

Moving a Domain

Jul 2024

Introduction

When I started using domains, they were cheap, circa £2-£3 per year (for .co.uk) and this meant you could have lots of domains for relatively small amounts of money. These days sadly some domain registrars have become super expensive.

The domain provider I used (LCN) now costs nearly £30 every 2 years for a .co.uk (you can get some introductory offers, but they don't last). To combat this I moved some of my domains to google domains, and let the rest expire. this halved my yearly costs. However, after moving all my domains, in just a few short months google decided they didn't want to do domain hosting anymore (this was late 2023/early 2024) and they gave all of my domains to Squarespace, another really expensive provider.

Time to move all my domains again :(A friend of my recommended a company call Porkbun [Porkbun](#), yes a very odd name but they really are very good.

Porkbun are half the cost of google domains as well, so win win for me, they are under £5 per year for .co.uk as of July 2024.

The issue is that I have to do this periodically, with many years in-between, and I forget how this all works, so I am documenting it here.

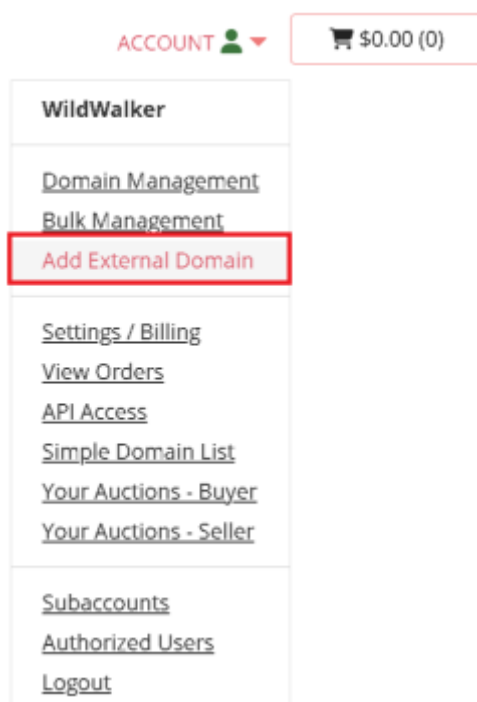
Moving a Domain

The process is very simple, but finding the relevant 'pages' on each domain provider could be a challenge, what I am showing here is the process of moving a domain from LCN.com to Porkbun.com. This will differ with other providers, but the steps will be mainly the same.

Step 1 - Porkbun

I am making the assumption that you have a Porkbun account already, so if you do, login to Porkbun now. Just as an FYI, companies love redesigning their websites, so some of these menus might have moved.

Find the account dropdown at the top right of the page.



Select the menu Add **External Domain**.

This will show the following page:

ADD EXTERNAL DOMAIN

If you are adding a .uk domain for transfer please read the [How to transfer a .uk domain to Porkbun](#) knowledge base article before continuing.

An external domain is a domain name that uses one or more Porkbun hosting products (web hosting, URL forwarding, DNS hosting, email, etc.) even though the domain is still registered at a different registrar.

In order to use Porkbun hosting, the domain must be configured with our default nameservers. Please assign these nameservers at your current registrar as soon as possible:

- maceio.ns.porkbun.com
- cunitiba.ns.porkbun.com
- salvador.ns.porkbun.com
- fortaleza.ns.porkbun.com

If you can't assign our nameservers quite yet, you can still add the domain to Domain Management, we'll provide additional instructions after you click Submit.

DOMAIN NAME

A domain name you control, registered at another registrar.

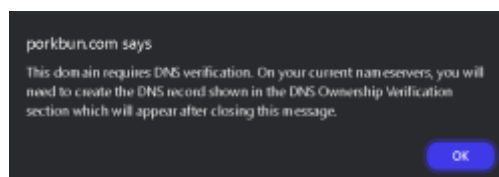
By continuing you agree to the following:

I acknowledge that I have read and agree to all domain warnings and notifications in the cart, the [Domain Name Registration Agreement](#), the [Product Terms of Service](#), the [Marketplace Agreement](#), the [Buyer Auction Agreement](#), and the [Privacy Policy](#). You consent to enroll new domain(s) and product(s) into our automatic renewal service, which can be cancelled at any time via the Domain Management section of your account. Automatic renewals are billed to payment method(s) specified on your Account Settings page until cancelled. If paying by credit card, you authorize Porkbun LLC to send instructions to the financial institution that issued your card to take payments from your card account in accordance with the terms of your agreement with us.

CancelSubmit and Verify

Enter the **domain name** you wish to transfer then select **Submit and Verify**.

You will see a short message about adding a record to you existing domain, this basically stops people stealing domains they have no control of.



Click **OK** to close this message.

You will be taken back to the page where you entered your domain name - **DO NOT CLICK SUMBIT & VERIFY, IT WILL FAIL!**

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DNS Ownership Verification

You can verify ownership of the domain **nlowe.co.uk** by configuring the following DNS record on the domain's current nameservers. Once the record has been configured, click the submit button.

Type: TXT

Hostname: bun-verify.nlowe.co.uk

Answer:

c80cf058d8ab7050b7ded60020fd344f515a7fedc80b0cd8ef07204dedc477d7

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CancelSubmit and Verify

In the red box I have highlighted, there is some text you need to create a record in your current domain provider (LCN in my case).

Step 2 - LCN (or your current domain provider)

The text in that red box is telling you to create a new record in you domains settings on your current domain provider, the domain provider that you are leaving in other words.

```
Type: TXT
Hostname: bun-verify.nlowe.co.uk
Answer:
c80cf058d8ab7050b7ded60020fd344f515a7fedc80b0cd8ef07204dedc477d7
```

As we can see above, we have to create a **TXT** record with the name **bun-verify** and a result of 'long string' the string changes each time you attempt a transfer.

Go to the DNS settings of your current provider and create the record, in LCN it looks like below.

A, CNAME records etc + Add records

#	Host name	Type	Result
1	mail .domain	A	217.155.64.19
2	.domain	TXT	v=spf1 include:spf.lcn.com ?all
3	bun-verify .domain	TXT	c80cf058d8ab7050b7ded60020fd344

Make a note of any existing A/MX/TXT/CNAME etc records, because they don't generally transfer over and once you do the transfer you will lose access to this page.

Step 3 - MXToolBox.com

Open another browser and head on over to mxtoolbox.com

mxtoolbox.com/Public/Content/Toolhandler.aspx?command=mx

MX TOOLBOX
SUPERTOOL

SuperTool MX Lookup Blacklists DMARC Diagnostics Email Health DNS Lookup Analyze

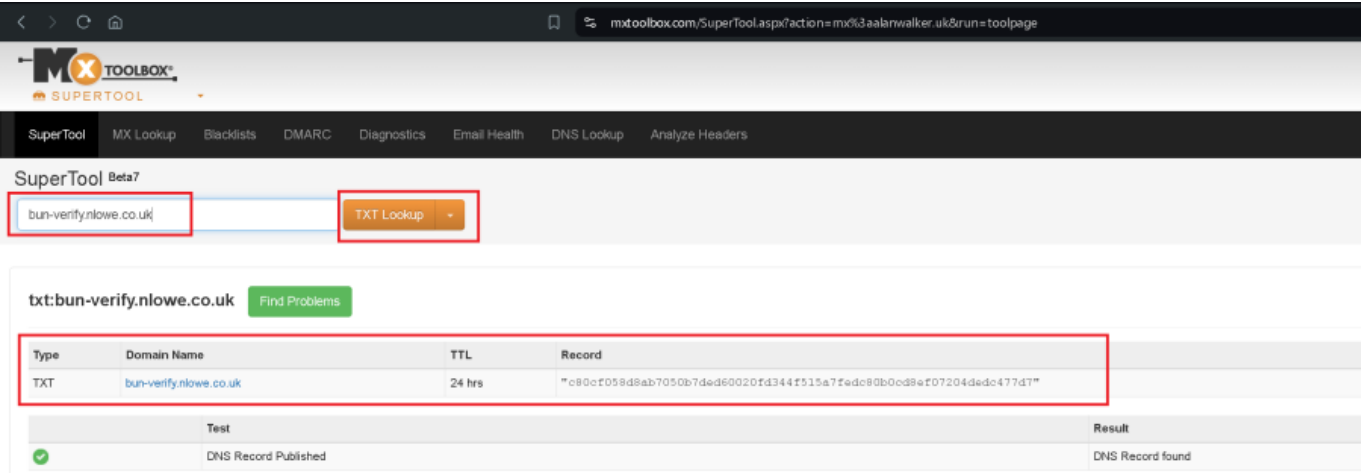
MX Lookup

Domain Name
nlowe.co.uk

MX Lookup Solve Email Delivery Problems

Enter the **domain name** you are using (nlowe.co.uk in this example) and then click the **MX Lookup** button.

Now enter the txt record and domain in the first box, so for me that was **bun-verify** and **nlowe.co.uk**, this makes up the complete record of **bun-verify.nlowe.co.uk**.



Set the orange box to the right to **TXT Lookup** and click that box.

You will now see below the TXT record is verified with the information you entered. This is important because Porkbun will run this test, and if it is not correct the test will fail and the transfer will fail and that long record string will change and you will have to start the process again.

Step 4 - Porkbun

Now you can click [Submit and Verify](#) from the page below:

ADD EXTERNAL DOMAIN



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CancelSubmit and Verify

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DOMAIN MANAGEMENT

Logged in as: **WildWalker**

REGISTER A NEW DOMAIN

Find your domain... bulk search ▼ 🔍

[AI Search](#) |
 [Auction Search](#) |
 [Marketplace Search](#)

Displaying 0 out of 9 domains in your account.

Bulk Actions ▼

search labels add external domain domain management settings

☐	NAME	WEBSITE	EMAIL	RENEW	LOCK	WHOIS	MARKET	EXPIRES ↑
☐  	infosec.co.uk 							Details ▼

Displaying 0 out of 9 domains in your account.

There are two things to notice here:

1. There is a warning tell you that the domain is not registered with Porkbun.
2. There are no management icons due to this.

This is an external domain. This means that it is not registered with Perkbun.

0 out of 9 domains in your account.

labels + add external domain domain management settings

	NAME	WEBSITE	EMAIL	RENEW	LOCK	WHOIS	MARKET	EXPIRES ↑
☐	nlowe.co.uk DNS NS							

Displaying 0 out of 9 domains in your account.

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