Introduction to Mythic Beasts

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Who are Mythic Beasts?

- Started 2000 after our founders graduated and wanted to keep access to university like services
  - Four from Clare College
  - One from St Johns
  - One from the other place (Lady Margaret Hall)
- Founded because we could offer better hosting services more cheaply than we could buy.

Ancient History

- We picked a silly name because we didn't want anyone to take us seriously – Mythic Beasts Ltd
- Friends kept hosting their personal + company sevices with us
- 2007 we ran out of spare time to run our hobby company, but had enough income to pay a salary
- We started taking it seriously and jumped to work full time

Fast forward 14 years

- 12 staff members
- 6 zones across Amsterdam, London, Cambridge and Fremont
- Staff distributed across the UK and Ireland
- Wide array of hosting services and customers from single page websites, to 1000+ core distributed compute clouds.

Managed Web Service

- Customers get
  - A dedicated virtual machine managed by UIS
  - Debian Stretch (end of life June 2022)
  - Automated management for website hosting
- Significant work required to upgrade to Buster (current Debian) and Bullseye (release due 2022).
  - Instead service going end of life end of 2021

Mythic Beasts Services

- Shared hosting
  - Unix account on a Debian Buster server (Bullseye later this year)
- Automatically set up for web/email hosting
- SSL automatic
- Raven authentication for SSL sites
  - Covers 90% of MWS
- No persistent processes (i.e. no WSGI)

Mythic Beasts Services

- Virtual servers
  - Virtual server from 1GB to 256GB RAM, 1 to 16 cores, 10GB – 3840GB disks
  - Debian / Ubuntu / CentOS
- Dedicated servers, colocation, domain names.

Management services

- 3 levels
  - None
- do it all yourself.
  - Managed
- We take nightly backups
- 24/7 monitoring of your site
- Security updates

Management services

- Managed applications (Wordpress, Nextcloud, Mattermost, Mediawiki, Indico etc)
  - We also install and update your application as releases come out
  - For Wordpress we scan for security issues in plugins and themes
  - We fix your application if you break it

Shared Hosting

- Shared hosting account (ssh access, SSL, 15GB)
  - £65pa + VAT
  - Good for HTML, PHP, includes 5 MySQL databases
  - Supports self managed Wordpress
  - SSL configured through control panel
- Raven integration for SSL protected sites
  - Other account sizes are available

Virtual Servers

- Unmanaged virtual server
  - 1GB/1core/5GB SSD = £69pa
  - **4GB/2core/20GB SSD = £171pa**
  - 64GB/8core/320GB SSD =£1976pa
  - Disk and RAM/CPU are independent (8p/GB SSD)
- You need to do your own backups, monitoring and security updates.
- Install your own OS (bring your own ISO)

Virtual Servers

- Managed virtual server (+£250pa)
  - 1GB/1core/5GB SSD = £319pa
  - **4GB/2core/20GB SSD = £421pa**
  - 64GB/8core/320GB SSD =£2826pa
  - First 50G backup included, more is extra.
- We do your backups, monitoring and security updates.
  - Debian / Ubuntu supported

Managed servers

Wordpress

- Unmanaged on a shell account
  - £65pa
- Managed by us on a shell account (up to 4 sites)
  - ~~£350~~ £262.50pa (inc 24/7 monitoring + updates)
- Managed by us on a virtual server (up to 8 sites)
  - £850pa (inc 24/7 monitoring, updates, install own software and supporting libraries)

What to buy?

- Simple HTML / PHP
  - Shared hosting £65pa
- Wordpress if you have your own ops team
  - Shared hosting £65pa
  - Virtual server £171
  - A 24/7 on-call rota needs 5+ people (we have 10)

What to buy

- Wordpress if you don’t have a 24/7 ops team
  - Managed Wordpress £262.50pa
  - Managed Wordpress Business £850pa if you need your own server
- Python / WSGI based applications
  - Managed Virtual server £421pa

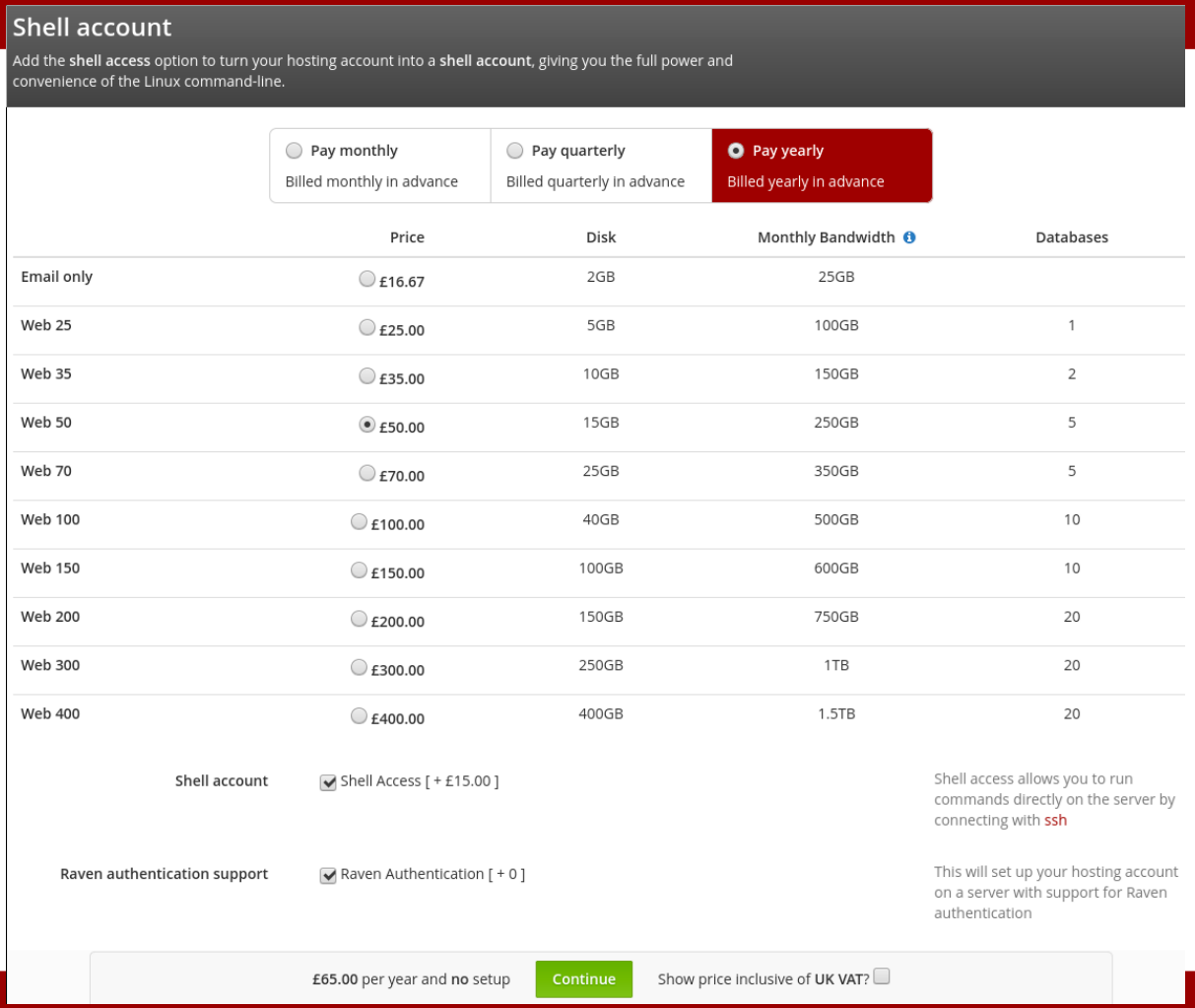
How to buy!

- Ask any questions you have by email to sales@mythic-beasts.com
- Set up an account at
  - https://www.mythic-beasts.com/customer
- Tell us the customer number and send us a purchase order to sales@mythic-beasts.com

How to buy

- ~~Wait several months whilst accounting departments sort out credit terms, references and argue about tiny irrelevant details.~~
- Account approved!
- We'll include a link in the reply with the PO to place the order online.
- Depending on the service, it'll be available immediately (automated provisioning), or shortly (managed services).

How to buy (shared hosting)



Shell account

Add the **shell access** option to turn your hosting account into a **shell account**, giving you the full power and convenience of the Linux command-line.

Pay monthly	Pay quarterly	Pay yearly
Billed monthly in advance	Billed quarterly in advance	Billed yearly in advance

	Price	Disk	Monthly Bandwidth	Databases
Email only	£16.67	2GB	25GB	
Web 25	£25.00	5GB	100GB	1
Web 35	£35.00	10GB	150GB	2
Web 50	£50.00	15GB	250GB	5
Web 70	£70.00	25GB	350GB	5
Web 100	£100.00	40GB	500GB	10
Web 150	£150.00	100GB	600GB	10
Web 200	£200.00	150GB	750GB	20
Web 300	£300.00	250GB	1TB	20
Web 400	£400.00	400GB	1.5TB	20

Shell account — Shell Access [+ £15.00]

Shell access allows you to run commands directly on the server by connecting with ssh

Raven authentication support — Raven Authentication [+ 0]

This will set up your hosting account on a server with support for Raven authentication

£65.00 per year and **no** setup — Continue — Show price inclusive of **UK VAT**?

Hosting account

fentiger:pete

Type	Hosting, Web 25 [5GB disk, 100G/month]
Username	pete
Server	*fentiger*.mythic-beasts.com

Change hosting account password / Upgrade

Hosted domains

fentiger.saxonroad.uk — Email addresses / Email settings / •••

https://fentiger.saxonroad.uk/ — Web settings / •••

Add domains or sub-domains / Email domain groups / Autoresponders

File upload

To upload files, use **SFTP** or **SCP** with the following details. **FTP** is also supported, but is not recommended.

Host	fentiger.mythic-beasts.com
Username	pete
Password	*Your hosting account password*
Web space directory	www/*website-name*
Disk usage	70.70 MB / 5.00 GB

Disk usage breakdown

Shell access

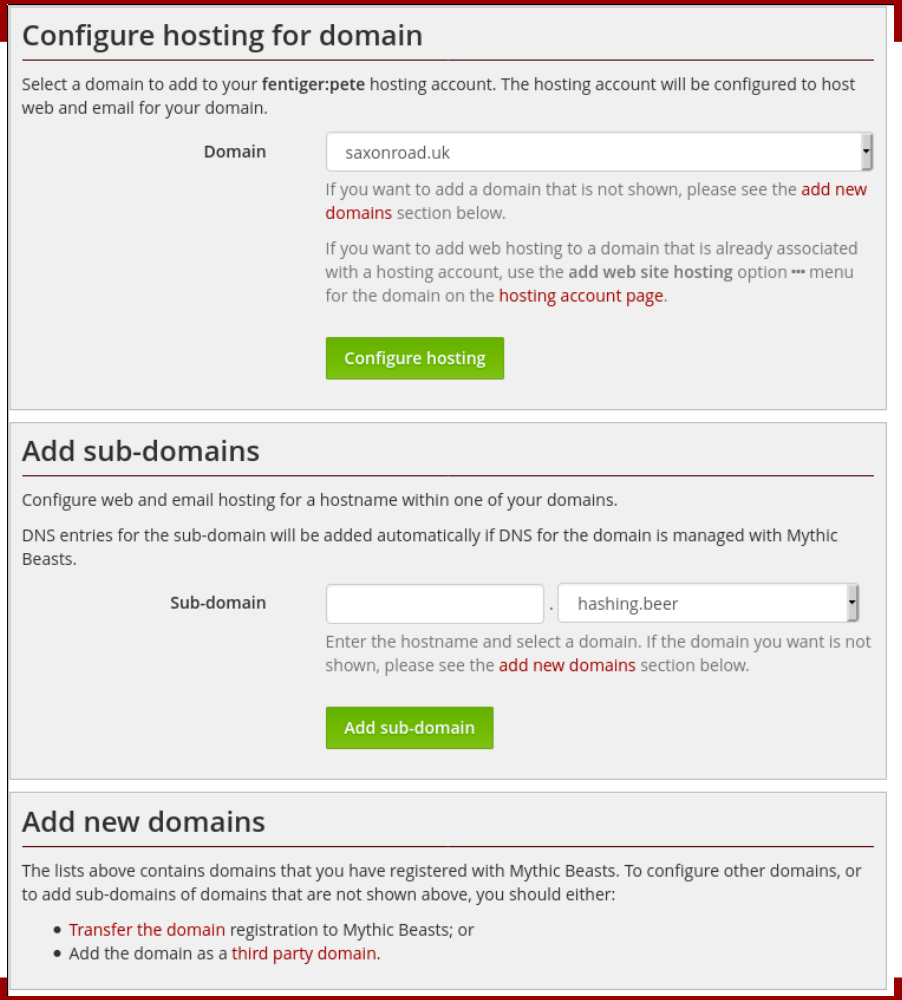
Your account includes shell (SSH) access. You can connect via **SSH** to:

Host	fentiger.mythic-beasts.com
Username	pete
Password	*Your hosting account password*

Databases

Name	Type	Web admin	
pete	MariaDB (fentiger)	phpMyAdmin	details / set password

Hosting Account



Configure hosting for domain

Select a domain to add to your **fentiger:pete** hosting account. The hosting account will be configured to host web and email for your domain.

Domain saxonroad.uk

If you want to add a domain that is not shown, please see the add new domains section below.

If you want to add web hosting to a domain that is already associated with a hosting account, use the **add web site hosting** option ••• menu for the domain on the hosting account page.

Configure hosting

Add sub-domains

Configure web and email hosting for a hostname within one of your domains.

DNS entries for the sub-domain will be added automatically if DNS for the domain is managed with Mythic Beasts.

Sub-domain . hashing.beer

Enter the hostname and select a domain. If the domain you want is not shown, please see the add new domains section below.

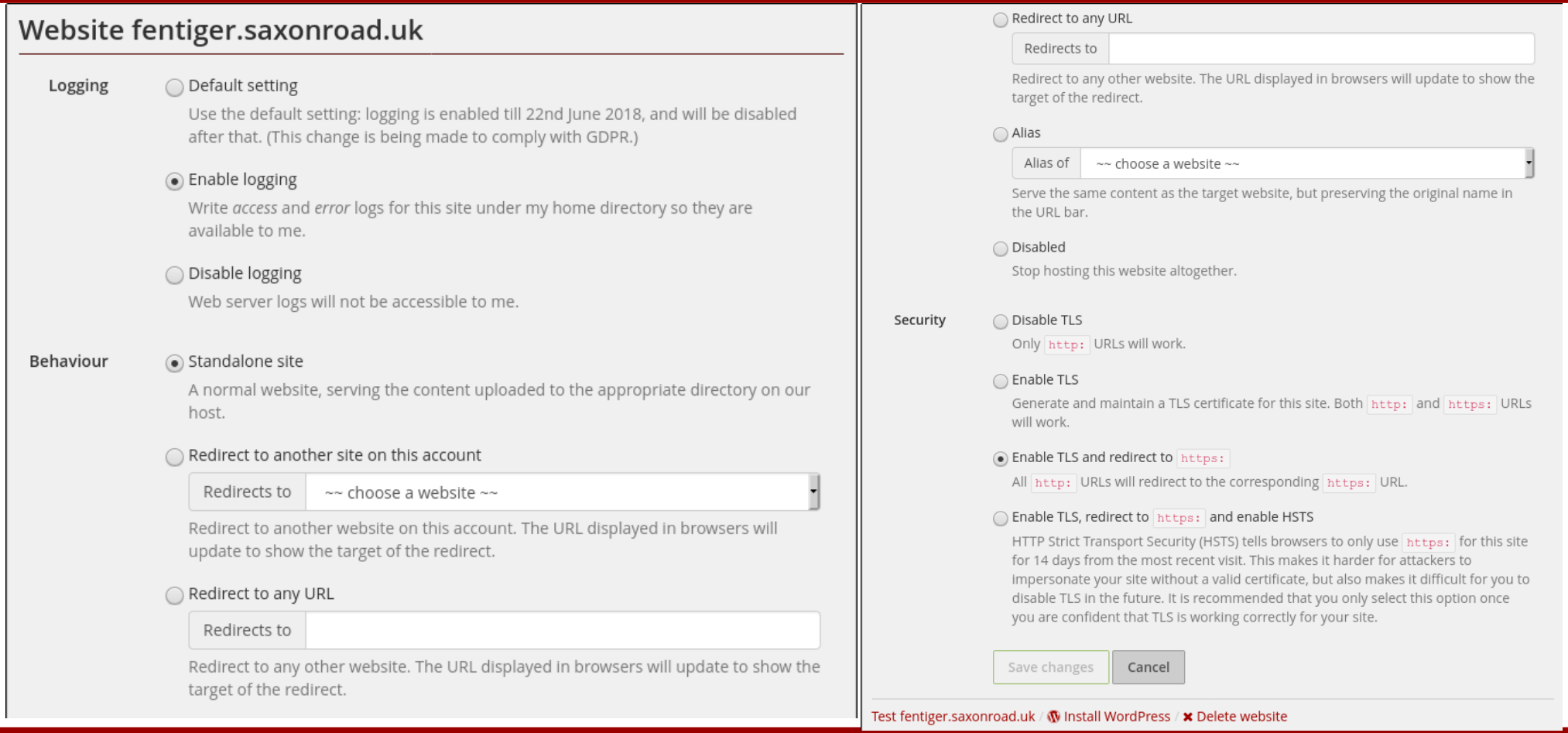
Add sub-domain

Add new domains

The lists above contains domains that you have registered with Mythic Beasts. To configure other domains, or to add sub-domains of domains that are not shown above, you should either:

- Transfer the domain registration to Mythic Beasts; or
- Add the domain as a third party domain.

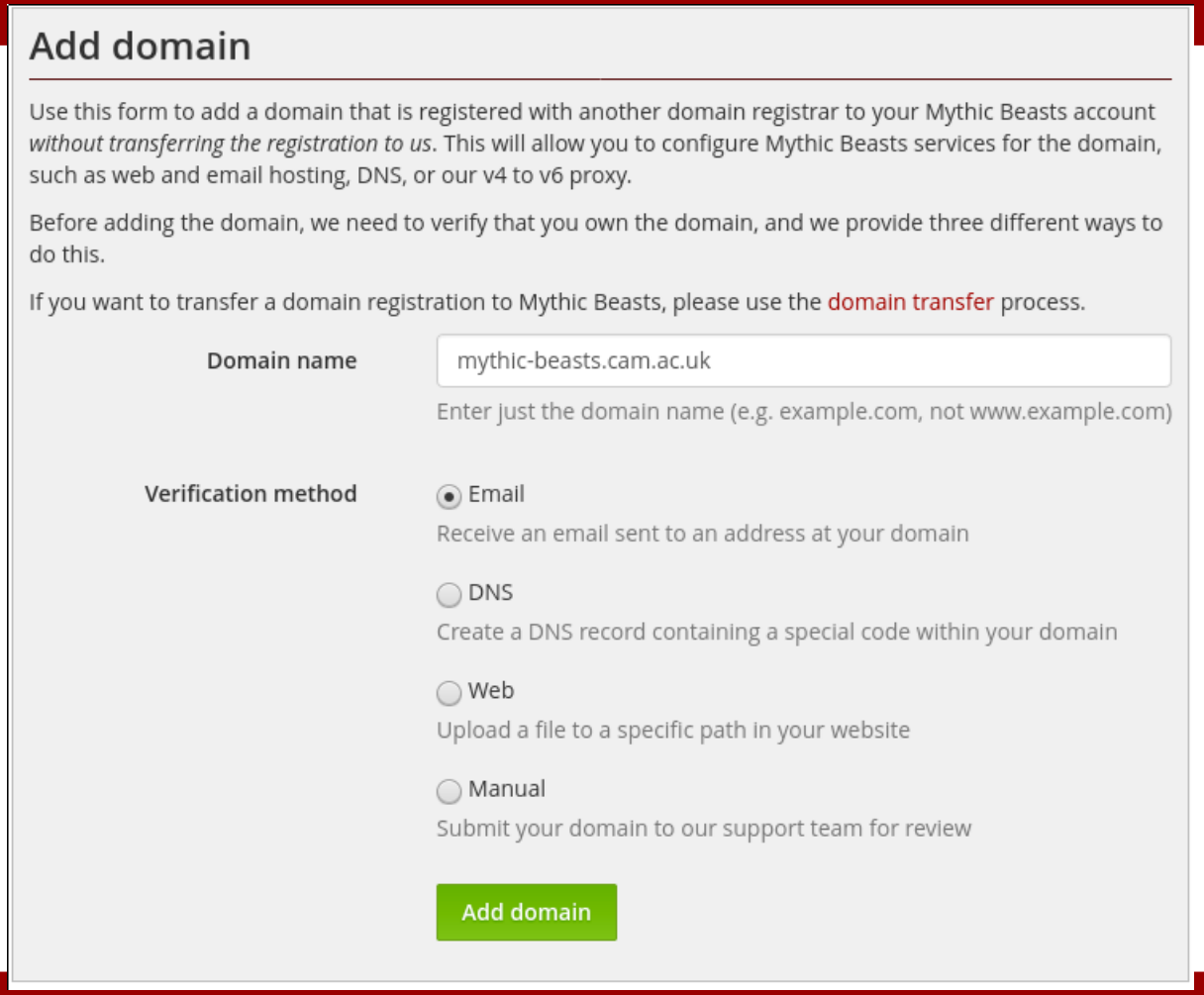
Hosting account



Domains

- External domains
  - Buy through us https://www.mythic-beasts.com/domains
  - Transfer to us
  - Use our third party service
- cam.ac.uk subdomains
  - Use our third party service

Domains


Add domain
Use this form to add a domain that is registered with another domain registrar to your Mythic Beasts account *without transferring the registration to us*. This will allow you to configure Mythic Beasts services for the domain, such as web and email hosting, DNS, or our v4 to v6 proxy.
Before adding the domain, we need to verify that you own the domain, and we provide three different ways to do this.
If you want to transfer a domain registration to Mythic Beasts, please use the domain transfer process.
Domain name
mythic-beasts.cam.ac.uk
Enter just the domain name (e.g. example.com, not www.example.com)
Verification method
Email
Receive an email sent to an address at your domain
DNS
Create a DNS record containing a special code within your domain
Web
Upload a file to a specific path in your website
Manual
Submit your domain to our support team for review
Add domain

3rd party domains and subdomains

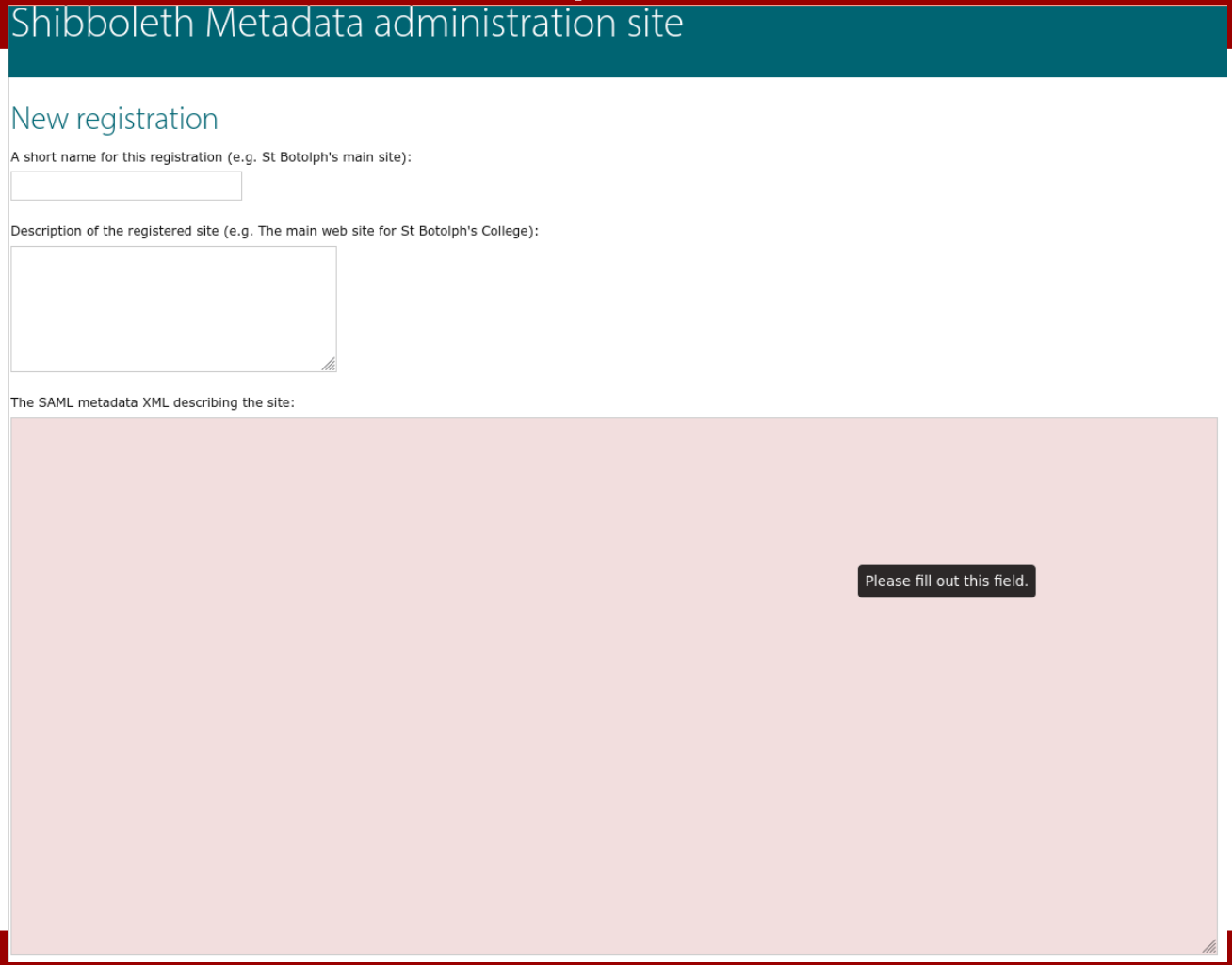
DNS : challenge at _mythic-beasts-challenge.mythic-beasts.cam.ac.uk

- Email : reply to a mail at postmaster@mythic-beasts.cam.ac.uk
- Web : upload challenge to http://mythic-beasts.cam.ac.uk/.well-known/mythic-beasts-challenge
- Manual : Ask us to approve it for you by checking with UIS

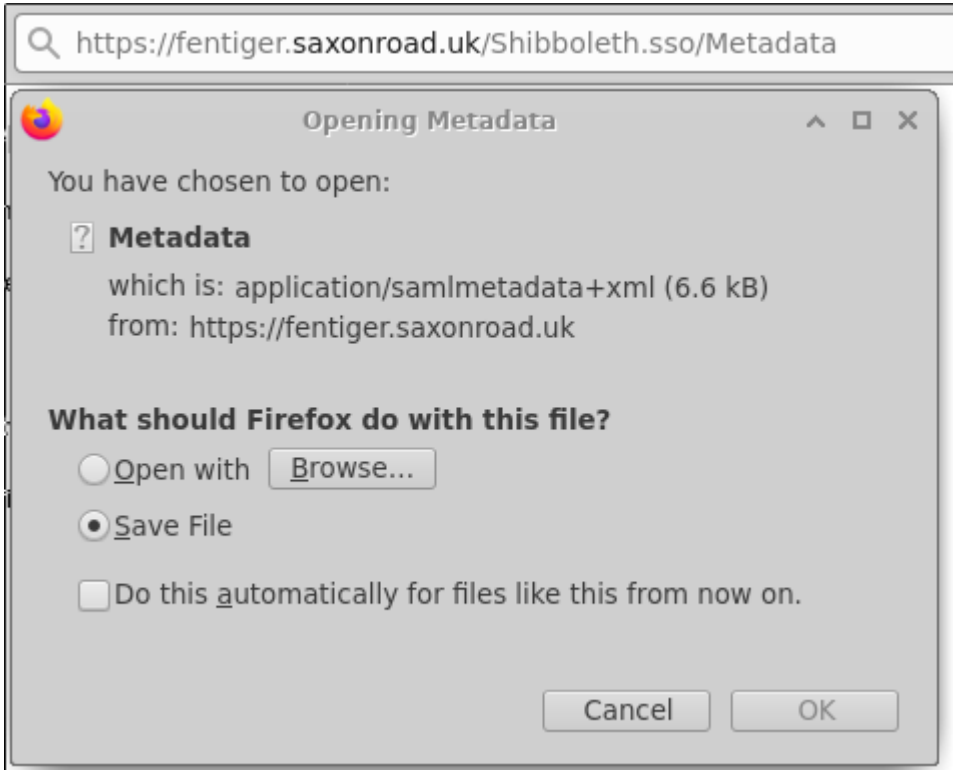
Raven

- Raven protect – restrict access to your site to just cam.ac.uk logged in users
- Register your site at metadata.raven.cam.ac.uk
- Copy XML from our magic URL
- Add .htaccess rules to protect your site

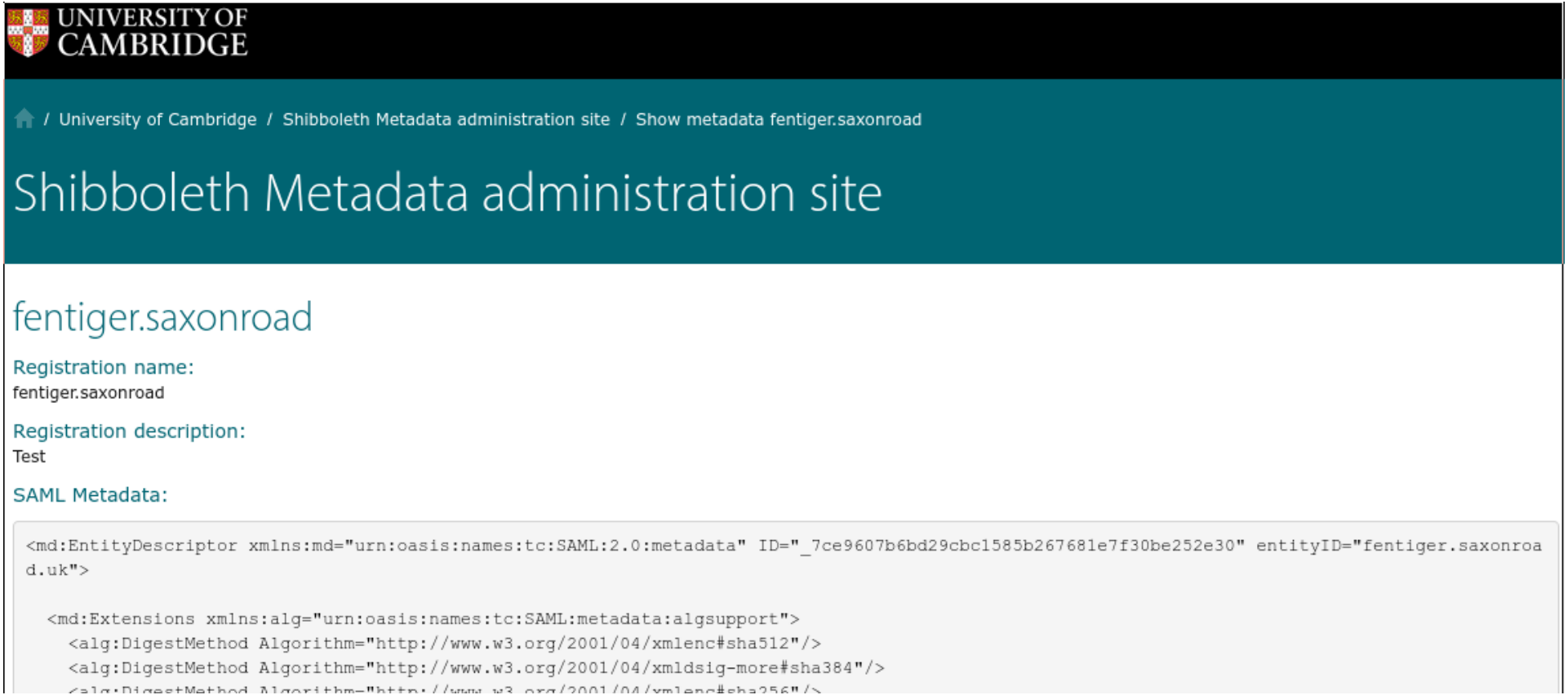
Raven protect



Raven protect

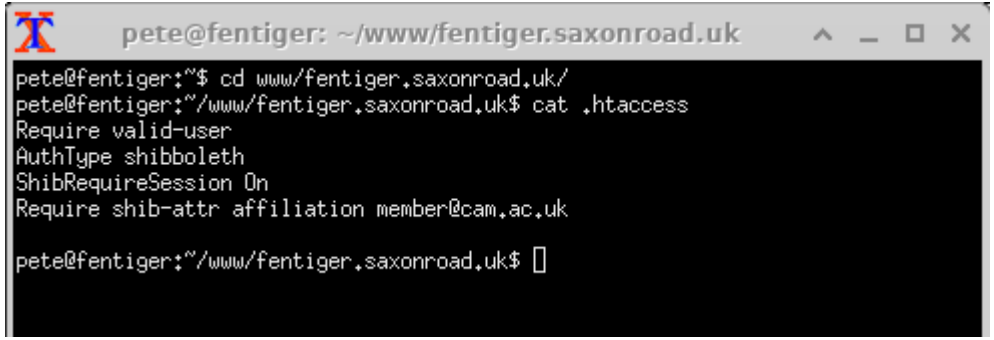


Raven protect



Raven protect

- Add .htaccess rules for directory and all subdirectories



Raven

- Virtual server
  - If managed we can set up Raven protection in the same way for you
  - Like our shared hosting service, only for SSL (free of charge via Let's Encrypt)
  - If not managed, https://docs.raven.cam.ac.uk/en/latest/

Questions?

- sales@mythic-beasts.com / support@mythic-beasts.com
- See what we're up to
  - https://twitter.com/Mythic_Beasts
  - https://www.mythic-beasts.com/blog/