

Web Hosting

MA Web Design + Content Planning

Introduction

Learning how to manage a web hosting account is an important part of building an overall understanding of how the Web works and the responsibilities of a web designer/developer. We therefore ask that all students provide their own hosting at the beginning of the academic year.

What if I already have my own hosting account?

If you already have your own hosting account, that's fine provided it is based on a standard LAMP stack (Apache or LiteSpeed server), using the cPanel domain control panel. Please talk to us for advice if you're not sure about the suitability of your existing hosting.

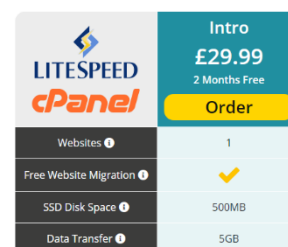
I don't have a hosting account, what do I do?


If you don't already have any hosting (the majority, I'm guessing), you should set something up before our workshop on Wednesday, 22nd September.

Any suitable hosting account will do but for consistency, we recommend the following:

Clook Intro (<https://www.clook.net/website-hosting/>) £29.99 per year (plus VAT).

In addition, you will need a domain name associated with this account and you should purchase this at Clook during the sign-up process. Cost will vary depending on which top-level-domain (TLD) you choose. The cheapest option is **.uk** or **.co.uk**, both cost £7.99 per year (plus VAT). The **.com** TLD costs £12.99 and there are many more options also available. You can check prices and search for your perfect domain name before you start the sign-up process: <https://www.clook.net/domain-names/>



	
Intro £29.99 2 Months Free Order	
Websites	1
Free Website Migration	✓
SSD Disk Space	500MB
Data Transfer	5GB

Important: always select the *domain privacy* option when registering a new domain. For some domains (e.g. **.com**), an additional yearly charge is made (£7.00). For uk domains there is no charge, but you do need to opt out of the WHOIS database. For more information see:

<https://www.clook.net/blog/what-is-domain-privacy-and-should-i-add-it-to-my-domain/>

Buying your domain and hosting through the same provider makes life easier when you're new to web hosting because the new domain will automatically be associated with your hosting account, meaning you don't need to worry about domain name server (DNS) entries.

What will it cost?

In total, hosting (if you choose the yearly option) and a uk domain name will cost around £45 for the year (including VAT), which is very good value for money and gives you everything you need to support your learning. If you prefer, there is also a monthly option.

What information will I get when I sign up?

Once you have signed up, you will receive some important information by email. This will contain access credentials for your Clook client account, **and** access credentials for your FTP/domain control panel account (two sets of credentials). Please make sure you have access to this information at the

Wednesday workshop, and know which is which. We know this is a little confusing at first, so we've given more details below about these two accounts and how to access them.

Will I need an SSL certificate for my new domain?

When your hosting account set up, Clook will automatically apply a "Let's Encrypt SSL certificate" to the domain you registered. This means you can use the *https* protocol (secure, encrypted) to access your website without the need for an additional SSL certificate.

Anything else?

Once you've done all that, you're good to go!

Of course, you're free to host with any other hosting provider, but we've found that Clook are a reliable host with good support, and this option provides everything you need at a reasonable cost.

Web hosting account explainer

If this is your first time signing up with a web hosting provider, it can be a little confusing because you get two accounts. One is your client account with the web hosting company, and the other is the domain account. The reason for this is that you may, in future, have several domains, and each domain will have its own account with separate credentials so that it can be dealt with independently of the others.

The client account

The client account details are the first set of credentials you will get when you sign up with a web hosting provider. This is usually your email address, and your choice of password. Make sure you write these down and keep them safe. The credentials will allow you to login to the client area, where you can see the services you have paid for. You can control payment details, your contact details, and you can access the Helpdesk. This is what the client area looks like:

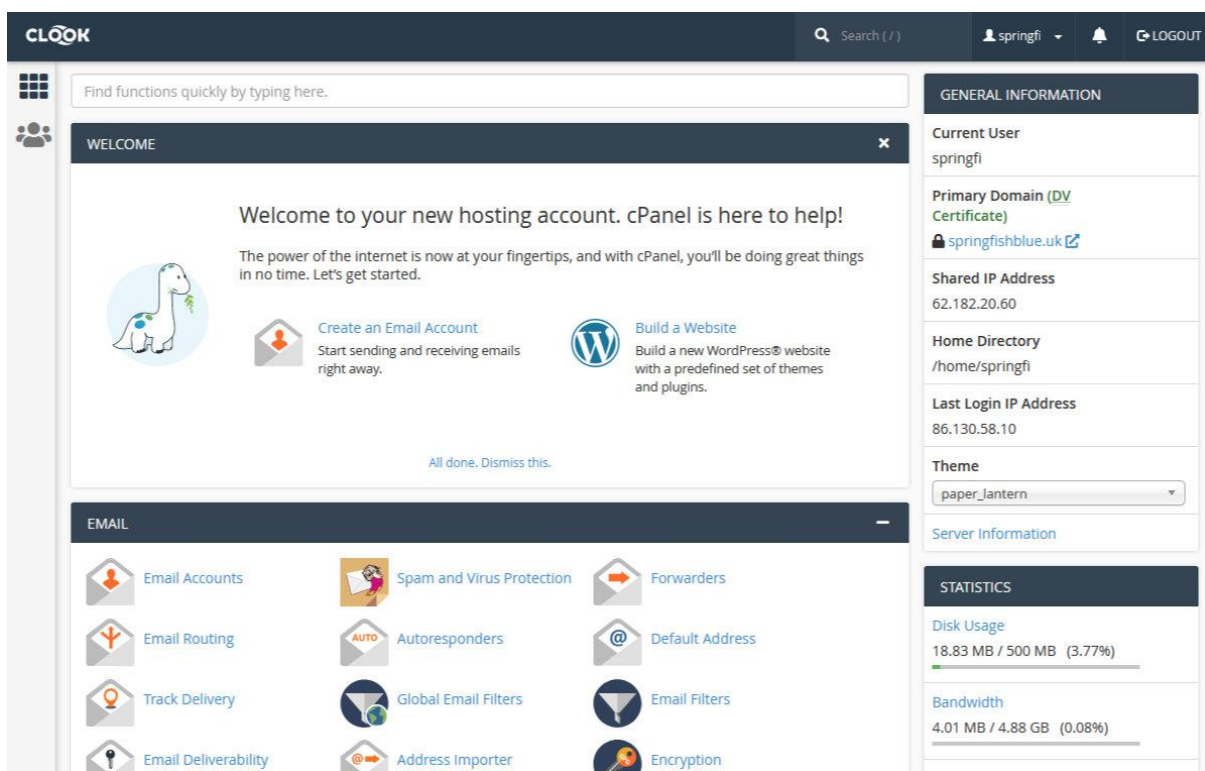
The screenshot shows the Clook client area dashboard. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Clook logo and links for Hosting Packages, Managed Servers, Email Packages, Domain Names, SSL Certificates, and About Clook. Below this is a secondary navigation bar with links for Home, Services, Domains, Billing, Affiliates, Support, and Open Ticket, along with a user greeting 'Hello, David!' and a Logout button. The main content area features a 'Welcome Back, David' message and a summary of account statistics: 1 SERVICE, 1 DOMAIN, 0 TICKETS, and 0 INVOICES. There is a search bar for the knowledgebase and several sections: 'Your Active Products/Services' (listing 'Shared Hosting - Shared-Intro springfishblue.uk'), 'Recent Helpdesk Tickets' (listing ticket #579285), and 'Recent Announcements' (showing 'No Recent Announcements'). A sidebar on the left contains sections for 'Support Pin', 'Your Info', and 'Contacts'.

The domain account

The domain account details are usually sent to you in a separate email in the form of a username and a password. The username is commonly a truncated version of the domain name, and the password is a strong password using random characters. These credentials have two uses:

1. They give access to the files on your hosting server using *file transfer protocol* (FTP). This allows you to upload and download files to/from your website. You do this using an FTP client such as [Filezilla](#). We'll introduce you to Filezilla during the induction workshop.
2. They give access to the *domain control panel*, typically an interface called cPanel. This allows you to control various aspects of the domain such as creating email accounts and databases. You can find your domain panel by navigating to [example.com/cpanel](#), where *example.com* is the domain name you chose when signing up.

This is what the domain control panel looks like:



We'll give you a quick tour of cPanel during the induction workshop and we'll also use it to install WordPress on your new domain.

Can I use a free hosting service?

We advise against using free hosting services for two key reasons:

1. Free hosting services are often feature-limited, don't offer priority support and/or display adverts on your website or on your control panel.
2. The programme takes a professional approach to all aspects of web design, including hosting. No professional would use a free hosting service for important client work.

If you're confused by any of the above, please email me: d.watson@gre.ac.uk

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