors and Advertisers](#). Those companies are on the constant lookout for new web publishers to display their advertisements.

#### **6. Getting Your Site Noticed**

When your site is ready, you can submit it to search engines like Google and Bing. Use the links below to do this.

- [Google's Link Submission Page](#)
- [Bing's Site Submission Page](#)



In general, if your site is already linked to by other websites, you may not even need to submit it to these search engines. They will probably find it themselves by following the links on those websites.

Apart from submitting your site to the search engine, you may also want to consider promoting it in other ways, such as using social media, blogs etc.

## **Conclusion**

Naturally the above guide is not exhaustive. It is a distillation of some of the essential steps in getting started with your site. If you want more information, you should read other articles on the internet. However, the above tutorial should be enough to help you put your website on the Internet.