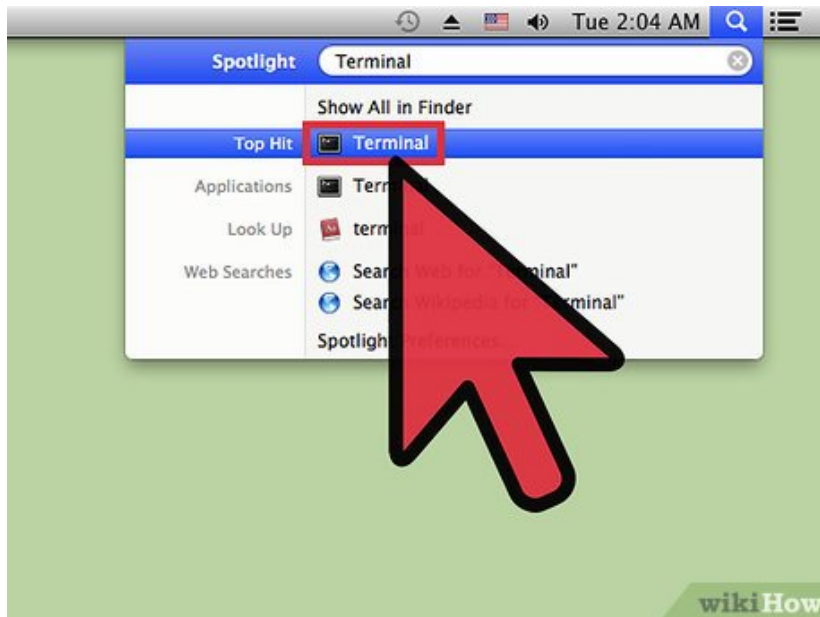


How to Edit the Hosts File on a Mac

Editing your /etc/hosts file is useful for testing a new website. It allows you to point a domain name (such as www.mynewdomain.com) at a custom IP address on your local computer only. In this article, we will use the IP address 1.2.3.4 as...

Method 1 of 1:

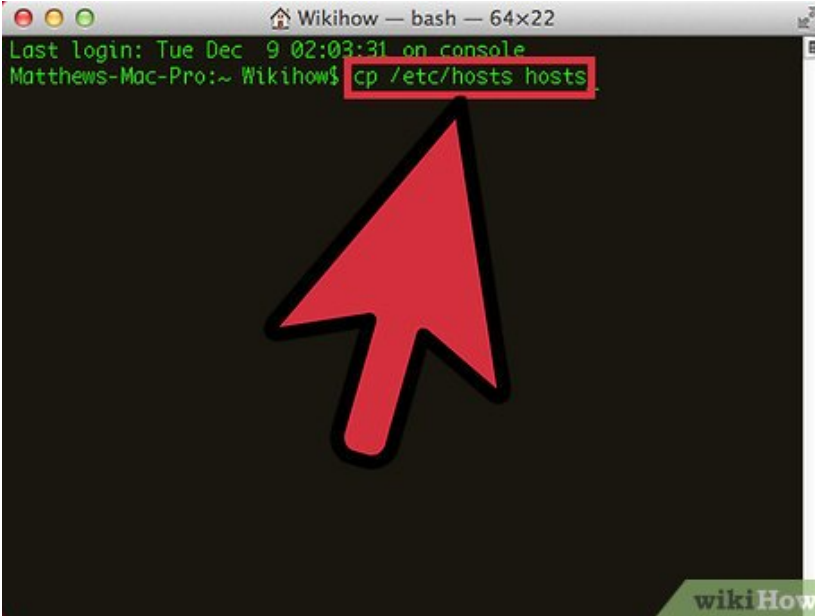
Editing Using TextEdit



1.

Open the *Terminal* app. You can use the Spotlight search functionality to do this.

2.



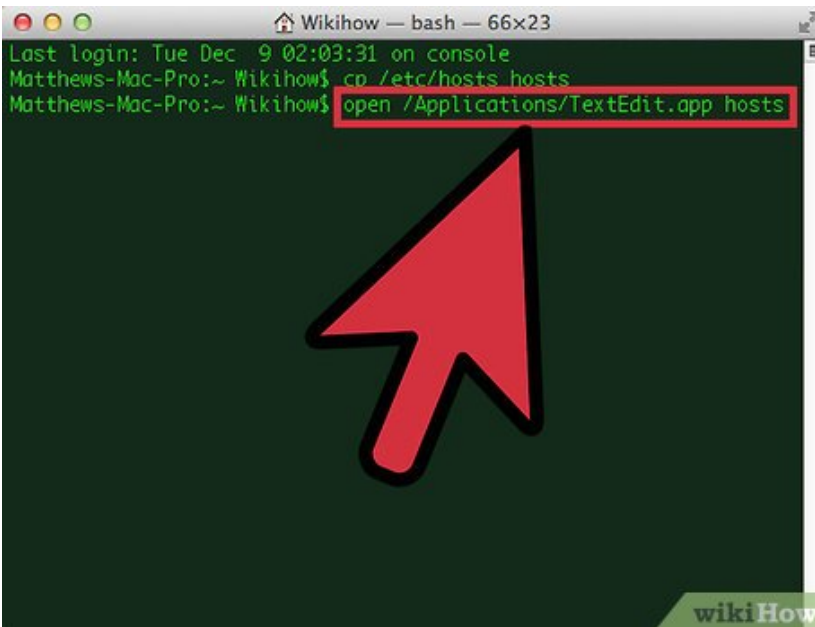
```
Wikihow — bash — 64x22
Last login: Tue Dec 9 02:03:31 on console
Matthews-Mac-Pro:~ Wikihow$ cp /etc/hosts hosts
```

A terminal window with a black background and green text. The title bar reads "Wikihow — bash — 64x22". The terminal shows the command "cp /etc/hosts hosts" being entered. A large red arrow with a black outline points to the command. A "wikiHow" logo is in the bottom right corner.

Copy the `/etc/hosts` file to a local file to be able to edit it.

1. Type the command: `cp /etc/hosts hosts`.

3.



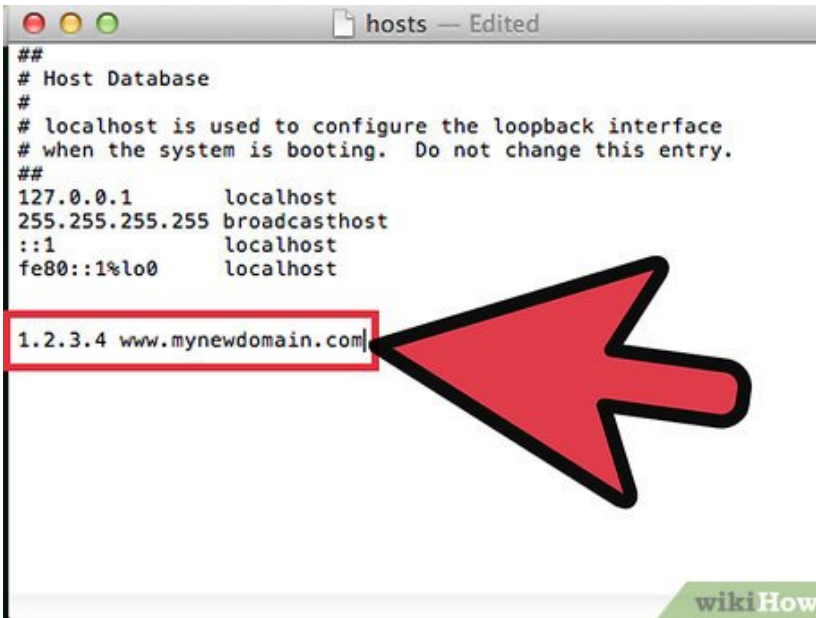
```
Wikihow — bash — 66x23
Last login: Tue Dec 9 02:03:31 on console
Matthews-Mac-Pro:~ Wikihow$ cp /etc/hosts hosts
Matthews-Mac-Pro:~ Wikihow$ open /Applications/TextEdit.app hosts
```

A terminal window with a dark green background and green text. The title bar reads "Wikihow — bash — 66x23". The terminal shows the command "open /Applications/TextEdit.app hosts" being entered. A large red arrow with a black outline points to the command. A "wikiHow" logo is in the bottom right corner.

Edit the copy of the `hosts` file using *TextEdit*.

1. Type the command: `open /Applications/TextEdit.app hosts`

4.

A screenshot of a text editor window titled "hosts — Edited". The window contains the following text:

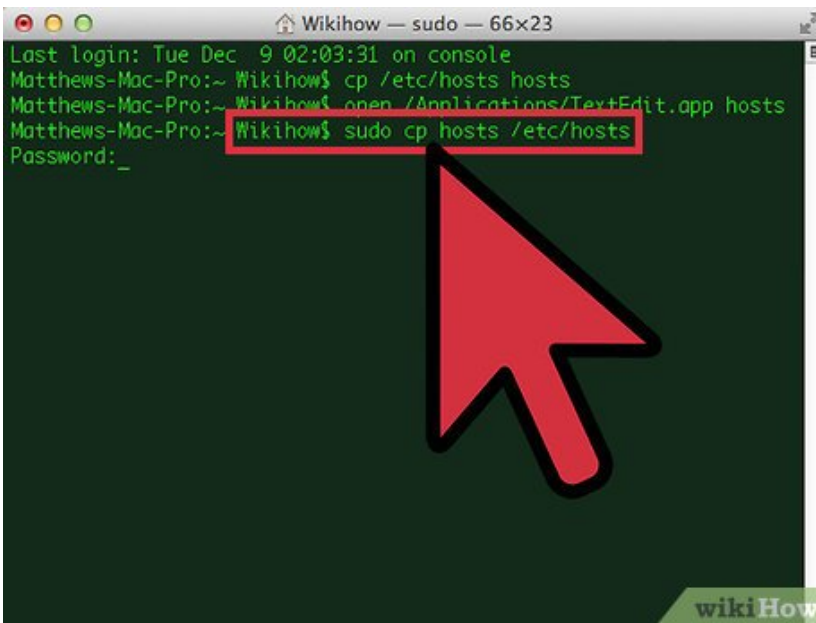
```
##
# Host Database
#
# localhost is used to configure the loopback interface
# when the system is booting.  Do not change this entry.
##
127.0.0.1    localhost
255.255.255.255 broadcasthost
::1        localhost
fe80::1%lo0 localhost
```

A red box highlights the line "1.2.3.4 www.mynewdomain.com" which is being typed at the end of the file. A large red arrow points to this line. A "wikiHow" logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the editor window.

```
1.2.3.4 www.mynewdomain.com
```

Add your new hosts file entry as a single line at the bottom of the file. The format of the line is "1.2.3.4 www.mynewdomain.com", where 1.2.3.4 is the IP address and www.mynewdomain.com is the domain you want to point at the IP address.

5.

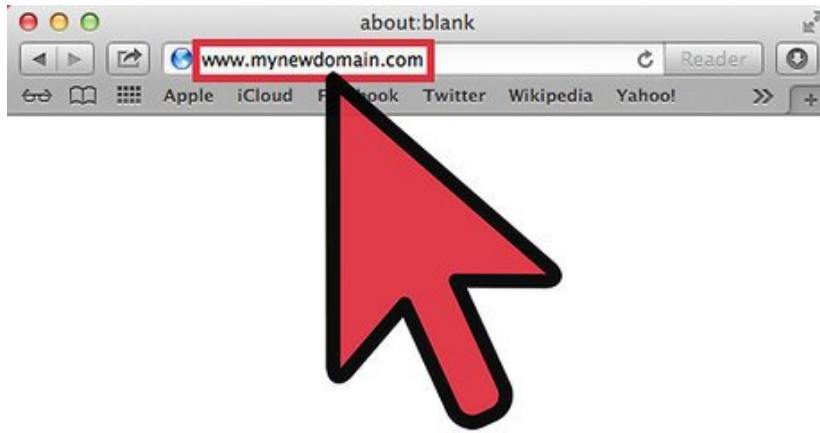
A screenshot of a terminal window titled "Wikihow — sudo — 66x23". The terminal shows the following commands and output:

```
Last login: Tue Dec 9 02:03:31 on console
Matthews-Mac-Pro:~ Wikihow$ cp /etc/hosts hosts
Matthews-Mac-Pro:~ Wikihow$ open /Applications/TextEdit.app hosts
Matthews-Mac-Pro:~ Wikihow$ sudo cp hosts /etc/hosts
Password: _
```

A red box highlights the command "sudo cp hosts /etc/hosts". A large red arrow points to this command. A "wikiHow" logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the terminal window.

Copy the file hosts over top of the system /etc/hosts file. Do this by typing: `sudo cp hosts /etc/hosts`.

1. You will be prompted for your password at this point because you are overwriting the system /etc/hosts file. *Note that on the command line, when you type a character into the password field, nothing at all will appear.*



6.

wikiHow

Test your new local domain name by typing the domain name into your web browser.

1. Note: your new domain name will not work until you have a web server responding at the IP address you specify!

You finished reading the article "**How to Edit the Hosts File on a Mac**" edited by the [TipsMake](#) team. We hope this article has provided you with many useful tech tips and tricks. You can search for similar articles on tips and guides. Thank you for reading and for following us regularly.