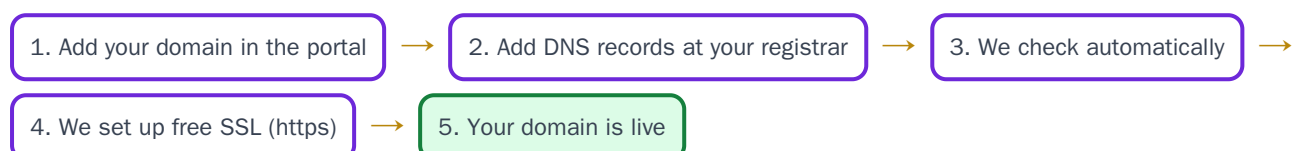


How to connect your own domain

Use your own address (like `example.com`) for your website instead of `yoursite.hosting.nostr.africa`.

In short



Your site always stays available at its free address (`yoursite.hosting.nostr.africa`), even while your own domain is being connected.

What you need

- A Nostr Africa Hosting plan with a website (Starter, Business or Pro).
- A domain you own, bought from a registrar (the company you pay for the domain, for example Namecheap, GoDaddy or a local .rw registrar).
- Access to your domain's DNS settings: the login for your registrar's website (or for Cloudflare, if your domain uses Cloudflare). If someone else set up your domain, ask them for access or send them this guide.

Plan	Own domains per website
Starter	1
Business	2
Pro	3

Ticking “also www” counts as part of the same domain, not an extra one.

Step 1 – Add your domain in the portal

1. Sign in at `hosting.nostr.africa`.
2. Click `Websites` in the menu, then click your site's address.
3. Scroll down to the section `Your own domain`.
4. Type your domain, for example `example.com` (no `https://` needed).
5. Leave `also www.example.com` ticked if you want `www.example.com` to work too (recommended).
6. Click `Add domain`. The page now shows the exact DNS records to create, including your personal verification code.

New customer? On the [Order hosting](#) page there is an optional field “Have your own domain?”. If you fill it in, the domain is added to your site automatically and you will find the DNS records on your site page after ordering.

Step 2 – Add the DNS records at your registrar

Copy the values from your site page: your verification code is unique, and the examples below use `example.com` and `yoursite`.

For a main domain (example.com)

Type	Name / Host	Value / Points to	Why
TXT	<code>_nostr-verify.example.com</code> (often entered as just <code>_nostr-verify</code>)	<code>nostr-verify=...</code> (your code from the site page)	Proves you own the domain
A	<code>example.com</code> (often entered as <code>@</code>)	<code>107.221.178.148</code>	Points your domain at our server
CNAME (only if “also www”)	<code>www.example.com</code> (often entered as <code>www</code>)	<code>yoursite.hosting.nostr.africa</code> or an A record to <code>107.221.178.148</code>	Makes www work too

For a subdomain (shop.example.com)

Type	Name / Host	Value / Points to
TXT	<code>_nostr-verify.shop.example.com</code> (often entered as <code>_nostr-verify.shop</code>)	your <code>nostr-verify=...</code> code
CNAME	<code>shop.example.com</code> (often entered as <code>shop</code>)	<code>yoursite.hosting.nostr.africa</code> (or an A record to <code>107.221.178.148</code>)

Three important rules

- Delete any other A or AAAA records for the same names (for example a “parking page” your registrar created). Our server only uses IPv4, so any AAAA record blocks the connection.
- Most registrars add your domain name automatically to the Name/Host field. If yours does, type only `_nostr-verify`, `@` or `www`, not the full name.
- Keep the TXT record in place for as long as your domain is connected.

Registrar examples

Menu names change from time to time and we can't check every registrar's current screens, so treat these as a guide. The record values themselves are always the same.

Namecheap

1. Sign in, open Domain List and click Manage next to your domain.
2. Open the Advanced DNS tab. Make sure the domain uses Namecheap's own DNS ("Namecheap BasicDNS"); if it shows other nameservers, edit the records there instead.
3. Delete any existing URL Redirect Record or parking CNAME/A record for `@` and `www`.
4. Click Add New Record: TXT Record, Host `_nostr-verify`, Value your code. Then A Record, Host `@`, Value `107.221.178.148`. Then CNAME Record, Host `www`, Value `yoursite.hosting.nostr.africa`. Save each one (green tick).

GoDaddy

1. Sign in, go to My Products / Domain Portfolio, choose your domain and open DNS ("Manage DNS").
2. Edit the existing A record with Name `@` (often "Parked") so it points to `107.221.178.148`. Remove any other `@` A records and any AAAA records.
3. Add New Record: Type TXT, Name `_nostr-verify`, Value your code.
4. Edit the CNAME record named `www` so its value is `yoursite.hosting.nostr.africa`. If you use GoDaddy "Forwarding" for the domain, turn it off.

Cloudflare

1. In the Cloudflare dashboard select your domain and open DNS → Records.
2. Add record: TXT, Name `_nostr-verify`, Content your code.
3. Add an A record: Name `@`, IPv4 `107.221.178.148`; and a CNAME: Name `www`, Target `yoursite.hosting.nostr.africa`.
4. Important: click the orange cloud so it turns grey ("DNS only") on the A and CNAME records. With the orange cloud ("Proxied") our check sees Cloudflare's addresses instead of ours, and the SSL certificate cannot be issued.
5. Delete any AAAA records for `@` or `www`.

Local and other registrars (including .rw registrars accredited by RICTA)

Every registrar looks different, but they all have a page called something like DNS, DNS Management, Zone Editor or Manage Records. Create the three records from the table above. If you can't find it, or your registrar manages DNS for you, send them this message:

"Please add these DNS records for *example.com*: TXT `_nostr-verify.example.com` with value `nostr-verify=...`; A record `example.com` → `107.221.178.148`; CNAME `www.example.com` → `yoursite.hosting.nostr.africa`. Please remove any other A/AAAA records and any parking or forwarding for *example.com* and *www.example.com*."

Step 3 – Wait while we check (automatic)

You don't need to do anything else. We check your DNS automatically: every 2 minutes for the first hour, then every 15 minutes for a day, then every hour for 7 days. After that, or any time you've just fixed something, click [Check now](#) on your site page.

How long? Usually 5–30 minutes after you save the records. Some registrars take a few hours; in rare cases DNS changes take up to 48 hours to spread around the internet. Once your DNS is correct, the SSL certificate is normally ready within a minute or two.

What the statuses mean

Status	Meaning	What to do
Awaiting verification	We haven't found your TXT record yet.	Add the TXT record, then wait or click Check now.
DNS misconfigured	Ownership is proven, but the domain doesn't point only at our server (wrong A/CNAME, an extra A record, or an AAAA record).	Read the red message under the domain; fix the record it names.
Verified	Ownership and DNS are correct.	Nothing. If your site is still being set up, the domain connects as soon as the site is live.
Certificate pending	We're connecting the domain and getting its free SSL certificate.	Nothing; usually takes a minute or two.
Active	Your domain is live over https.	Optionally click Make primary .
Error	We tried three times and couldn't finish (often an SSL problem caused by DNS).	Fix DNS using the troubleshooting list, then click Check now. Contact us if it persists.
Removed	The domain was disconnected from your site.	Add it again any time.

We email you when your domain is verified, when it's live, and if there's a problem.

Step 4 – Make it your main address (“Make primary”)

When the domain is Active, it already shows your website. Click [Make primary](#) to make it the address WordPress uses for its links, so visitors and search engines see your domain. It takes about a minute. If your site doesn't load correctly on the new address, we automatically switch back. The line Main address on your site page shows which address is in use, and [use yoursite.hosting.nostr.africa](#) switches back to the free address.

Links you typed by hand inside posts or menus (for example to your old address) are not rewritten; you may want to update those.

Removing a domain

Click [Remove](#) next to the domain and confirm. If it was your main address, your site first switches back to [yoursite.hosting.nostr.africa](#); then the domain and its certificate are disconnected. You can then delete the DNS records at your registrar. To add it again later, use [Add domain](#): you'll get a new verification code, so update the TXT record.

Troubleshooting

Problem	Fix
"... points to x.x.x.x instead of 107.221.178.148"	An old A record (often a registrar parking page or a previous host) is still there. Delete it so only <code>107.221.178.148</code> remains.
"... has an AAAA (IPv6) record"	Delete the AAAA record for that name. Our server uses IPv4 only.
TXT record "not found yet", but you added it	Your registrar probably added your domain twice, creating <code>_nostr-verify.example.com.example.com</code> . Change the Name to just <code>_nostr-verify</code> (or <code>_nostr-verify.shop</code> for a subdomain). Also check the value is copied exactly, with no spaces or quote marks.
Nothing changes after an hour	DNS can take time to spread; wait and click Check now later. Make sure you edited DNS where your domain's nameservers point (e.g. Cloudflare instead of the registrar).
Cloudflare users: wrong address or SSL fails	Set the A and CNAME records to DNS only (grey cloud), not Proxied (orange).
"Your connection is not private" / certificate error	The certificate is only issued once DNS is correct. Wait until the status is Active. If you see it while Active, try another browser or clear your cache; if it persists, contact us.
www doesn't work but the main domain does	Check the <code>www</code> CNAME (or A) record, and that you ticked "also www" when adding the domain. If not, remove the domain and add it again with the box ticked.
"already connected to a site"	The domain is in use on another website. If it's yours, remove it there first; otherwise contact us.
"Your plan allows 1 custom domain..."	Remove an unused domain or upgrade your plan.
Can't use a nostr.africa address	Addresses under nostr.africa can't be connected as custom domains; your free <code>.hosting.nostr.africa</code> address already works.

Need help?

WhatsApp: +250 787 176 382

Email: jmugisha789@gmail.com

Please include your domain name and your site address (`yoursite.hosting.nostr.africa`), and a photo or screenshot of your DNS records if you can.