How to Change Nameservers on AEserver

Domains & DNS · https://www.aeserver.com/support/how-to-change-nameservers-on-aeserver/

Changing your domain's nameservers is one of the most important actions you'll take when setting up a website, moving to a new host, or connecting services like Cloudflare. If done correctly, your site loads from the right place. If done incorrectly, your website, email, and everything else tied to the domain can go offline.

This guide walks you through everything you need to know, what nameservers are, how to write them correctly, how to change them on AEserver, how to use Cloudflare nameservers (highly recommended for UAE businesses), and how to create your own branded nameservers like **ns1.yourdomain.ae** and **ns2.yourdomain.ae**.

TIP: If you just registered your domain with AEserver and don't plan to use external hosting, you don't need to change anything. AEserver's default nameservers (dns1.aeserver.com, dns2.aeserver.com, dns3.aeserver.com) are already set.

Part 1: What Is a Nameserver?

A nameserver (also called NS or DNS server) is a specialized server on the internet that translates your domain name into an IP address. When a visitor types **yourdomain.ae** into their browser, their device asks the nameserver, "Where does this domain point to?" The nameserver answers with the IP address of the server that hosts your website.

Think of a nameserver as the phone book of the internet. Your domain name is the contact name, and the IP address is the phone number. Without nameservers, browsers would have no idea where to send visitors.

Why Nameservers Matter

Your domain's nameservers decide which server controls your DNS records (A, MX, TXT, CNAME, and so on). Those records, in turn, decide where your website loads from, where your email is delivered, and how services like Google Workspace, Microsoft 365, or Cloudflare verify ownership.

Change the nameservers, and you hand over control of all those records to a new provider. That's why nameservers matter so much, and why typos can cause big problems.

Correct Nameserver Format

A nameserver is always a **hostname**, not an IP address, not a URL, and not an email. It looks like a subdomain.

Correct Examples	What It Is
dns1.aeserver.com	AEserver default nameserver
dns2.aeserver.com	AEserver default nameserver
aron.ns.cloudflare.com	Example Cloudflare nameserver
ns1.yourdomain.ae	Private branded nameserver

Incorrect Formats (Do Not Use)

These are the most common mistakes we see from new users. None of them will work if you enter them in the Nameserver field.

Wrong Entry	Why It's Wrong
192.168.1.1	That's an IP address. Nameservers must be hostnames, not numbers.
https://dns1.aeserver.com	Don't add https:// or http://. Just the hostname.
www.dns1.aeserver.com	Don't add www. The hostname starts with ns or dns.
dns1.aeserver.com/	No trailing slash. No path.
aeserver.com	Missing the dns1/ns1 prefix. That's just the parent domain, not a nameserver.
dns1@aeserver.com	That's an email format. Use a dot, not an @ sign.

⚠ **IMPORTANT:** Nameservers are case-insensitive, but never add spaces, slashes, or protocol prefixes. Enter them exactly as your hosting or DNS provider gives them to you.

Part 2: How to Change Nameservers on AEserver

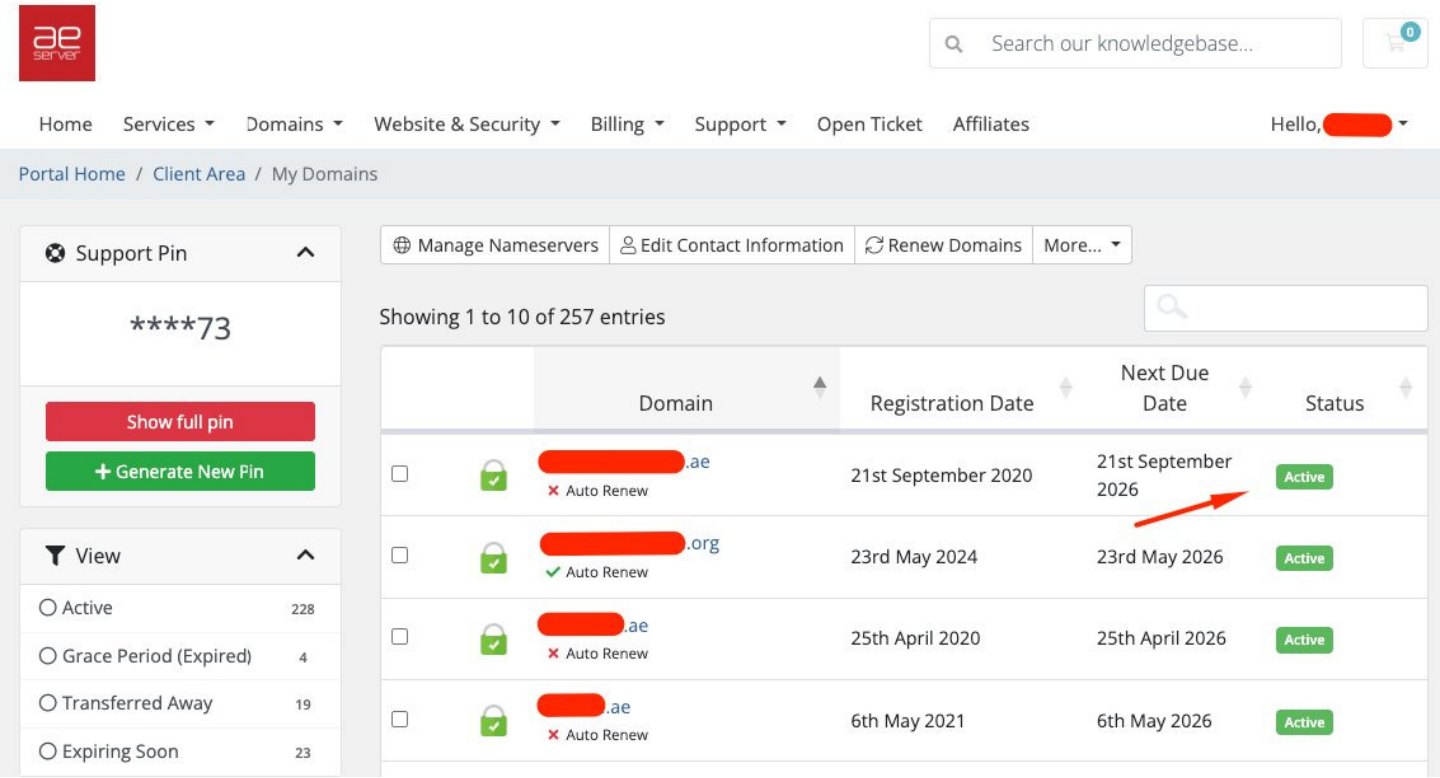
Follow these three simple steps to change the nameservers for any domain registered with AEserver. The whole process takes about one minute.

1

Log In and Open My Domains

Go to https://aeserver.com/clients/ and log in with your AEserver account. From the top menu, click **Domains → My Domains**. You'll see a list of all the domains registered under your account.

Find the domain you want to change and click on its name.

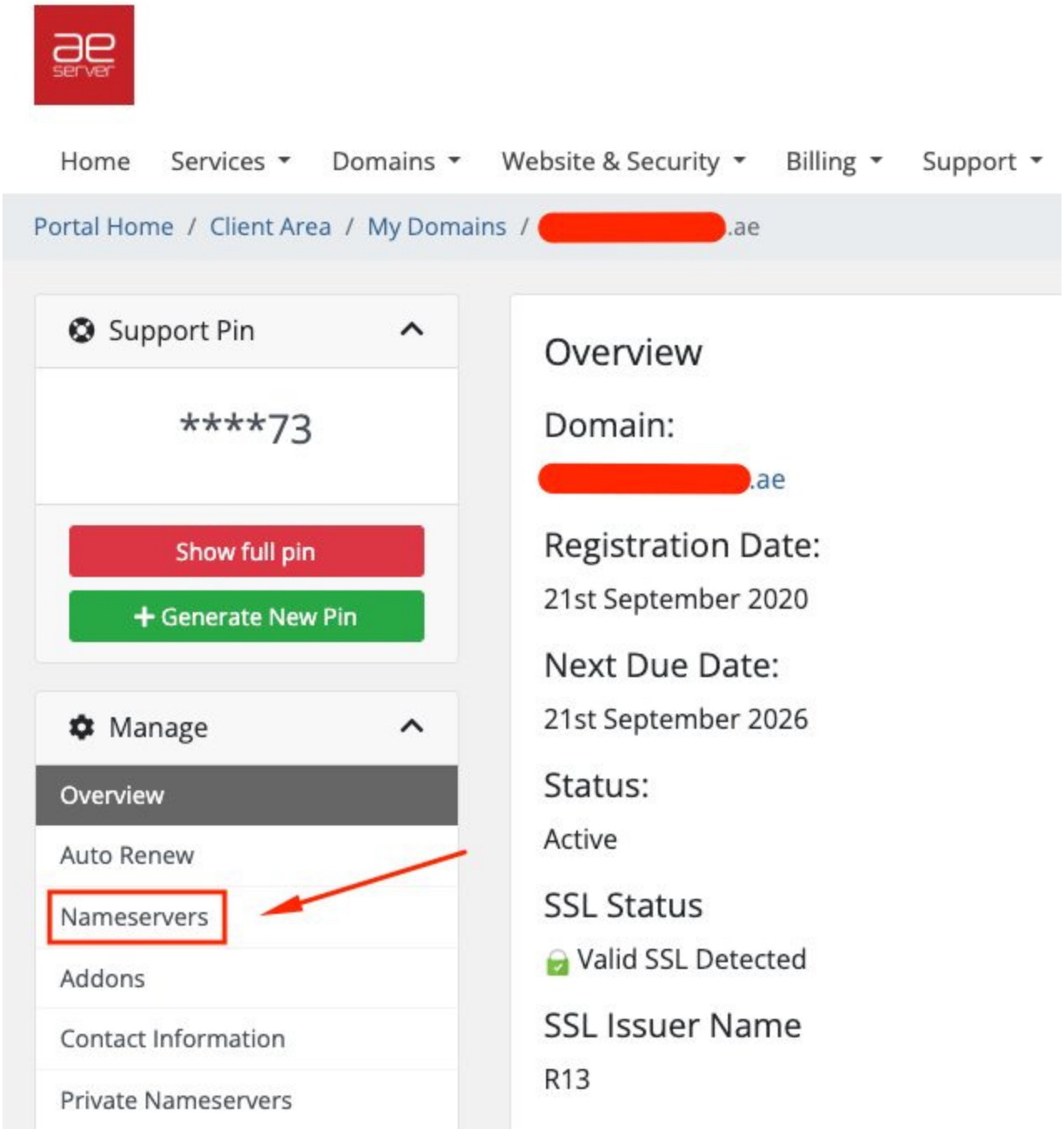


TIP: If you have many domains, use the search box in the top-right corner of the table to quickly find the one you need.

2

Click Nameservers in the Manage Menu

Once you're inside the domain's management page, look at the left sidebar under the **Manage** section. Click on **Nameservers**.



3

Enter Custom Nameservers and Save

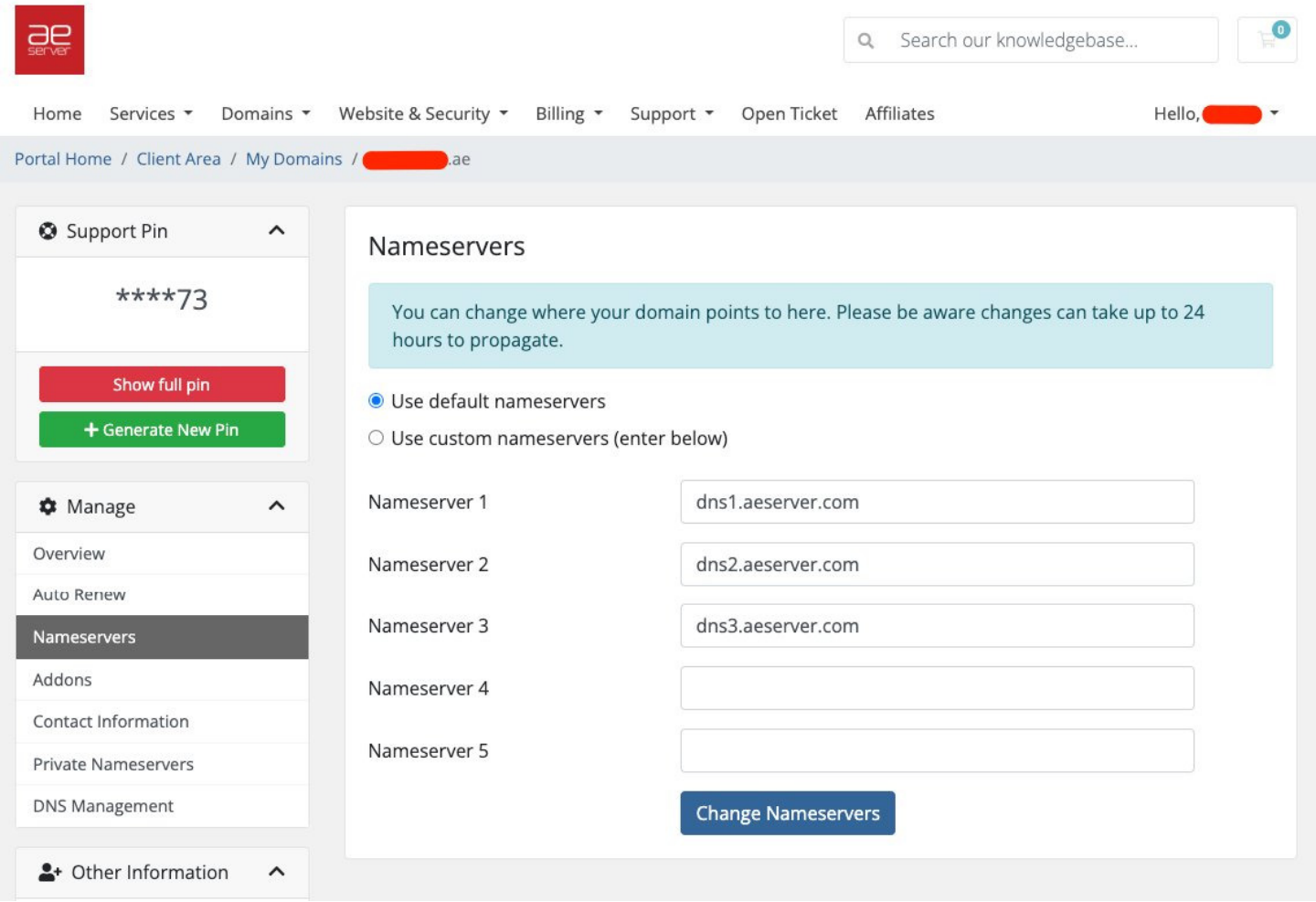
You'll see two options:

Use default nameservers, this uses AEserver's DNS servers (dns1.aeserver.com, dns2.aeserver.com, dns3.aeserver.com). Pick this if you host with AEserver or manage DNS through our DNS Management panel.

Use custom nameservers, this lets you enter nameservers from another provider (Cloudflare, your VPS, your own private nameservers, etc.).

Select **Use custom nameservers (enter below)**, then type in the nameservers you got from your hosting or DNS provider. Most providers give you two nameservers (NS1 and NS2). Some give three. You only need to fill in the fields you have values for, leave the rest empty.

Click the blue **Change Nameservers** button at the bottom to save.



⚠ **IMPORTANT:** DNS changes can take up to 24 hours to propagate worldwide. In the UAE you'll usually see them working within 15 to 60 minutes, but don't panic if your site looks offline for a short period right after the switch.

Part 3: Using Cloudflare Nameservers

Cloudflare is by far the most popular free DNS and CDN provider worldwide, and it works excellently for UAE websites. Pointing your domain to Cloudflare's nameservers gives you enterprise-grade

features at no cost.

Why Use Cloudflare in the UAE

1. **Faster website loading**, Cloudflare caches your content on its global edge network, including Middle East points of presence. UAE visitors get your site delivered from nearby servers instead of across the ocean.
2. **Free SSL certificate**, Cloudflare provides a free SSL certificate automatically, even if your hosting doesn't include one. Your site instantly gets HTTPS with the padlock icon.
3. **DDoS protection**, if your site gets attacked, Cloudflare absorbs the traffic before it reaches your server. This is especially valuable for e-commerce and government-facing UAE businesses.
4. **Bot and threat filtering**, malicious bots, scrapers, and spammers are blocked automatically at the network edge.
5. **Analytics and insights**, you get detailed visitor analytics that don't require installing any JavaScript on your site.
6. **Page Rules and caching control**, fine-tune how Cloudflare caches your pages for maximum speed.
7. **Free tier is genuinely free**, no credit card required, no trial period. You can stay on the free plan forever if your traffic is modest.

How to Get Your Cloudflare Nameservers

1

Sign Up for a Free Cloudflare Account

Go to https://www.cloudflare.com and create a free account. Click **Add a Site** and enter your domain name (for example, **yourbusiness.ae**).

2

Choose the Free Plan and Import DNS Records

Cloudflare will scan your existing DNS records automatically. Review them carefully to make sure your website (A record), email (MX records), and any other services are listed. If anything is missing, add it manually before continuing.

⚠ **IMPORTANT:** Missing an MX record during this step is the #1 reason businesses lose email after switching to Cloudflare. Double-check all MX records before you proceed.

3

Copy Your Assigned Cloudflare Nameservers

Cloudflare will give you two nameservers that look something like this:

Nameserver 1: aron.ns.cloudflare.com
Nameserver 2: gina.ns.cloudflare.com
Each Cloudflare account gets a unique pair of nameservers (the names are random human names like *aron*, *gina*, *carlos*, etc.). Copy the exact ones shown on your dashboard, don't copy from a tutorial or another person's account.

4

Paste Them Into AEserver

Go back to your AEserver Nameservers page (Part 2 above), select **Use custom nameservers**, and paste the two Cloudflare nameservers. Leave fields 3, 4, and 5 empty. Click **Change Nameservers**.

Within a few minutes to a couple of hours, your Cloudflare dashboard will show the domain as **Active**, and your traffic will start flowing through Cloudflare.

Good to know: Cloudflare works perfectly with .ae, .com.ae, .org.ae, and all other domain extensions. There are no restrictions on using Cloudflare for UAE-registered domains.

Part 4: Private Nameservers (ns1.yourdomain.ae)

Private nameservers, also called vanity nameservers or branded nameservers, let you use your own domain as the nameserver hostname. Instead of pointing to **dns1.aeserver.com**, your domain points to **ns1.yourdomain.ae** and **ns2.yourdomain.ae**.

Why Set Up Private Nameservers?

1. **Professional branding**, if you run a web hosting or digital agency business in the UAE, pointing your clients' domains to **ns1.yourcompany.ae** looks far more professional than using a generic hosting provider's nameservers.

2. **Portability**, if you ever change hosting provider, you only update the IP address that your private nameservers point to. Your clients' domains keep using the same ns1/ns2 hostnames, so they don't have to change anything.
3. **Privacy**, competitors and curious visitors can't easily tell which hosting company you use just by checking your nameservers.
4. **Control**, you own the nameserver hostnames, nobody else controls them.

How Private Nameservers Work (Glue Records)

Here's the tricky part: to point your domain to **ns1.yourdomain.ae**, the internet needs to know the IP address of that hostname. But the nameserver for yourdomain.ae IS ns1.yourdomain.ae. This creates a chicken-and-egg problem.

The solution is called a **glue record**. A glue record is registered directly at the domain registry (for .ae, that's the TDRA-operated registry), telling the world: "ns1.yourdomain.ae has IP address X.X.X.X." This breaks the loop and lets DNS resolution work.

AEserver's control panel has a dedicated **Private Nameservers** section that handles glue records automatically. You don't need to contact the registry yourself.

How to Create Private Nameservers on AEserver

1

Get the IP Addresses of Your DNS Servers

Before creating private nameservers, you need the IP address(es) where your DNS will actually run. This is usually the IP of your VPS, dedicated server, or hosting account. If you use AEserver hosting, contact our support team and we'll provide the correct IPs for you.

TIP: You can point both ns1 and ns2 to the same IP address for a basic setup, but for better redundancy, use two different IPs on two different servers. If one server goes down, the other keeps your DNS working.

2

Open the Private Nameservers Section

In your AEserver domain management page (same place you changed nameservers in Part 2), look for **Private Nameservers** in the left sidebar under **Manage**, right below the regular Nameservers option.

3

Register ns1 and ns2 With Their IPs

Create two entries:

Nameserver 1:
Hostname: ns1.yourdomain.ae
IP Address: 203.0.113.10

Nameserver 2:
Hostname: ns2.yourdomain.ae
IP Address: 203.0.113.11
Save each one. AEserver sends the glue records to the registry, and they typically become active within a few hours.

4

Point Your Domain to Its Own Nameservers

Now go back to the regular **Nameservers** section (Part 2, Step 3). Select **Use custom nameservers** and enter:

Nameserver 1: ns1.yourdomain.ae
Nameserver 2: ns2.yourdomain.ae
Click **Change Nameservers**. Your domain is now using its own branded nameservers.

5

Configure DNS Records on Your Server

Private nameservers only work if the DNS server software (like BIND, PowerDNS, or your cPanel/WHM) is actually running on the IP addresses you registered, and it knows about your domain's records. Set up DNS zones on your server for every domain that uses these nameservers.

⚠ **IMPORTANT:** Private nameservers are an advanced feature. If you're not running your own server or WHM/cPanel setup, you probably don't need them. Stick with AEserver's default nameservers or Cloudflare.

Part 5: Common Mistakes to Avoid

1. **Forgetting MX records when switching to Cloudflare**, always double-check that email MX records are copied over before you change nameservers. Losing email is the most painful mistake.
2. **Entering IP addresses in the Nameserver field**, nameservers are hostnames, not IP addresses. If you only have IPs, you need to use private nameservers with glue records instead.
3. **Mixing nameservers from different providers**, never put ns1 from Cloudflare and ns2 from your old host. They won't coordinate, and your DNS will be unpredictable. All nameservers must belong to the same provider.
4. **Expecting instant results**, DNS propagation takes minutes to hours, sometimes up to 24 hours globally. Don't make a second change right away if the first one doesn't seem to work.
5. **Not lowering TTL before a planned change**, if you know a nameserver change is coming, lower the TTL on your DNS records a day or two beforehand. Propagation will be much faster.
6. **Leaving the old hosting account active for too long**, once nameservers have fully propagated, cancel the old hosting so visitors can't accidentally land on an outdated copy.

Summary

1. **Nameservers are the phone book of the internet**, they translate your domain to the IP address of your hosting server.
2. **Always use the hostname format**, like ns1.aeserver.com or aron.ns.cloudflare.com. Never IP addresses, URLs, or emails.
3. **Changing nameservers on AEserver is a 3-step process**, go to My Domains, click the domain, click Nameservers in the Manage sidebar, enter custom nameservers, save.
4. **Cloudflare is the best free upgrade**, faster load times for UAE visitors, free SSL, DDoS protection, bot filtering. Sign up, copy the two nameservers they assign you, paste them into AEserver.
5. **Private nameservers are for branding and professionalism**, set up ns1.yourdomain.ae and ns2.yourdomain.ae through the Private Nameservers section. Requires running your own DNS

server or hosting control panel.

6. **Propagation takes time**, expect 15 minutes to 24 hours for worldwide visibility. Plan changes outside of peak business hours.
7. **Double-check DNS records before you switch**, especially MX records for email. A missing record means downtime.

If you get stuck at any step, open a ticket from the AEserver client area or contact our support team. We help UAE customers with DNS migrations every day and can verify your setup before you make the change.

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