How to Get Your Website Online

1. First you will need to come up with a **domain name** (i.e., a website address) and also get a **web hosting** account.

   a. **Domain Name**
   One way to get a domain is to go to a **domain name registrar**, such as http://www.godaddy.com and type some of the domain names you want into the search box. Many English word combinations have been taken already, so you may want to come up with a name that is an original word or combination of words (for example, if "goldencafe.com" is taken, you could try "goldencafetucson.com." Once you have found a domain name you want that is available, you will need to create a free account with the domain name registrar and rent your domain for a year (they are not available to buy, and the rental fee must be paid every year). The rental fee is typically under $15/year. You can also get your web hosting with the same company, if you like. Web hosting runs in the vicinity of $10 or less per month.

   b. **Web Hosting**
   You will also need **web hosting** for your website. You can get it through a company that is different than your domain name registrar and point your domain name to the other hosting company via your **D.N.S.** information (Domain Name Server). Some web hosting companies to consider are http://www.dreamhost.com and http://www.hostmonster.com. You can also register domains with many hosting companies. So which makes more sense – to get everything with one company or use two? And if one company, should you get everything from GoDaddy or Hostmonster. It's up to you. I buy all my domains through GoDaddy and point them to web hosting I get on Hostmonster.com. I only do that because I was on GoDaddy before I got an account at Hostmonster. What I would probably recommend today is to do it all with the web hosting company.

   D.N.S.
   If you choose to use 2 companies for the above, you will have to point your D.N.S. information from the domain name registrar (GoDaddy) to you web hosting account (Hostmonster). This can be accomplished by going into the control panel for your domain name account and locating the D.N.S. settings controls (talk to a tech support rep for the company if you need help). You will need to know the D.N.S. information for the web hosting company, and you can get that usually from the e-mail they send you when you sign up, or from a tech support rep.

Once you find the D.N.S. controls, replace whatever information is there with the information given to you by your web hosting company. For example, it might say:

Ns1.webcontrolcenter.com
Ns2. webcontrolcenter.com

And if you had your web hosting on Hostmonster, you might change it to:

Ns1.hostmonster.com
Ns2. hostmonster.com

Please note that it can take 24-48 hours for this information to update and propagate throughout the Internet.

Addon Domains
If you choose to use 2 different companies for hosting and registration, you may also have to add your domain name as an "addon domain" to your web hosting account and create a directory (folder) to point it to in your account. Do this by logging into your control panel, going to the domain management section and clicking on the icon to add a new domain to your account.

2. You will need to upload your website to your hosting account after you have a domain name and web hosting. You can use a program such as Dreamweaver, which has a built-in FTP client, or you can use standalone FTP programs such as FireFTP which works in the Firefox browser. After uploading all your files to your directory, you should be able to view them by going to your domain name in a web browser, i.e. http://www.yourdomainname.com