

TIP SHEET FOR WEBSITE AND DOMAIN OWNERS

How to Avoid Domain Theft

Domain name theft is a real threat to every individual, family and company invested in a domain name. How can you protect yourself from becoming a victim? Here are a few steps Kevin J. Wright recommends businesses take to try an avoid becoming a victim:

1. Identify and treat domain names as company assets including through legal documents. Maintain domain records and ownership in the name of the company.
2. Utilize ICANN accredited registrars with quality reputations. Keep domain registrant account and contact information current, accurate, private, secure, and recoverable.
3. Do not allow contracted website developers or non-senior executives to be listed as domain owners or administrative contacts.
4. Safeguard passwords and credentials associated with the domain account. Avoid using free, web-based email addresses as the administrative contact. Place a registrar lock on your domain.
5. Set up monitoring services of your domain's WHOIS and DNS information. Be aware of your domain name expiration dates. Renew in advance and for multiple-year periods.

If Domain or Website is Stolen

If you discover your domain name or website has been stolen, or is being tampered with in some form, consider taking the following actions immediately:

- * Contact and advise your attorney(s).
- * Notify your registrar.
- * File a criminal report with your local police department.
- * File a report with the [Internet Crime Complaint Center](#).