DOMAIN AND RECOVERY · CHECKLIST

6 Hold your own keys

From the lesson: The keys: your domain, your email and your backups

Mostly about knowing where things are. Once it's done, it's done.

THE PATTERN

- Whoever controls your domain controls your website and email.
- Most lost domains aren't hacked. They expire, or sit in someone else's name.
- Backups on the same hosting can be lost along with the site.

HOW TO SPOT IT

- You don't know which company your domain is registered with.
- Renewal emails go to an old address, or a past designer.
- Auto-renew is off, or the card on file has expired.
- Your only backup lives on your web hosting.

TICK AS YOU GO

- [ ] **Find your domain registrar**
  Free lookup: lookup.icann.org. Type your web address and note the registrar name.
- [ ] **Check the domain is in your name**
  Log in to the registrar. The owner (registrant) should be you or your business, not a past designer.
- [ ] **Update the contact email**
  Use an address you read every day, not an old one or someone else's.
- [ ] **Auto-renew on, card up to date**
  And check the expiry date. Renew for a few years if you can.
- [ ] **Domain lock and two-step login on**
  Domain lock (also called transfer lock) stops it being moved without you.
- [ ] **Keep a copy of your site elsewhere**
  Text, photos and files, saved to your computer or cloud drive. WordPress: a backup plugin that stores off-site.
- [ ] **Write your key list**
  Where every login lives: domain, hosting, website, email, Google Business Profile, social. Keep it in your password manager.

REMEMBER **Whoever holds your domain holds your website and email. Make sure it's you.**

67 countries where Weebly began taking sites offline in September 2026 (Khaleej Times).

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