

How to Point a Microsoft Domain to Hostinger Hosting

Objective

Point a domain purchased and managed through Microsoft 365 to a Hostinger hosting plan using an A record, then install WordPress on Hostinger.

Scope and Impact

- Approach uses A/CNAME records only to keep Microsoft 365 email intact.
- Nameservers remain on Microsoft 365. Do not change them.

Prerequisites

- Microsoft 365 Admin Center access with permission to manage Domains.
- Hostinger account access to the target hosting plan (owner or account-sharing).
- The domain name and desired website location/region.
- WordPress admin email, username, and a strong password.

High-Level Flow

- Prepare hosting in Hostinger.
- Get the server IPv4 address from Hostinger.
- Add DNS A record (and www CNAME) in Microsoft 365 Domains.
- Wait for DNS propagation and verify.
- Install WordPress on Hostinger and enable SSL.

Prepare Hostinger

- Log in to Hostinger and switch to the client profile if using Account Sharing.

- Create or select the target website under Websites or Hosting.
- Choose the closest server location to the target audience.

Get Hostinger IP

- In Hostinger, open the hosting control for the target site.
- Locate the server IPv4 address (commonly shown as Server IP or IPv4).
- Copy the IPv4 address for DNS.

Configure DNS in Microsoft 365

- Sign in to Microsoft 365 and open Admin Center.
- Go to Settings > Domains.
- Select the target domain.
- Open DNS records management for the domain.
- Add or update the following records:

| Record | Host/Name | Value (Points to) | TTL | Purpose |
|--------|-----------|------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| A | @ | Hostinger IPv4 (e.g., 192.0.2.123) | 300-3600 | Root domain to Hostinger |
| CNAME | www | @ | 300-3600 | www → root redirect |

- Ensure existing MX, SPF, DKIM, and CNAME records for Microsoft 365 email stay unchanged.
- Save changes.

Verify Propagation

- Allow 5-60 minutes for DNS to begin propagating (up to 24 hours globally).
- Check by visiting the domain and by DNS lookup for the A record pointing to the Hostinger IP.

Install WordPress on Hostinger

- In Hostinger, open the Auto Installer or WordPress setup.
- Select the target domain from the dropdown.
- Enter site title, admin email, username, and password.

- Complete installation and note the wp-admin URL and credentials.
- After DNS resolves, request or enable SSL (Let's Encrypt) from Hostinger and force HTTPS in WordPress settings.

Post-Setup Tasks

- Log in to WordPress and set Site Address and WordPress Address to HTTPS.
- Install a security plugin and caching plugin if required.
- Confirm email DNS: MX records must still point to Microsoft 365; send and receive a test email.
- Add an A record for any needed subdomains or verify that www works via CNAME.

Troubleshooting

- Domain still not resolving: Confirm the A record value matches the Hostinger IPv4 and there is no conflicting A record for @.
- www not working: Ensure the CNAME for www points to @ and there is no A record for www.
- Email delivery issues: Verify MX records still point to Microsoft 365 and SPF includes Microsoft's include directive; do not change nameservers.
- SSL not issuing: Wait until A record fully propagates to the Hostinger IP, then reissue SSL.

Handoff Notes Template

- Domain: <yourdomain.com>
- DNS change: A record for @ set to <Hostinger IPv4>, CNAME for www set to @.
- Nameservers: Unchanged (Microsoft 365).
- WordPress: Installed on Hostinger. Admin: <email>, URL: <domain>/wp-admin.
- SSL: Requested/enabled after propagation.
- Email: Microsoft 365 remains active and tested.

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