THE FLAG REGISTER

WEB3 DOMAINS, EXPLAINED WITHOUT THE JARGON

COLLECTION "FLAG DOMAINS FOR BEGI NNERS"

SPECIAL EDITION - FIRST STEPS

Your First Web3 Domain, Step by Step

Buying a name on Freename takes about ten minutes and a bank card. You do not need to be a developer or understand the blockchain. This guide walks you through it screen by screen, from the search bar to the moment the name is truly yours.



IN THIS GUIDE

1. What a Web3 domain is and how it differs from a regular .com
2. The difference between buying and "minting" that every beginner misses
3. The full purchase, screen by screen: account, search, cart, payment
4. "Minting": writing your name on the blockchain, with no fee
5. The mistakes that cost beginners money, and how to avoid them

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BEFORE YOU BUY

Buy once. Keep it forever.

A regular domain is rented. A Web3 domain is bought. That one difference changes everything you can do with it.

On the regular internet, a domain name is never really yours. You register a .com, you pay every year, and the day you stop paying, the name goes back on the market. Miss a renewal and someone else can take the name you have been building on for years.

Web3 domains work the other way round. When you buy a name on Freename and "mint" it, the name is written on a blockchain as a digital asset in your wallet, like an NFT. You pay once. No yearly renewal fee, and no registrar can take it back.

TWO KINDS OF NAMES

A **TLD** (top-level domain) is the part after the dot: .com in the regular system, or an extension like .usa in Web3. On Freename, you can own the extension itself.

An **SLD** (second-level domain) is the name before the dot: brand in brand.usa. This is what most beginners buy first: a name under an existing extension.

Why does the difference matter to a buyer? Because a TLD is a small business and an SLD is an identity. The TLD owner can open the extension to the public and earn a fee each time someone registers a name under it. The SLD owner gets a name to use, to build on, or to resell.

You pay once. No yearly renewal, and no registrar can take it back.

WHAT YOU NEED TO START

— **An email address** - that is all you need to open a Freename account. You can also sign in with Google.

— **A way to pay** - a bank card works, and so does crypto. Prices are shown in US dollars.

— **Later, a wallet** - to mint your name on the blockchain you need a wallet such as MetaMask. If you do not want to manage one, Freename's Custody Wallet can hold the name for you on Polygon or Base. Do not let it scare you: buying works fine without a wallet, and minting comes after.

An honest warning before you go on. A Web3 domain does not replace a .com for an ordinary website. It is a new kind of asset: an identity for the decentralized web, usable for crypto payments, Web3 sites and messaging. People buy them to use, to keep or to resell. This guide covers the purchase. What to do with the name comes in the next issues.

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THE PURCHASE, SCREEN BY SCREEN

Ten minutes, four steps

1. **Open your account**
Go to freename.com and sign up with your email address, or sign in with Google. It takes less than a minute. Use an address you check: your purchase confirmations and your portfolio sit behind this account.

2. **Search for your name**
Type what you want in the search bar on the home page. Looking for an extension of your own? Type it with the dot: .yourbrand. Looking for a name under an existing extension? Type the full name: brand.usa. There are three possible answers. "Taken" means someone was faster. "Protected" means the name is premium or reserved: you can ask Freename support. "Available" appears with a cart icon: that one can be yours. Torn between several ideas? Freename has a bulk search at freename.com/bulk-search: paste up to 100 names at once, one per line or separated by commas, and check them all in one go.

3. **Add to cart and pay**
Add the name to your cart and pay by bank card or with a compatible crypto wallet. As soon as the payment goes through, the name is recorded in Freename's database under your account. From that moment nobody else can buy it. It appears in your "Portfolio", the personal space where all your names are listed.

4. **Mint it on the blockchain**
This is the step beginners skip, and it is the one that matters. Buying records the name in Freename's database; minting writes it on the blockchain as an asset in your wallet. Open your **Portfolio**, select the name and click **"Mint"**. Choose a compatible blockchain - Polygon, BSC or Aurora are the usual choices - and confirm the transaction with your wallet. Freename currently covers the minting fee.

> **PATIENCE, NO PANIC**
> Minting usually takes a few hours. When the network is busy, Freename says it can take up to 72 hours. The name is already reserved to your account as soon as you have paid: a slow mint changes nothing for you. Check your Portfolio the next day before you worry.

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READ BEFORE YOU PAY

Five Beginner Mistakes

1. Buying the name and never minting it. Until you mint, your name lives in Freename's database, not on the blockchain. Minting is free on Freename's side and takes a few minutes. Do it the same day.

2. Typing the name too fast. A name bought is a name kept - there is no cancel button on a blockchain asset. Check the spelling twice before payment, once more before minting.

3. Using an email you do not read. Your account, your purchase confirmations and your portfolio are tied to this address. Choose one you really check, and keep access to it.

4. Expecting a .com. A Web3 domain does not open in every browser like a regular domain. It resolves through Web3 tools - the Freename browser extension, Freename DNS, or compatible wallets. This is normal. It is another layer of the internet, not a broken link.

5. Losing the recovery phrase. If you use your own wallet, your recovery phrase is the only key. Write it on paper, keep it offline, never in a screenshot, a notes app, an email or a chat. Whoever has it owns your wallet. Nobody can restore it if it is lost.

Buying records the name. Minting makes it an asset. Do both.

THE LITTLE GLOSSARY

Mint
Writing your name on the blockchain, so that it becomes an asset in a wallet.

Wallet
The app that holds your blockchain assets and approves transactions. MetaMask is the best known.

Custody Wallet
Freename's own wallet, which can hold your names on Polygon or Base if you prefer not to manage one.

Portfolio
Your personal space on Freename, where all your names and your earnings are listed.

SOURCES - FREENAME OFFICIAL HELP

freename.com/help/how-to-create-your-own-web3-tld
freename.com/help/how-long-does-it-take-to-mint-my-domain
freename.com/help/what-are-web3-tlds-and-domains-and-how-do-they-work
freename.com/help/web3-domains-use-cases-and-benefits
freename.com/help/why-do-i-need-a-wallet
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