



nightlineassociation
SUPPORTING, PROMOTING AND DEVELOPING NIGHTLINES

**INFORMATION &
RESOURCES**

nightline-association.github.io

Domains and Web Hosting

NLA IT Q&A 2



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Key Dates

9 March

- Deadline for migrating Managed WordPress.
- Deadline for migrating to a new domain name.
- Deadline for migrating away from Managed DNS.

TECHNICAL OVERVIEW

Domains



What is a domain name?

A street address for a website:

- ☐ Unique
- ☐ Memorable

Examples include:

- ☐ bbc.co.uk
- ☐ google.com
- ☐ nightline.ac.uk



What do domains do?

- ❑ **When used in the browser**
A human-readable address for a website.
- ❑ **When used in an email address (hi@example.com)**
A human-readable address for emails.

When people type in the domain name, it is translated to a computer-readable form (e.g. 192.168.101.12).



Subdomains

- ❑ **your.nightline.ac.uk**

We provide each Nightline with a subdomain of nightline.ac.uk (e.g. gallifrey.nightline.ac.uk).

- ❑ When the Nightline Association closes, Nightlines will not be able to use nightline.ac.uk or its subdomains.



MIGRATING Domains



Choosing a new domain name

- ❑ **Choose something sensible**

Many Nightlines use domains like gallifreynightline.org.uk.

- ❑ **Only use common abbreviations**

freynightline.org if 'Frey' is a common abbreviation.

- ❑ **Use a common extension**

Stick to .org.uk, .org, .com, .co.uk if you can.



Buying domain names



- ❑ Domains are paid for on a recurring basis (effectively, you can only **rent** domains).
- ❑ Prices range from around £7.50 to £20 per year.
- ❑ Often sellers will...
 - ...bundle multiple years into one upfront payment.
 - ...offer a multi-year contract with a low fee for the first year, but much higher fees in subsequent years.
- ❑ You can (when not in a multi-year contract) change your registrar each year.



Actions

1. Have a look at what domain names are available for your Nightline.
2. Shop around: look at what price each registrar is able to offer, and how long contracts are.
3. **Buy a domain.**

RELATED STEPS

- ☐ Migrate your web hosting.
- ☐ Arrange email / Google Workspace.



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MIGRATING Web Hosting



Types of web hosting

- ❑ **Shared hosting**
'Old-style' where you can upload code or website files, often provides cPanel and a WordPress installer).
- ❑ **Managed (usually WordPress) hosting**
Everything technical is taken care of: you just edit your site content.
- ❑ **Site builder**
Drag-and-drop website builders like Wix, Squarespace, Webflow

Sometimes managed hosting can also include site-builder functionality (like our Managed WordPress service).

What we provide

- **Managed WordPress hosting**

We use an Onyx package from Krystal Hosting to deliver a managed service to Nightlines.

- **Premium WordPress theme (Divi)**

This costs \$89/year or \$249/lifetime, and includes a site builder.



Our recommendations

- ❑ **Talk to your Students' Union or university: they might provide free or discounted hosting plans.**
- ❑ We have WordPress hosting recommendations:
 - Krystal Hosting (our current provider)
 - Mythic Beasts
- ❑ If you use WordPress now, it's fairly easy to migrate, and there's no lock-in (so you can move again).



Actions

- If you don't already own a domain name, follow our steps for acquiring a new domain name for your website.
- 1. **Get in touch with us** about migrating your website in #ask-it or IT@nightline.ac.uk.
- 2. **Let us know where you're moving to!**
Once you've been able to log in to your new WordPress installation, install the Duplicator plugin.
- 3. **We will provide you with a .zip file**
Upload this to your new provider using the Duplicator plugin.

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Thanks for listening



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Contact us on Slack for Nightlines
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