

Is your web developer holding your website hostage?

You might have heard this before: business owners (and sometimes even non-profit organizations) have lost control of their websites because they trusted their developers too much and did not ask the right questions.

Hiring a web developer (or an agency) is a big decision. Before you allow someone to manage or develop your website, you should be sure that, they are open, honest and care about your business and it's image.

BE AWARE

The situations presented above have been seen a lot over the years, but all of them can be avoided by asking the right questions and not being afraid to request access to your web information. To sum up, these are some of the steps you should follow in order to prevent it from happening to you:

1. Make sure you have a contract that outlines any work to be done and who owns what.
2. Purchase your OWN domain name then allow the developer access to it if needed.
3. If you are using a hosted platform like Wix, create your OWN account and then provide access to the developer.
4. If you decide to host with your developer – make sure you receive access to your hosting account (cPanel) when your website launches.
5. If you get a third party hosting service – make sure it is in YOUR NAME, which allows you to provide limited access to any developer or designer, preventing them from taking over your account.
6. Pay any final invoices ONLY after all access information and passwords have been delivered and tested by you.
7. (Optional) Change passwords after the developer's work is done, so only you have access to those accounts, making your data even more secure.

This is the final article of the "Is your web developer holding your website hostage?" series.

For more details on each subject, you can find links for the previous articles below:

1. [Part 1: Contract](#)
2. [Part 2: Host](#)
3. [Part 3: Website Ownership](#)
4. [Part 4: Domain Ownership](#)
5. [Part 5: Analytical Data](#)
6. [Part 6: Backups](#)