

# RADYR AND MORGANSTOWN COMMUNITY COUNCIL DOMAIN NAMES AND EMAILS



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## **RMCC DOMAIN NAMES AND EMAILS**

### **Introduction**

Radyr and Morganstown Community Council are looking to improve their IT system and have recently engaged Altodigital to provide IT services with a view to adding email addresses for the office to use, improving wireless and broadband connectivity and cloud drive access for secure access of files from outside of the office.

Part of the intended work is to provision Office 365 email accounts to enable them to use more than the current [clerk@radyr.org.uk](mailto:clerk@radyr.org.uk) email address, enabling users to have individual email addresses as well as the generic [clerk@radyr.org.uk](mailto:clerk@radyr.org.uk) address.

The RMCC admin office are under the impression that email and website maintenance is out of their control as they outsource website management to their 'web team' via a company called Dark Green Media.

The council do, however, pay for domain name registration with 123-Reg and pay an annual fee for a SSL certificate but have no control over the website content.

This document has been prepared following a recent visit which identified that the exact ownership and management of the domain and websites was uncertain so I have investigated the situation using the 123-Reg login that the council has access to.

### **Domain Names, Email and Websites**

A domain name identifies an organisation or individual on the internet and provides means for external users to view websites and / or send emails to the organisation or individual.

Domain names need to be registered and renewed periodically for the organisation or individual to keep using them and are registered and renewed through a suitable Internet domain provider.

In the case of Radyr and Morganstown Community Council the domains are registered through 123-Reg and renewed annually. This allows RMCC the use of these domains to direct web and email requests to the relevant locations.

There are three elements to a domain name which determine who has overall management of the domain settings, where the website for that domain is held and how email for that domain is handled and these elements are:

1. Nameservers – The nameservers for a domain determine who can make changes to the web and email settings of the domain so if a domain's nameservers are set to the Internet company with which the domain is registered it means that the owner of the domain can make the necessary changes to configure where the web site for the domain is hosted and where the emails for the domain are directed.
2. The A Record and www record – these records define where the domain's web site is hosted as in many cases third party companies would host and manage a web site on behalf of an organisation and this web site would be hosted on the third party company's internet servers rather than the Internet Registration Company's servers due to features and options available on the web company's servers that are needed to run the web site (such as discussion forums, content management systems that enable user changes to pages, etc.)
3. The MX Records – these records define how email is handled for a domain and vary depending on the organisation's mail requirements. In some cases, these records point to corporate mail

servers within the organisation and in other cases the Internet Registration Company will provide basic email facilities with the domain.

With any domain it is possible for an organisation to own and pay for the domain and configure the web and email elements to point to different, third party, services that are paid for separately and managed on behalf of the organisation by companies that specialise in such a service meaning that the organisation does not need the skills required to design and manage web sites or configure email accounts.

With a suitable login for whoever handles the name servers for a domain, an organisation is free to change web providers and email providers by making the necessary changes to the A record and MX records.

### **RMCC Owned Domains and Records**

Through checking the 123-Reg account it can be seen that RMCC own the following domains:

- [radyr.org.uk](http://radyr.org.uk) – this domain has the web record pointing to an external source which is likely to be the web servers that Dark Green Media operate and several email accounts configured within the 123-Reg portal.
- [radyr.org](http://radyr.org) – this domain has the web record forwarding to the [radyr.org.uk](http://radyr.org.uk) domain meaning web traffic will be directed to Dark Green Media's servers to show the same web site as [radyr.org.uk](http://radyr.org.uk) and has no email configured.
- [morganstown.org.uk](http://morganstown.org.uk) – this domain has the web record forwarding to the [radyr.org.uk](http://radyr.org.uk) domain meaning web traffic will be directed to Dark Green Media's servers to show the same web site as [radyr.org.uk](http://radyr.org.uk) and has no email configured.

The name servers for all three domains are set to 123-Reg which means that RMCC have full control over configuring the domains so, if required, could commission a third party to develop a web site for them and point the domain to that web site.

It also means that the email can be configured to allow additional email accounts to be set up as long as the correct mail services are procured.

The 123-Reg login also allows the community council to register and pay for additional domains and point the web and mail records accordingly should they want to set up a completely different domain and keep this separate to the [radyr.org.uk](http://radyr.org.uk) domain. For example, [rmcc.wales](http://rmcc.wales) is available at the moment so could be registered and a separate web site and email addresses be commissioned to keep it completely separate to the [radyr.org.uk](http://radyr.org.uk) domain.

### **Web and Email Locations**

For any domain there can only be **one** web record and **one** mail handler so a domain's website can only be managed and hosted by one company and email addresses for the domain can only be handled by one mail server.

There are currently 22 email addresses configured under the [radyr.org.uk](http://radyr.org.uk) domain which are shown in the following screen shots taken from 123-Reg's web portal:

EMAIL ADDRESS ▲	TYPE ▲	BUSINESS ▲	EXPIRES ▲	AUTO RENEW ▲	
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="mailto:123test@radyr.org.uk">123test@radyr.org.uk</a>	Forward to support...@testing24254.co.uk	-		N/A	<a href="#">More</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="mailto:businesses@radyr.org.uk">businesses@radyr.org.uk</a>	Forward to colinh.joh...@ntlworld.com hawkinsnic...@msn.com	-		N/A	<a href="#">More</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="mailto:chain@radyr.org.uk">chain@radyr.org.uk</a>	Forward to davison.li...@talktalkbusiness.net	-		N/A	<a href="#">More</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="mailto:danescourt...chhall@radyr.org.uk">danescourt...chhall@radyr.org.uk</a>	Forward to mike.gill1...@ntlworld.com	-		N/A	<a href="#">More</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="mailto:drama@radyr.org.uk">drama@radyr.org.uk</a>	Forward to i.ogden88...@btinternet.com	-		N/A	<a href="#">More</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="mailto:events@radyr.org.uk">events@radyr.org.uk</a>	Forward to hawkinsnic...@msn.com silvdav...@gmail.com tom.evans...@me.com	-		N/A	<a href="#">More</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="mailto:moderators@radyr.org.uk">moderators@radyr.org.uk</a>	Forward to colinh.joh...@ntlworld.com hawkinsnic...@msn.com silvdav...@gmail.com	-		N/A	<a href="#">More</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="mailto:music@radyr.org.uk">music@radyr.org.uk</a>	Forward to madlady33...@btinternet.com	-		N/A	<a href="#">More</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="mailto:neuevents@radyr.org.uk">neuevents@radyr.org.uk</a>	Forward to silvdav...@gmail.com	-		N/A	<a href="#">More</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="mailto:nsrbookings@radyr.org.uk">nsrbookings@radyr.org.uk</a>	Forward to nickywebbe...@gmail.com	-		N/A	<a href="#">More</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="mailto:ocrbookings@radyr.org.uk">ocrbookings@radyr.org.uk</a>	Forward to d.cargill...@ntlworld.com	-		N/A	<a href="#">More</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="mailto:postmaster@radyr.org.uk">postmaster@radyr.org.uk</a>	Forward to colin.john...@ntlworld.com hawkinsnic...@msn.com	-		N/A	<a href="#">More</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="mailto:rds@radyr.org.uk">rds@radyr.org.uk</a>	Forward to peter.grif...@btinternet.com	-		N/A	<a href="#">More</a>

<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="mailto:rector@radyr.org.uk">rector@radyr.org.uk</a>	Forward to jennifer.w...@btinternet.com	-		N/A	<a href="#">More</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="mailto:rma@radyr.org.uk">rma@radyr.org.uk</a>	Forward to hawkinsnic...@msn.com silvdav...@gmail.com	-		N/A	<a href="#">More</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="mailto:machair@radyr.org.uk">machair@radyr.org.uk</a>	Forward to silvdav...@gmail.com	-		N/A	<a href="#">More</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="mailto:sidings@radyr.org.uk">sidings@radyr.org.uk</a>	Forward to radyrsidin...@gmail.com	-		N/A	<a href="#">More</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="mailto:support@radyr.org.uk">support@radyr.org.uk</a>	Forward to rady...@colman.org.uk	-		N/A	<a href="#">More</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="mailto:test@radyr.org.uk">test@radyr.org.uk</a>	Forward to test...@darkgreen.me	-		N/A	<a href="#">More</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="mailto:web-team@radyr.org.uk">web-team@radyr.org.uk</a>	Forward to colinh.joh...@ntlworld.com d.cargill...@ntlworld.com hawkinsnic...@msn.com silvdav...@gmail.com	-		N/A	<a href="#">More</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="mailto:webmaster@radyr.org.uk">webmaster@radyr.org.uk</a>	Forward to colin.john...@ntlworld.com hawkinsnic...@msn.com	-		N/A	<a href="#">More</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="mailto:*@radyr.org.uk">*@radyr.org.uk</a>	Forward to hawkinsnick@msn.com	-		N/A	<a href="#">More</a>

Showing 22 out of 22

This shows that there are lots of email addresses configured which all forward to a different users, so [music@radyr.org.uk](mailto:music@radyr.org.uk) forwards to [madlady33@btinternet.com](mailto:madlady33@btinternet.com) and [rma@radyr.org.uk](mailto:rma@radyr.org.uk) forwards to 2 different people.

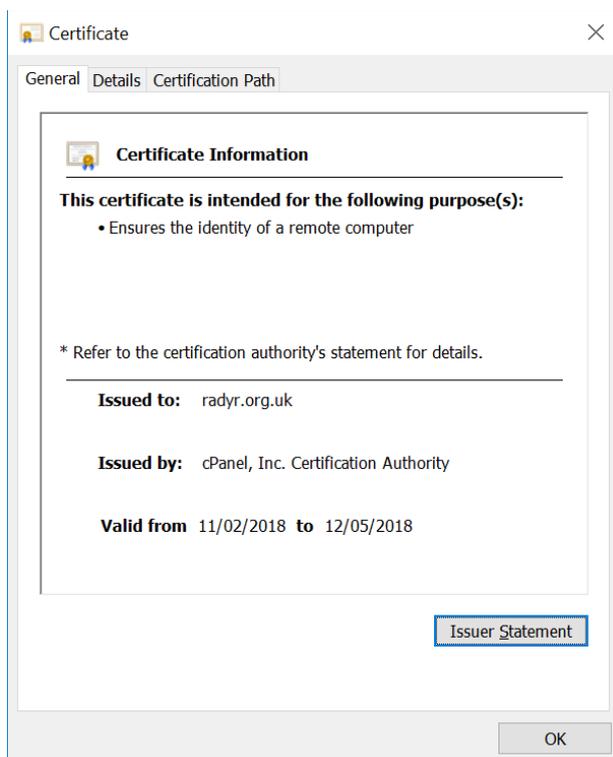
The last entry, [\\*@radyr.org.uk](mailto:*@radyr.org.uk) suggests that any email sent to any address that isn't listed above will be forwarded to [hawkinsnick@msn.com](mailto:hawkinsnick@msn.com) which may be the Windows Live Mail account currently used by the PCs in the RMCC office.

This does have an implication in the proposed changes that we are looking to implement as these changes include configuring three Office 365 mail accounts for the two computers in the office and the generic [clerk@radyr.org.uk](mailto:clerk@radyr.org.uk) address.

If we were to do this we would have to change the MX records for the domain to point all mail to Microsoft's Office 365 servers meaning that the above email addresses would no longer work unless we were to configure them as mailboxes within Office 365, incurring additional costs, or as mail forwards which simply receive the email and then forward it directly to the third-party email address.

### SSL Certificate

It has also been advised that RMCC pay for a SSL certificate each year and it is highly likely that this certificate is used to secure communications to the website as a security measure as the [www.radyr.org.uk](http://www.radyr.org.uk) web site is actually redirected to <https://www.radyr.org.uk/> and the https:// part of it shows that the site is protected by a security certificate which is shown below:



This is used to secure communications between the web site and web browsers accessing it and is useful where forums and web forms are used.

## **Conclusion**

Through investigating the 123-Reg portal it has been established that RMCC own and pay for all three domains and have control over what they may wish to do with these domains so if the council decided they wanted to move away from Dark Green Media and keep the [radyr.org.uk](http://radyr.org.uk) identity then they can do so as long as they procure web design and hosting through a suitable third-party.

Additionally, if they wanted to develop their own separate web site with separate email addresses to detach themselves from the [radyr.org.uk](http://radyr.org.uk) identity they are able to do so through the registration of a suitable domain name and, as we have access to the configuration for [radyr.org.uk](http://radyr.org.uk), we could forward the existing [clerk@radyr.org.uk](mailto:clerk@radyr.org.uk) emails to the new addresses.

Hopefully this document has helped clarify the ownership of the domains and the options available to the council for discussion in the forthcoming meeting.