

Setting Up a Website Address/DNS Name

When you are getting ready to select your website address, or DNS name, for your Plinkit site, there are some questions that you need to consider.

1. Do you already have a registered domain name?
 - a. If yes, who is the administrator of the domain? Or do you want to start using another domain name for your new website?
2. Do you want a free “lib.il.us” domain name that will never expire?
3. Do you want a .com/.org/.net/.info... that will not be free and must be renewed on a regular basis?

In all these cases one thing will remain the same. When you have your domain name it must be pointed to the IllinoisPlinkit hostname. You may wish to create a *www2.yourpubliclibrary.lib.il.us* while you are setting the site up so that the public doesn't see your work in progress.

The DNS hostname for your website (i.e. *www.yourlibrary.lib.il.us*) should point to the URL for the IllinoisPlinkit Project. This URL is *illinoisplinkit.shawls.lib.il.us*. This is commonly done with a CNAME record in DNS:

www.yourpubliclibrary.lib.il.us.	CNAME	illinoisplinkit.shawls.lib.il.us.
(optional) www2.yourpubliclibrary.lib.il.us.	CNAME	illinoisplinkit.shawls.lib.il.us.

1 – You already have a domain name

And you know who administers it!

The easiest way to get started is if you already have a domain name and want to continue using it. As long as you know who administers the domain name, all you have to do is create a new www record as shown above. In most cases if you send the information in the box to your domain administrator, they will know what to do with it.

NOTE: If you already have a “lib.il.us” domain name, then either your regional library system or the Illinois Century Network will administer your domain.

But you don't know who administers it...

Many times if you have a registered domain name with a .com, .org, .net, ... It gets confusing on who administers it. Sometimes it is the company that you registered the domain name through or the Internet website like GoDaddy, TuCows, Register.com, and others. Unfortunately there is no easy way to track this down.

If you feel comfortable, you can go to <http://www.dnsstuff.com/> and enter your domain name into the “WHOIS Lookup” field. This will usually tell you the contact information and name servers for the domain. (Some domains won’t show up, and you will be directed to another WHOIS database to rerun your search.) If you find the “Name Server” fields, they will usually give you a good idea who is running it. If you are still having trouble, contact Troy Brown at the Shawnee Library System (tbrown at shawls.lib.il.us) for help tracking it down.

But you want a different one.

If you wish to change your domain name for your library, it is easy. Simply follow the directions below for a new domain name, and you will be set. After the new one is up and running, you can cancel the old one or leave it up if you wish. You can have as many domain names as you want pointing to a single Plinkit instance.

2 – I want a FREE “LIB.IL.US” domain name! (Recommended)

The reason this way is the preferred way is simple. Once you register it, there is nothing else to do. It will not expire, and no one else can buy it away from you. It is yours to keep forever without maintenance. Plus it looks very official.

As part of the IllinoisPlinkit Project, the registration and hosting of these domains is done for you. Simply email the following information to Troy Brown at the Shawnee Library System (tbrown at shawls.lib.il.us) and he will set it up.

Desired Domain Name:

Name of Institution:

Address:

City:

State:

ZIP:

Telephone:

Fax:

Administrative Contact:

Contact Address & Phone (if different):

Contact email:

Once setup, we will automatically setup a ‘www’ record to your Plinkit instance.

3 – I want a registered .COM, .ORG, .NET, .INFO ...

Even with all the conveniences of “LIB.IL.US” domain name. Some libraries choose to go with a registered domain name for simplicity. These domains need to be renewed on a regular basis, and if you forget to renew them, some people may buy it out from under you, in order to charge you more to get it back. For those reasons we recommend not registering a domain like these, but if you can keep up with this responsibility, then here is how to register your new domain name.

Go to a registrar like GoDaddy.com and search for a domain name to see if it is available. If it is, then follow the instructions on the screen to register and pay for the domain. Once you have acquired the domain, use the built-in DNS tools to create a new 'www' record. Point it to ***illinoisplinkit.shawls.lib.il.us*** and you will be all set. Remember to use an email address that will always work in the ordering process so that you will receive notifications from the registrar of pending domain expirations.

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