Domain Fraud

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The Domain Renewal Group Scam

Scammers, Fraudsters, Criminals, Thieves, Liars, Crooks, Con Merchants..... There are several other names we could use but we're not allowed to put them in print !!! When you build a website, or indeed as part of everyday life, we must sadly, always be on guard to avoid falling for cons. The most recent being a scam on Domain Renewal. Several clients have contacted us to let us know about a company called the Domain Renewal Group who are conning people with false renewals and domain scams. We'd like to thank those customers as this has allowed us to warn you all and hopefully save you from falling victim to these disgraceful activities.

What is a Domain Name Renewal Scam?

Domain name or Website address renewal scams can work in two ways. You may receive a fraudulent invoice for a domain name from Domain Renewal Group or another Con Group that is very similar to your current domain name but may have a different ending. It may end in .net or .org instead of .com or .co.uk. The scammer does this in the hope that you won't notice and will simply pay the invoice!

Please make sure you check all invoices very carefully!

The other scam tactic is to send you a letter that looks like a renewal notice for your actual domain name, but the letter is not from the company you actually registered with, but in these reported cases was from a Company called Domain

Renewal Group. The problem with this is that domains are commonly only renewed every two years and let's face it... a lot can happen in two years, which means that many people aren't sure or have forgotten who their domain registrar is.

Check and know at hand who you registered your domain with so you can avoid be caught out.

It's a fair bet that most people will be targeted by a scammer at some point. Some scams are very easy to spot while others appear to be very genuine offers or really good bargains. Scams can even occur without you doing or knowing anything about it. Most scams however, require the victim to do something, such as send money for a service or product that turns out to be bogus. Some people unknowingly give out their personal details to scammers. Some scams rely on you agreeing to deals without getting advice first or buying a product without checking it out properly.

Scams can cost people a lot of money and cause a great deal of distress.
Follow these tips to protect yourself

- KNOW YOUR DOMAIN NAME(S)
- KNOW THE COMPANY YOU REGISTERED YOUR DOMAIN(S) WITH.
- Check the domain name or website address on any correspondence very carefully.
- Advise all people who are authorised to make orders or pay invoices about such scams.
- Make sure the business billing you is the one you normally deal with.
- Read all the terms and conditions of any offer very carefully: claims of free or very cheap offers often have hidden costs.
- If it looks too good to be true—it probably is.
- Use your common sense.
- Get some advice if an offer involves sending money.
- Don't agree to offers or deals straight away: get some independent advice

before making a decision.

- NEVER send money or give credit card or online account details to anyone you do not know and trust.
- Check your bank account and credit card statements when you get them. If you see a transaction you cannot explain, report it to your bank immediately.
- Make sure you know how to stop any subscription service you want to sign up to.
- If you want to shop around for domain name renewal, find out when your current registration expires to make sure you are not paying unnecessarily.
- If you're happy with your current domain name registration provider, then simply ignore all other 'renewal' or 'registration' letters.
- If you want to switch domain name registration providers, make sure you know the full cost, terms and conditions of the offer before agreeing.
- If you've been scammed or think you have seen a scam, contact (www.oft.gov.uk) your local office of fair trading for assistance or to report a scam.