

ObscureIQ™ Privacy Guides

Secure Domain Registration



Follow these steps to protect your personal information when registering a domain.

● Pick a Privacy-Focused Registrar

- Select a registrar who offers free WHOIS privacy protection by default.
 - We recommend [NameCheap and Porkbun](#)
- Avoid registrars with a history of upselling privacy or sharing customer data.
 - Avoid **GoDaddy**, NewFold Digital brands such as **Network Solutions**, **Register.com**, **Domain.com**, **BuyDomains.com**

● Enable WHOIS Privacy Protection

- Make sure your registrar offers WHOIS privacy protection and that it's enabled for your domain.
 - These services **MASK** mask your contact information in the WHOIS directory, but the domain is still legally registered to you. Your personal information is replaced with proxy or placeholder details.
 - You can take your privacy a step further by hiring a [domain proxy service](#) provider to purchase the domain for you.
- **Double-check** that your personal information (name, email, phone number) is not visible in the [public WHOIS database](#).

● Use Business or Anonymous Details

- **Don't use your real name or personal contact details for domain registration.**
- Consider using a business name, or if applicable, an anonymous entity.
 - Note: There are advantages and disadvantages to using business names and registering anonymously. For instance, using your business info can make that entity a target. Registering anonymously can make it hard to prove ownership if you have a legal dispute over the domain and cause other issues. Check this [guide from VPN.com](#) before you go down that path.

● Set Up a Dedicated Email for Domains

- Use a separate, non-personal email address for domain-related communications.
 - We use `urls@ourcompany.com`

- Consider using a forwarding service to avoid exposing your main email.
 - We like [SimpleLogin](#). [Pobox](#) is also a good cost effective option.

● Check the Privacy Policy

- If you don't use one of our suggestions above, check the privacy policy. Understand what data the registrar collects and how they use it.
 - Paste privacy policies into a ChatBot to easily analyze data collection risks.
- Ensure they do not share or sell your information to third parties.

● Plan Ahead for Renewals

- While it can be tempting to register a domain for many years, be sure you have a plan to maintain WHOIS privacy protection for the entire period.
- Set reminders to renew your domain and privacy protection, especially if it's not auto-renewed.

● Don't Skimp on Domain Security

- Secure your domain registrar account with a strong password and two-factor authentication (2FA), if available.
- Avoid using the same password for other accounts.

● They Want Your Domain!

- Be wary of phishing emails that appear to come from your domain registrar.
- Always verify the authenticity of emails regarding your domain registration.

● Regularly Audit Your Domain Information

- Periodically check the [WHOIS database](#) to ensure your personal information remains private.
 - Just navigate above, search for your site and see what comes back.
- Update your details and renew privacy protection if needed.

● Consider Using a Proxy Service

- For an extra layer of privacy, use a domain proxy service that registers the domain on your behalf, hiding your details even from the registrar.
 - We recommend [Anonymize.com](#). But understand that when using a proxy service, the proxy company technically owns your domain, even though you control it. This provides a better layer of protection than masking, but can complicate legal matters, such as transferring ownership or resolving disputes.