

The Domain Name Lifecycle: A Complete Guide From Registration to Expiration

Like most things in life, domains move through stages until they complete a lifecycle. The domain name life cycle includes every stage it passes through from purchase to deletion.

Knowing every stage and what it means will help you keep your domain from getting lost, so you won't risk compromising your internet presence.

This article details all you need to know about the lifecycle of a domain name, from its birth to death.

Understanding the Domain Life Cycle

The domain name lifecycle is the stages a domain passes through, from registration to deletion.

However, renewing your registration before the domain expires will extend its lifespan. So, how does the domain life cycle work?

Domain Registration: The Beginning of a Domain

The journey of any domain begins with its initial registration. Usually, this process involves choosing a domain name, visiting a registrar, and registering the name for your company or brand.

The domain name immediately becomes yours for the duration it was registered. It's similar to renting the domain name. After your term expires, it will no longer be yours, and you will have to renew the rent.

Still, you should confirm whether a domain is accessible before registering it. How can one find whether domains are open for registration?

Available Status: How Domains Become Accessible

No one owns an available domain name. It has not been registered. This can be a new domain or an expired one put up for auction. Here's how to find and register available domain names:

Checking Domain Availability

Before registering, you must check if the domain is available using tools like WHOIS. If the domain is already taken, you may need to consider alternatives or variations, such as using a different top-level [domain \(TLD\)](#).

Registrar Selection

Domain registrars can register domains. [Visit registrars](#) with International Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) accreditation, such as Enom, GoDaddy, or Namecheap.

Domain Registration

The final step is actually registering the domain name. Following [ICANN regulations](#), you will only be able to register the domain for up to 10 years. You can, however, renew your registration once the term concludes.

Also, ensure you provide your accurate email address during the registration process so your registrar can contact you to confirm your Whois contact information. Failing to do this can result in account suspension or deletion, per [ICANN's instructions](#).

Active Phase: Managing an Active Domain

Once you register your domain name, it becomes an active domain, and its registration term starts counting. You can now use it to host websites and email services. You can also take the following actions when a domain is active:

- Renew the Registration
- Transfer Your Domain
- Update the WHOIS Information
- Lock the Domain
- Enable Domain Privacy
- Change the DNS

Domain Expiration Timeline: What Happens Next

Domains typically expire if you fail to renew them before the expiration date, when your registration period ends. Depending on the domain extension, the domain expiration cycle normally runs 60 to 75 days.

Your registrar will remind you thirty days before your domain expires and send another reminder one week before the expiration date. Additionally, if you set up auto-renewal, your registrar will automatically renew your domain. However, if you neither activated auto-renewal nor responded to the reminders by manually renewing it, your domain becomes inactive.

As a result, the domain's website and email will stop working. Please contact us if you neglected to renew your domain; we can help you.

Most registrars offer an extra time period, sometimes called the redemption grace period, that allows you to redeem your domain name before it is deleted. This buffer time falls into two broad categories:

- The grace period and
- The redemption period.

Grace Period and Expired Domains

Immediately after expiration, a domain enters the grace period. During this phase, which lasts about 30 days, the domain can be renewed at the standard renewal fee.

Redemption and Pending Deletion: The Final Stages

If a domain remains unrenewed following the grace period, it will enter the redemption period, which runs for thirty more days.

Although they still have to pay a redemption fee plus the standard renewal fee, the domain owner can still renew their domain. The registrar determines the redemption price, but it averages \$100.

Usually, within the redemption period, exactly 45 days after expiration, the domain is put on auction. Although you can still renew it at the auction phase, if there's an active bid, you won't be able to recover your domain just yet.

However, if you don't redeem it during the redemption period and it doesn't sell at auction, it moves to pending deletion status for 5 days.

You cannot reactivate or register it during this time. It is returned to the registry, which deletes it after 5 days and then releases it to the public for new registration. Once it's available for registration, you may be able to register it, but on a first-come, first-served basis.

Domain Transfers: Moving Domains Across Registrars

You can decide to transfer your domain from your current registrar to another one for some reason. You can choose a different registrar for poor service, rising costs, or any other reason.

[ICANN further states](#) that you cannot move a domain registered or transferred within the past sixty days. This implies that if your domain matches this description, you will have to wait some time. When transferring, you need to initiate the transfer, get authorization, and approve it.

Conclusion

Being aware of a domain name's lifecycle helps you protect your digital assets and ensure a continuous online presence. Thus, monitor your domain at various stages to prevent additional fees or the loss of your crucial domain name.