

Digital Times is a "for eCommerce newsletter reporting on the development and/or availability of interactive products and services."

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## Cheapest .COM & .NET Domains?

Most of us own at least one internet domain name for either personal or business use. I remember the days when Network Solutions charged \$35 per year for a domain name registration or renewal. There are now over 120 ICANN approved domain name registrars operating worldwide and as a result of this competition, domain prices have come down.

I recently found a site <http://www.bestbulkregister.com> which seems to have the lowest price for .com & .net registrations. They charge **\$8.95** per domain (including ICANN fee) and provide discounts to those registering multiple domains. After purchasing \$100 in domain services, the price drops to \$8.45 per domain with further volume discounts bringing cost as low as **\$7.70** per year.

Email and Managed DNS can be added for only \$.50 per year which is also very reasonable. And they currently offer free WHOIS Identity Protection which seems to lower the amount of spam sent to new domain registrants. **(This normally costs \$6 per domain at other registrars such as Enom).** The registration process is quick and easy and they have tools making it easy to manage multiple domains. They are targeting webmasters and domain resellers who buy domains in quantity and are looking for best price.

In comparison, Godaddy is the largest domain registrar and they advertise a price of \$8.95 for .com or .net domain registrations. They also add a \$0.22 ICANN fee making total cost \$9.17 which is not a bad deal when comparing to other registrars which typically charge from \$9.95 to \$19.95 for .com registrations and renewals.

GoDaddy and other registrars sell domains at minimal margin and make their profit with add-on services such as email, hosting, WHOIS Identity Protection, search engine listing service, etc. Godaddy charges \$19.95 per year for basic email service for your domain and they have other bundled service packages which are attractive if you need those extra services. The registration process is not bad if you don't mind the marketing blitz that goes with it.

But for lowest price and ease of use, I really like **Best Bulk Register**. And the support is great!  
Two thumbs up ;-)

-editor

Scroll  
Down for  
rest of  
issue!



## What you Should Know about Hotels.com!



Although Hotels.com offers very nice descriptions and interior photographs of hotel guest rooms, please be advised that you will be **CHARGED** for your hotel room the *minute you book it -- regardless of how far in the future you actually plan to use the room.*

Planning to attend DigitalLife in September, we made a reservation for a hotel room in New York City and were shocked that our credit card was run for the entire 5 day stay in March!

Discover Card customer service, whom we contacted after speaking with a hotels.com representative, simply said "that's how Hotels.com makes their money\$\$."

We prefer the typical process of giving credit card information simply to HOLD a reservation. The card isn't run until we get there ;-)

-editor

# Glassy Buttons - For You

Digital Times

I have just discovered a *wonderfully easy* to use *online* service called [Classy Glassy Buttons](#) that generates attractive custom button images! Anyone with a graphic project - print, web-site, etc. might find this very useful. There are numerous design options including size, font, **[you can upload your OWN font if you prefer]** font color, rollover color [web], radius, height, edge color, image position, transparent color, foreground type and color.

Images generated can be downloaded in the following formats: .png, jpeg, .gif or readme.

## SimpleTech -- NOT SIMPLE!!!



Portable storage is an absolute necessity in today's computing environment. Intending to back up *data* files from my 4 GB 1 1/2 year old metallic green computer, I purchased this 4 GB USB drive.

Although advertised as a Plug and Play device, it is not. The directions state that after connecting the drive, it is ready to use. I have been entirely unsuccessful in getting Windows XP, my operating system, to recognize the SimpleTech. If any of you can recommend a good portable drive, please let me know.

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## Paint Shop Pro Photo :-)

Before Adobe's Photoshop was available for the PC, Photoshop was a Mac program] **Corel** had the only good computer graphics program around. I used it in the 1980's and early 1990's.

A few minutes ago I discovered that most of the photos taken by my husband on a recent vacation are blurry!!! Well, I have just discovered software by **Corel** that does a pretty good job of **correcting fuzzy photos-- Paint Shop Pro Photo XI!**

With Paint Shop Pro Photo XI, I get fast, easy editing tools I can't find anywhere else, unique special effects & a built-in Learning Center with tutorials galore.

I downloaded the TRIAL version, good for thirty [30] days. Not all components are available in the trial, but there are enough to wow me. Photoshop is a very complex \$699 program and one can spend a great deal of time 'experimenting' with *individual* levels, curves, hue and saturation adjustments. **Corel Paint Shop Pro Photo XI is a \$99 program** that has simple menu-buttons to produce similar high-quality special effects that take only *seconds* to do.

-editor

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