How website and email stuff works

A simple introduction

Blue for websites
Orange for email

Bob's computer

Bob sees your website on his computer

Bob's Internet connection (ISP, e.g. BT)

Bob browses your website, e.g. www.example.com
His computer asks the DNS server where to find it.

Bob sends Susan an email

Website Host
Where your website files are stored

Datadial is an example of a Web Host.
The website loads from here.
You may have FTP access to this.

Bob's Outgoing Mail Server (SMTP)
Where Bob's email is sent from

The server finds out where Susan's email should go from the DNS server (her MX Record)

DNS directs to the website

DNS server
Where the domain name was registered
e.g. www.123-reg.co.uk

If you are changing where your website is hosted, you need to change the details here. You will have login details to the control pane when you registered your domain.

Email is sent between servers

The Internet

Susan's Internet connection (ISP e.g. Tiscali)

Susan's Incoming Mail Server (POP3)
Where Susan's email is stored

Susan's computer

Susan gets Bob's email

datadial

© www.datadial.net This is a simplified diagram intended to give an overview of the processes only.