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.

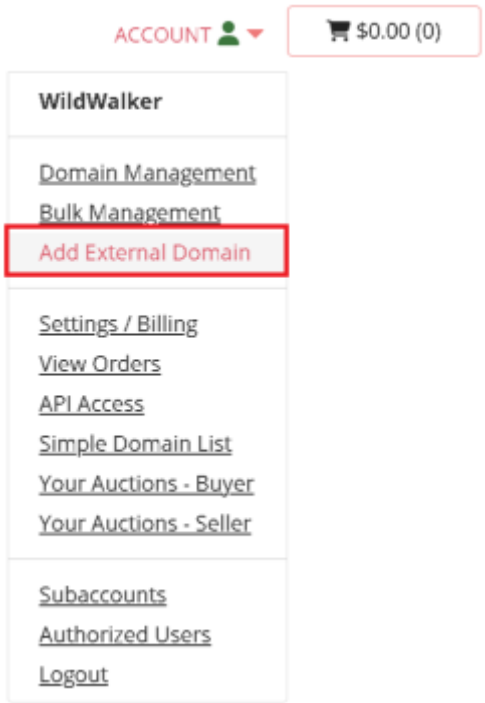
Moving a Domain

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

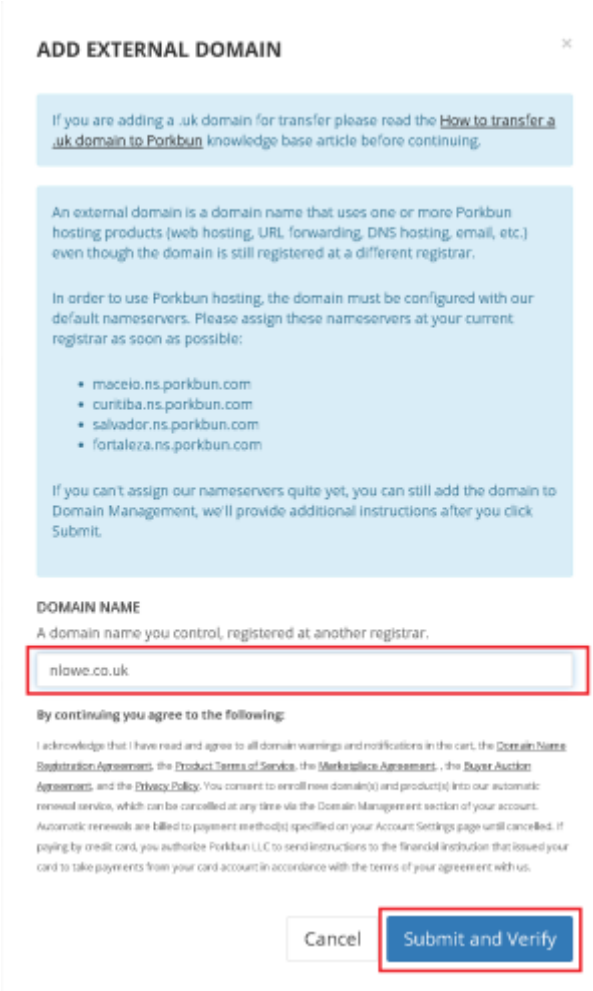
I am making the assumption that you have a Porkbun account already, so if you do, login to Porkbun now. Just as an FYI, companies love redesigning their websites, so some of these menus might have moved.

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



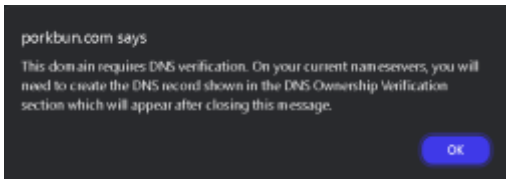
Select the menu Add External Domain.

This will show the following page:



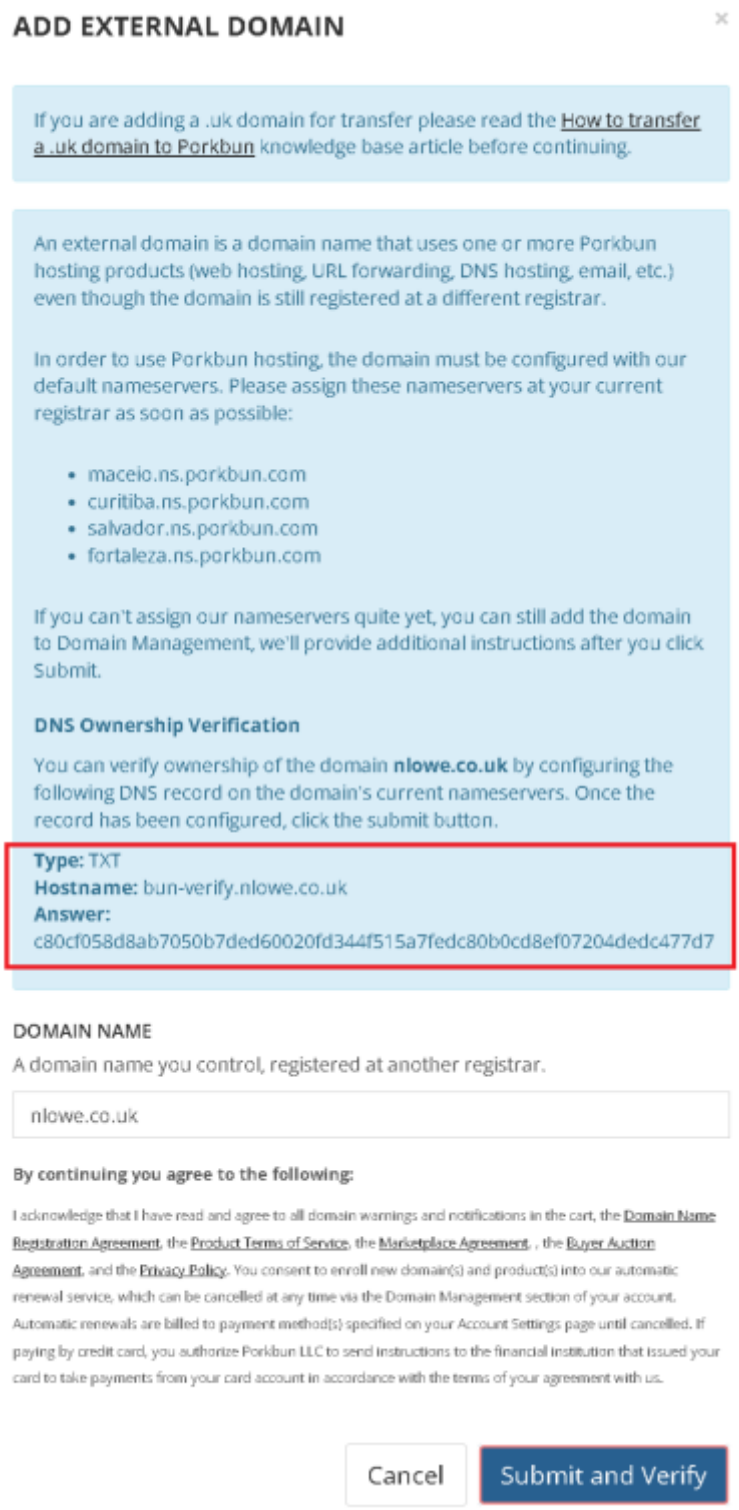
Enter the domain name you wish to transfer then select Submit and Verify.

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!



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
- curitiba.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.

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

DOMAIN NAME

A domain name you control, registered at another registrar.

nlowe.co.uk

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.

Cancel Submit 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).

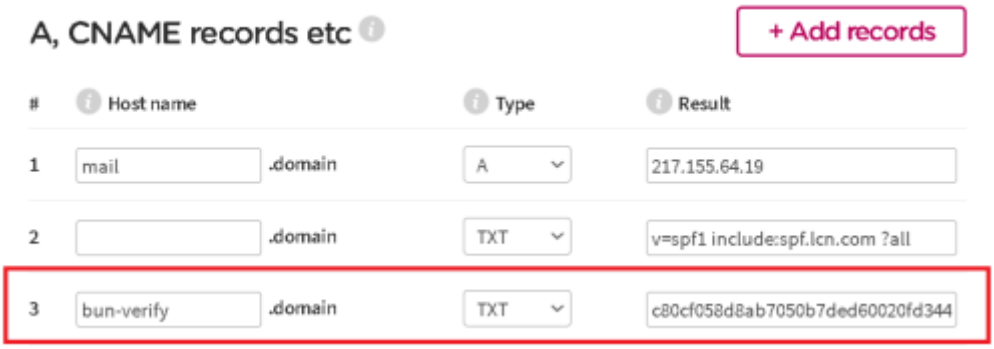
Step 2 - LCN (or your current domain provider)

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.

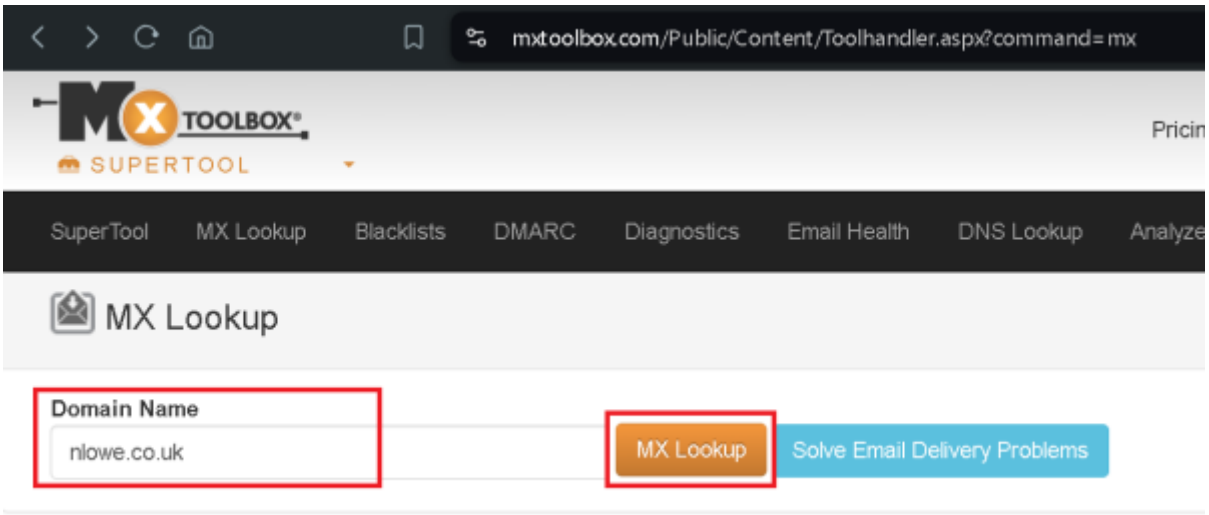
Go to the DNS settings of your current provider and create the record, in LCN it looks like below.



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.

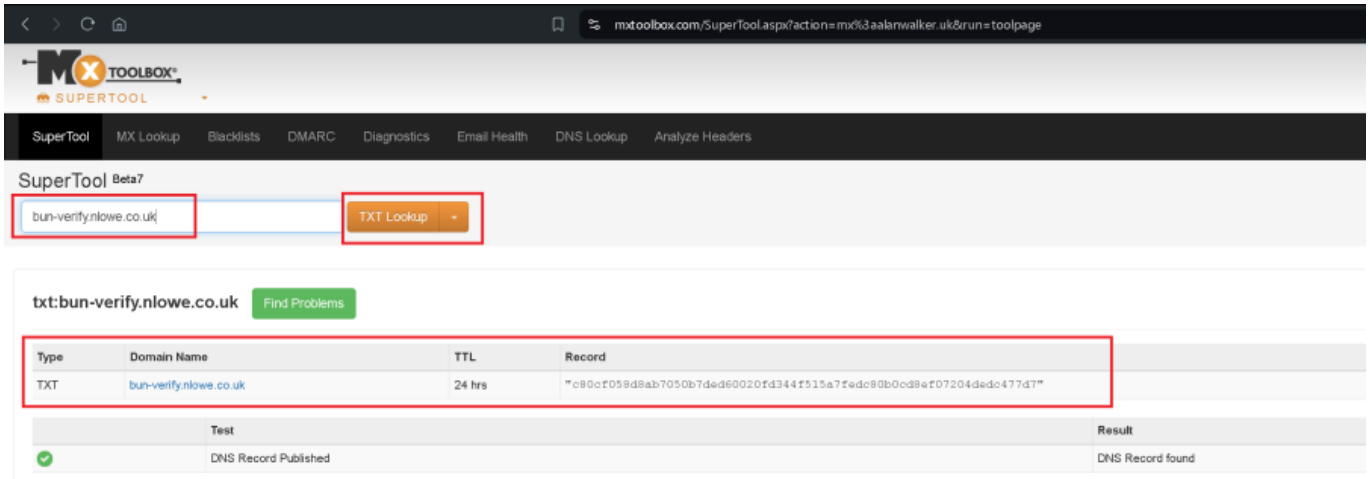
Step 3 - MXToolBox.com

Open another browser and head on over to mxtoolbox.com



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 complte record of bun-verify.nlowe.co.uk.

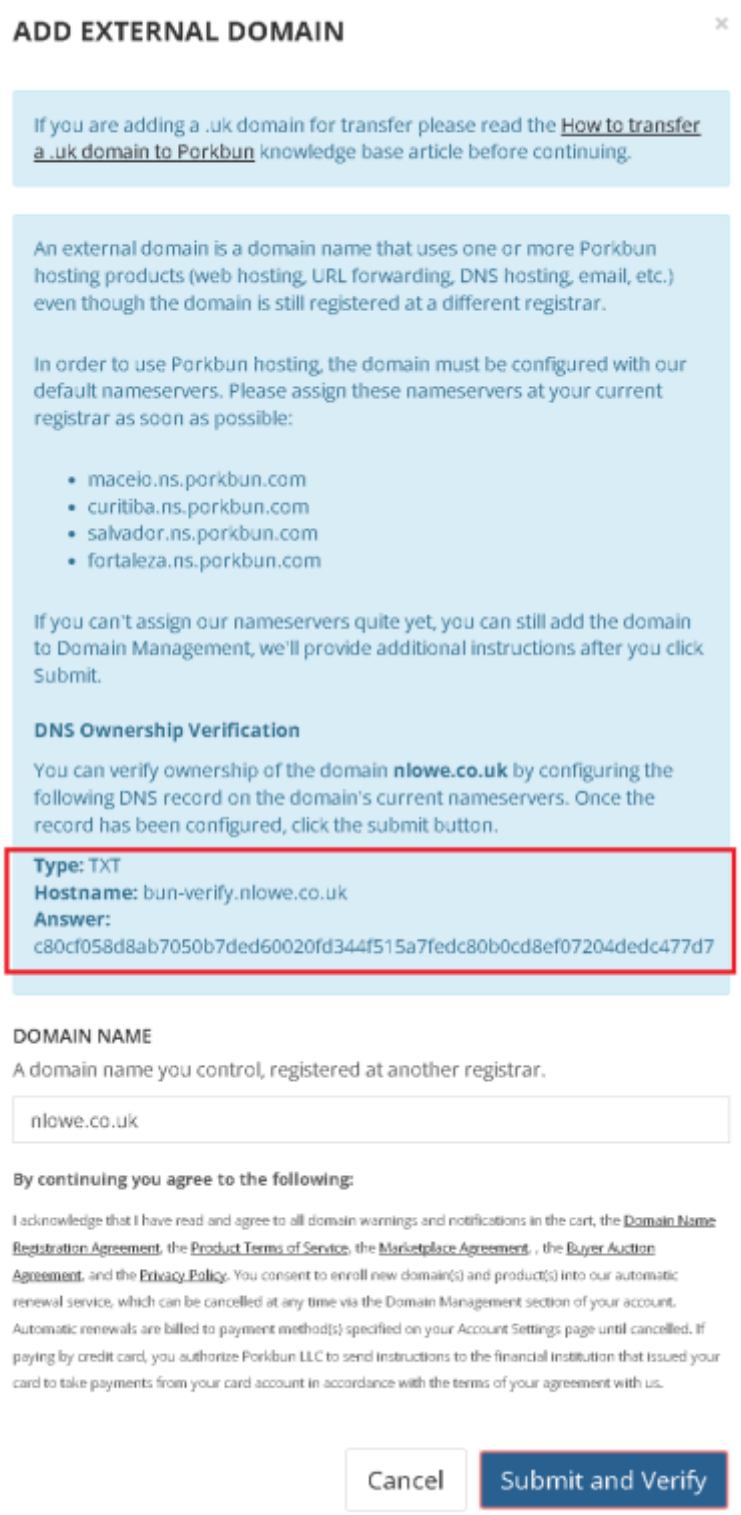


Set the orange box to the right to TXT Lookup and click that box.

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:



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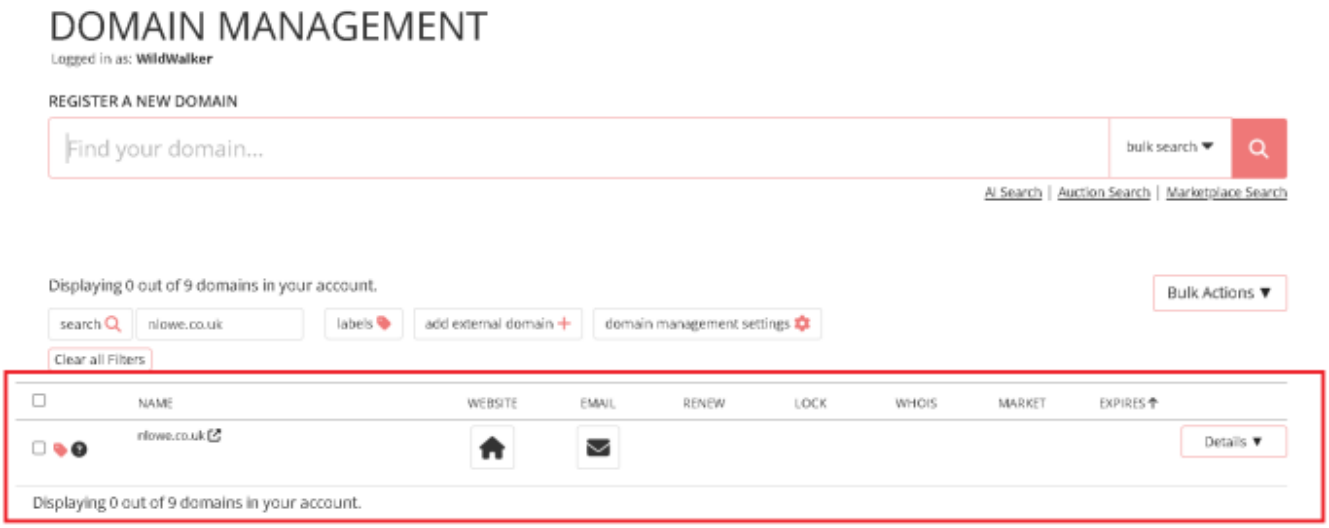
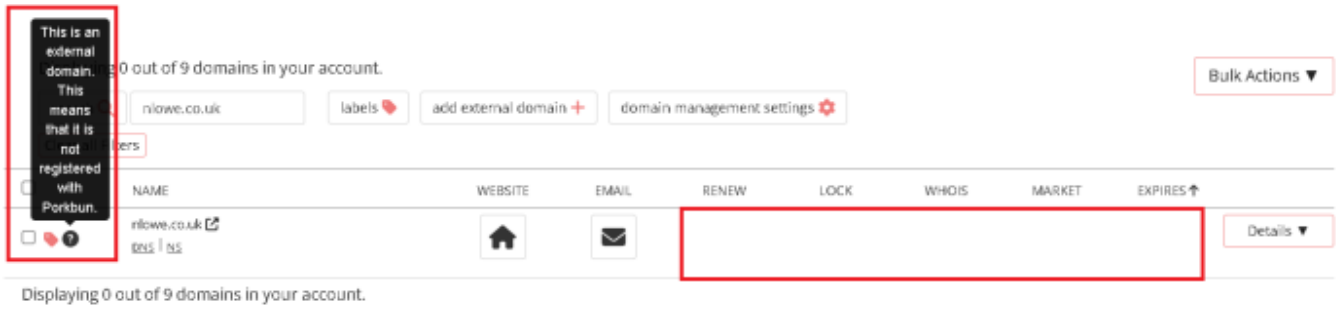
Cancel Submit and Verify

This will add the domain to your Porkbun account.

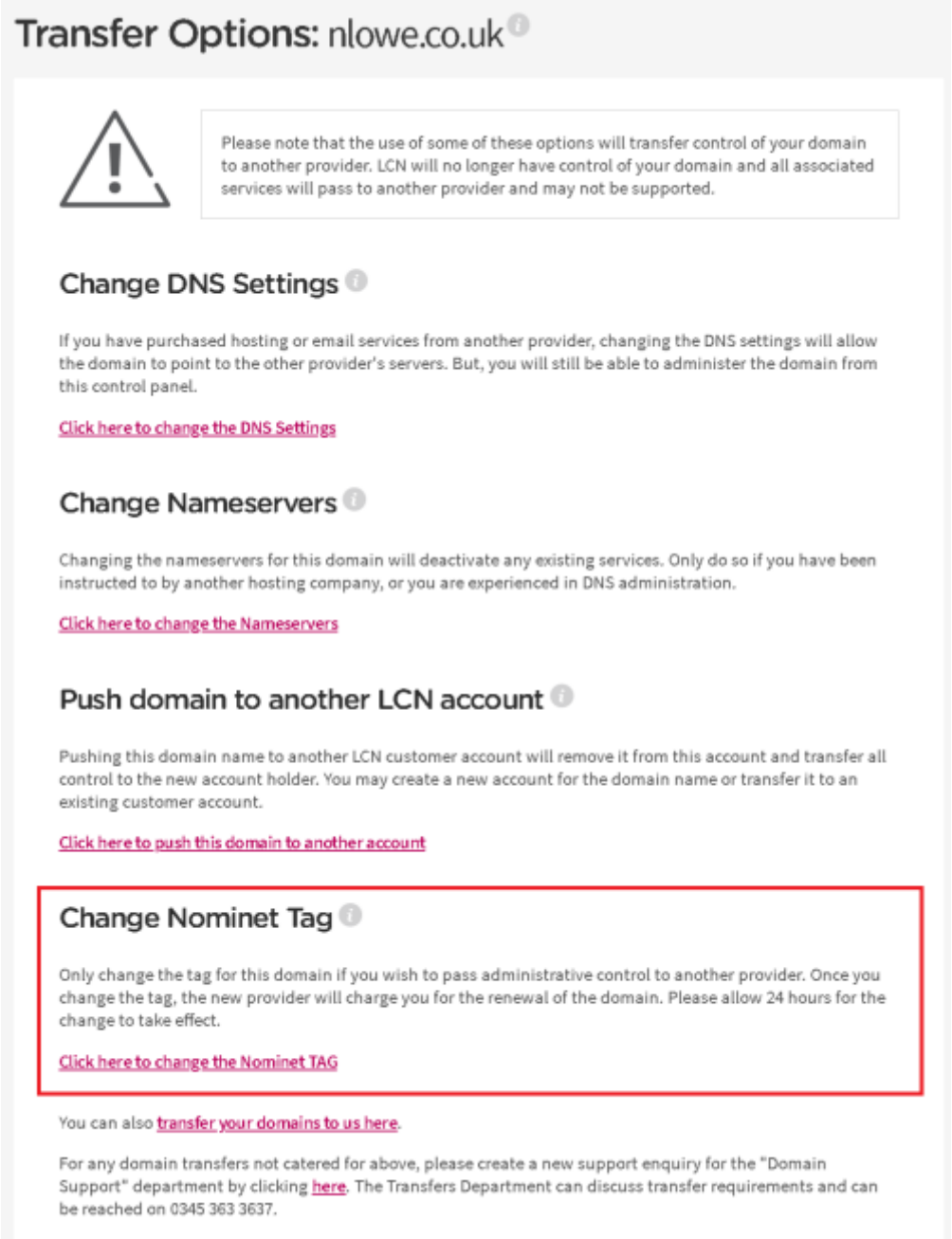


There are two things to notice here:

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



=== Step 5 - Back to LCN (or whoever your original provider is) The last step here is to change the IPS tag (or Nominet tag as LCN call it). This will be under the DNS Settings



Transfer Options: nlowe.co.uk

Please note that the use of some of these options will transfer control of your domain to another provider. LCN will no longer have control of your domain and all associated services will pass to another provider and may not be supported.

Change DNS Settings

If you have purchased hosting or email services from another provider, changing the DNS settings will allow the domain to point to the other provider's servers. But, you will still be able to administer the domain from this control panel.

Click here to change the DNS Settings

Change Nameservers

Changing the nameservers for this domain will deactivate any existing services. Only do so if you have been instructed to by another hosting company, or you are experienced in DNS administration.

Click here to change the Nameservers

Push domain to another LCN account

Pushing this domain name to another LCN customer account will remove it from this account and transfer all control to the new account holder. You may create a new account for the domain name or transfer it to an existing customer account.

Click here to push this domain to another account

Change Nominet Tag

Only change the tag for this domain if you wish to pass administrative control to another provider. Once you change the tag, the new provider will charge you for the renewal of the domain. Please allow 24 hours for the change to take effect.

Click here to change the Nominet TAG

You can also transfer your domains to us here.

For any domain transfers not catered for above, please create a new support enquiry for the "Domain Support" department by clicking here. The Transfers Department can discuss transfer requirements and can be reached on 0345 363 3637.

Click the Change Nominet Tag link.

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