How to move a domain without taking the website down

Changing who bills the domain and changing where the website and email point are two different jobs. Do the DNS work first, then transfer the registration.

By the Harer team · Updated 23 November 2026

> **QUICK ANSWER**
> Keep the website and email online by leaving nameservers unchanged, or by copying every DNS record to the new host and waiting until it resolves, before you transfer the registration. Then unlock the domain, use the authorization code, and approve the email. Most generic names cannot be transferred within 60 days of registration or a previous transfer.

Two moves people confuse

- **Changing DNS or nameservers** changes where browsers and mail servers find your website and email. This is what can take a site offline if it is done without a copy of the records.
- **Transferring the registration** changes which provider manages the domain contract. If the nameservers stay the same, the website and email usually keep working during the transfer.

You can do one without the other. You can also do both, in that order. The product page Transfer a domain name covers the registration steps; this guide adds the checks that keep a live site and mailbox running.

Before you start

- **The 60-day rule.** Under the ICANN Transfer Policy, most generic domains (for example .com) cannot be transferred within 60 days of registration or of a previous transfer.
- **The domain must be active.** Renew first if the expiry date is close. An expired name is a poor candidate for a transfer; see grace periods and redemption.

- **You must be able to read the registrant email** on the domain record, because the approval message goes there.
- **Copy every DNS record** you rely on: A, AAAA, CNAME, MX, TXT (including SPF, DKIM and DMARC), and any others. Take screenshots or an export before you change anything.

A careful sequence

1. **Decide where DNS will live after the move.** You can leave the current nameservers in place during the transfer, which is the lowest-risk option for a live site. Or you can copy the records to the new DNS host, wait until they resolve, and only then change nameservers.
2. **If you are also moving the website or email,** set up the new hosting or mailbox first, copy the content, and test it on a temporary address. Switch DNS only when that test works.
3. **Unlock the domain** at the current provider and turn off any transfer lock (sometimes called a clientTransferProhibited status).
4. **Request the authorization code** (EPP or auth code) and start the transfer at the new provider.
5. **Approve the confirmation email** and wait. Transfers of generic domains usually complete within five to seven days.
6. **Check the site, email and DNS** after the transfer completes, and confirm the new expiry date.

What a transfer usually includes

For most generic extensions, a completed transfer adds one year to the current expiry date, so you do not lose the time you already paid for. Country-code extensions follow their own rules. At Harer, transfer prices include .com at **$20.99**, .net at **$19.99** and .org at **$20.99** (USD). The full list is on the pricing page.

Prices last updated 22 November 2026, checked again on 23 November 2026. Harer Hosting is a reseller store powered by ResellersPanel. Harer is not a domain registrar. Business email through Harer is coming soon; if you already use a mailbox provider, keep its MX, SPF, DKIM and DMARC records unchanged while the registration moves.

Start with the transfer steps

Common questions

- **Will the website go offline during a transfer?**
- **Can I transfer a country-code domain the same way?**

Sources

- ICANN Transfer Policy (checked 22 November 2026)

Written by the Harer team. Updated 23 November 2026. This is general information about how domains, email and hosting work, not advice for your specific setup. Read our editorial policy.