

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO AN AFFORDABLE DIY WEBSITE

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Have you been looking for an affordable website solution?

Web designers cost hundreds.

Platforms make it hard to pick what tier website you want and they want the full years cost **NOW.**

What can you do to avoid all that hubbub?

Create a website for less than \$15 a year with Google!

I am a Google girl, and you will never see me buying a domain from any other provider unless it comes free with their software!

I'm going to be 100% transparent, I built my main website DavisVirtualSupport.com is on Wordpress.com and I built my course Solorpreneur Set Up on Thinkific. So, I do give other company's a chance, they just can't replace Google in my heart!

So, when I needed to build a landing page for my course real quick, with no strings attached, you know I went straight to Google Sites!

Google sites is a FREE website builder and it can do everything you need to make a professional website, landing page, blog, or whatever!

Now, I would not try to build a complete store on Google Sites, but only because I haven't tried and there doesn't seem to be an option, but you can definitely create a sales page that links back to a few items.

Now, enough about my love for Google, let's get into the steps you need to follow to make the URL you just bought lead straight to your FREE Google Site!

Now, I'll let you know up front that I bought my url from Google Domains, so there will be a section coming up that will be a little tricky if you purchased your domain from anywhere else. I'll let you know when we get there, but let's start from step one!

CONGRATULATIONS!!!

You just purchased your domain and you are on the road to getting super fancy with your business! I know that some people don't think that having a branded URL and email address are that important, but I do. And you do, too, because you just bought your brand domain!!!

DESIGN YOUR FREE GOOGLE SITE

I like to suggest that my clients take some time and daydream about their website before they put too much time into building it. You really could even go and look around some websites of other companies in your field for ideas and inspiration. You can even get out a piece of paper and sketch out and label what you want your website to look like; images, buttons, information – where is it all going to lay on the web page?

I'm not being cliché or unrealistic when I say this, but I really mean it when I say: DO NOT WORRY ABOUT BEING PERFECT. . . right now.

You are going to have every opportunity to spruce up this site in the coming days, and right now, you are just building it up to get across what you want it to so when you publish it (which you need to do to map the domain) anyone who may have the link already can go to your website and get what they need.

Here are some things to keep in mind:

- What is the purpose of my website?**
- What do I want my visitors to do?**
- How do I want a visit to my website to flow?**
- Do I want to link to any outside websites? Why?**

Go ahead and take some time. We'll move on to the next step when you get back.

MAP YOUR DOMAIN TO YOUR GOOGLE SITE

I hope you still have your site open, because now I need you to publish it and grab the Google Site URL.

Publish it by clicking publish.

In Publish your site box that pops up, type what you want that page to be called and click Publish.

Grab the Google Site URL by clicking the down arrow next to Publish and selecting Publish Settings.

Under the web address box, you will see the complete URL for your Google Site.

Highlight all of it and right click your mouse to copy it.

Now, open a separate tab in your web browser and go to admin.google.com – Make sure you are logged into the correct account.

From your Admin Console, click through the following options:

- Apps
- Google Workspace
- Sites
- Custom URL

Each option will open a new page where you can scroll down to select the next option.

On the Custom URL page, Click the + sign in the top right-hand corner.

In the box that pops up, select New Site and click Continue

Paste your Google Sites URL into the bar.

- Make sure to remove the `https://` and anything after the sitename.
It should look like this: `sites.google.com/domain.com/sitename`

Setup a CNAME record with your Domain Host.

If you did not purchase your domain from Google Domains, you need to get the instructions to do so from your domain host.

If you did purchase your domain from Google Domain, follow these steps:

1. Go to `domains.google.com` and make sure you are logged into the correct Google Account
2. Click DNS in the left hand menu
3. Scroll down to the Resource Records section and click Custom Records
4. Add the following information:
 - Host Name: WWW or whatever you chose as your Custom URL
 - Type: CNAME
 - Domain Name: `ghs.googlehosted.com` (or whatever you are directed to put as the CNAME Destination)
5. Click Save

Go back to your Admin page and click Add Custom URL.

Your Custom URL should now be on your list with a Pending status.

It can take up to 72 hours for your custom URL to go live.

In the meantime, go to `search.google.com` and make sure you are logged into the correct account.

Claim your domain name.

I don't know what this does, exactly, but it has some great website performance trackers – for free!

CONGRATULATIONS

You just built your own affordable website and mapped your custom domain URL!!

THAT IS A REALLY BIG DEAL!!!!

It's such a big deal, in fact, that I'd like you to share your brand-new website in my Facebook Group:

[Right Hand Admin: Practical Guidance for Independent Business Owners](#)

Make sure to include that you used this guide to make it happen so I know to approve your post!