

How can I test my website when my domain name isn't pointing to it yet and it won't work properly on a temporary URL?

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Occasionally, a temporary URL will not be suitable to test your website before the domain name is pointing to it. For example, some servers require the URLs to be in a certain format, or if all the links are absolute URLs instead of relative URLs. What you can do is edit your computer's hosts file. This means that your computer will resolve the domain name to the server you are testing on, so you can access the website via the domain name, but the rest of the world cannot. The hosts file for your computer will be located at:
C:\\Windows\\System32\\drivers\\etc\\hosts

Mac: /private/etc/hosts
Open the hosts file in a text editor, and add these lines to the end of the file: [IP ADDRESS] [domain name]
[IP ADDRESS] [www.your-domain.com]
Replace [IP ADDRESS] with the IP address of the server you are working on. You can get the IP address from the temporary URL given in your eXtend Control Panel. If you are using a Dedicated Server, the IP address assigned to your server. Save the changes you've made to your hosts file, then close the file. Now, when you type your-domain.com, it will resolve to the IP address, and you can test it to see how the site will be when it is live. Once you are finished, delete that information from the hosts file.

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