

Email and Domain Names.

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It's fairly simple to get an email account. You could choose for instance Gmail, Yahoo or Hotmail (Outlook). I would recommend Gmail because you will also have a Google account which has many advantages. If you prefer Yahoo or Hotmail it is still possible to have a Google account and connect your Yahoo or Hotmail to it.

If you are a small organisation, club or social enterprise you may wish to register a domain name to provide a bit of polish to your profile e.g. mail@yourname.com

There are many ways to do this but the starting point is choosing a domain name and registering it. This video explains how to register a domain www.vimeo.com/578012463 but before you go ahead and register there are a few things you should consider first:

Think carefully about the domain name you choose. Is it easily to understand if you bump into someone and say "check out my website at..... or email me at" If you have to spell or explain your email address then it is probably not a very good one. You may not be able to get the name of your organisation or club. For instance, Catalyst is Catalyststockton.org – a perfectly good way of making a common word unique.

The domain (email/website) name you register does not have to be precisely the same as your organisation if you find it is already registered.

If you are looking for a unique name for your enterprise try the three suggestions below. Whilst they all point towards places you could actually register your chosen domain it may be best to just use them for information and then go and register your domain separately. The video mentioned above explains how.

1. Check out this site www.naminum.com/ - I entered "Steve Gardener" (as if I supplied garden services) and it suggested (among other things) stevegardenero and also told me stevegardero.com was available to register.
2. If your organisation does not have a name yet try www.wordoid.com and see if any randomly generated name takes your fancy.
3. www.namechk.com is an interesting site. Enter the name you are thinking of using and not only does it check the availability but it also checks whether the name is available as a username on social media helping you maintain uniformity across the platforms. See below (this is just a section of the results) The green ones are available (I entered "Stevesblog")

