

What is the hostname?

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The hostname for a computer on a home network can be something like **new laptop**, **Guest-Desktop** or **FamilyPC**.

The hostname is also used by DNS servers so that you can access the site with a common, easy-to-remember name, avoiding having to "struggle" with a series of numbers (IP addresses) just to open the website.

Instead, the computer's hostname may be called the computer name, site name or node name. The hostname also has a different way of writing as host name.

Example of hostname

Each of the following listed cases is an example of the Fully Qualified Domain Name (FQDN) with the hostname written next to:

1. pcsupport.lifewire.com: **pcsupport**
2. www.google.com: **www**
3. images.google.com: **images**
4. products.office.com: **products**
5. www.microsoft.com: **www**

As you can see, hostname (such as **pcsupport**) is simply the text that stands before the domain name (eg, **lifewire**). Of course, it is the text that goes before the top-level domain (top-level domain - **.com**).

How to find hostname in Windows

Finding the hostname from Command Prompt so far is the easiest way to display the hostname of the computer you are working with.

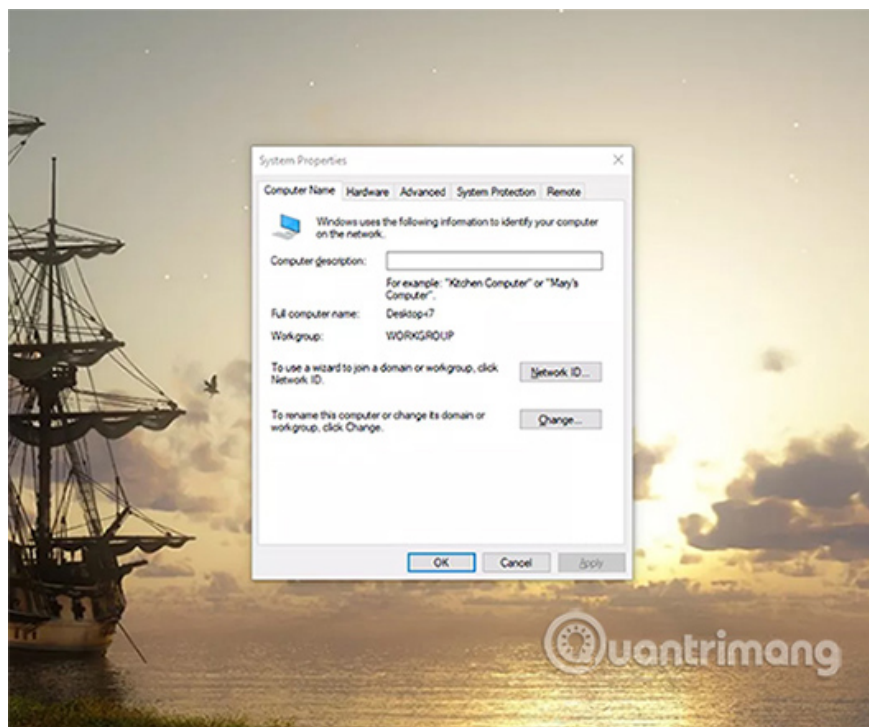
Tip : If you have never used the Command Prompt before, see the article: Instructions for using Command Prompt for more details. This method works in a terminal window in other operating systems, such as macOS and Linux.

Using the **ipconfig** command to execute **ipconfig / all** is another method, but the results are much more detailed and include lots of information (other than hostname) that you might not care about.

The **net view** command, one of many **net** commands, is another way to see not only your hostname but also the hostname of other devices and computers on the network.

How to change the hostname in Windows

Another easy way to see the hostname of the computer you are using is through the **System Properties**, which allows you to change the hostname.



System Properties can be accessed from the **Advanced system settings** link within the **System applet** of **Control Panel**. Just press **Win + R** then enter **control sysdm.cpl** to switch to the correct screen.

Some other information about hostname

Hostname cannot contain a space because they can only be arranged alphabetically or numerically. Hyphens are the only allowed symbols.

The **www** part of the URL actually indicates a subdomain of the site, similar to **pcsupport**, which is a subdomain of **lifewire.com** and **images** that are one of **Google.com**'s subdomains.

To access the **PC Support** section of **lifewire.com**, you must specify the hostname **pcsupport** in the URL. Similarly, hostname **www** is always required unless there is a specific subdomain followed (such as **images** or **pcsupport**).

For example, technically, you are always required to enter **www.lifewire.com** instead of just **lifewire.com**. This is why some websites are not accessible unless you enter **www** before the domain name.

However, most of the websites you visit will still open without specifying hostname **www** - because the web browser will do it for you or the website what you want.

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