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United States

Cologne, 2023-12-28

# Domain vehicles.com

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Thank you for ordering a Premium Appraisal from Sedo.

Attached for your review you will find a copy of the appraisal as a PDF document. To view the document, please note that you need to install the latest version of Adobe's Acrobat Reader. A free copy of this software is available at www.adobe.com.

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# APPRAISAL FOR VEHICLES.COM

## 1. Top-Level Domain

The Top-Level Domain (TLD) or domain extension (e.g., .com, .net, .co.uk, etc.) has considerable influence on the value of a domain name. However, not every TLD suits every term, nor does it suit every market or language.

The domain name vehicles.com is comprised of an English term and the universal .com top-level domain. This tends to positively influence the fair market value of the domain name. The .com TLD has come to be synonymous with business on the Internet. The .com TLD also carries a higher level of prestige, and reduces the risk of traffic diversion to other extensions. For these reasons, most businesses prefer to use a .com domain name for their online presence. In turn, this results in .com domain names having significantly higher values than domains with other TLDs. The .com domain has the advantage that it may not only be used in the Englishspeaking world, but in countries worldwide. This is particularly relevant in countries that have strict guidelines for the allocation of country code TLDs like France (.fr) or Norway (.no). The resulting international scarcity of quality .com names leads to fair market prices being considerably higher than domains paired with any of the other TLDs.

An important factor in the sale of any domain name is the status of other domain names that are phonetically related or that have similar spellings, for example a domain "family" consisting of names with related keywords, concepts or brands such as softwaresystems.com, softwaresystem.com, and software-systems.com.

Ideally, all related or comparable domain names should not only be registered but also forwarded to your main website or developed into interconnected mini-sites. Registration of your

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domain's related family indicates that demand for the keywords in this subject area is high and may mean that a potential buyer will have few suitable alternatives to the domain. The resulting scarcity can lead to higher than market value prices. Paired together for sale, a quality keyword domain and its closest related family of names can significantly increase the fair market value of a group.

A check of registered, comparable domain names reveals that most similar names have been registered and are either developed or forward their traffic to a developed site. This is an excellent indication that the domain's keyword space may have high commercial potential. Combined with the market scarcity created by the registration of related terms, this may have a positive impact on the domain's fair market value, provided that the terms contained in your domain are not confusingly similar to the trademarks and/or copyrights of third parties. Overlapping intellectual property rights can limit the scope of legitimate, permissible use of a domain, which may severely lower its fair market value.

#### Status of similar domain names

It should also be considered whether the domain is still available in the other important top-level domains (TLDs). The following availability is apparent here for the important TLDs:

vehicles.com - is already registered hicles.net - is already registered vehicles.org - is already registered ehicles.at - is already registered ehicles.co - is already registered ehicles.de - is already registered ehicles.biz - is for sale at Sedo.com vehicles.biz - is already registered vehicles.eu - is already registered vehicles.mobi - is already registered vehicles.co.uk - is already registered

## 2. Length and Retention

The domain name vehicles.com is relatively short, being

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comprised of 8 characters. With domains of 8 characters, however, you may not see a significant positive or negative impact in the domain's fair market value due to its length. Our research has shown that shorter domain names (from 2-7 letters) tend to demand the highest value, while domain names over 10 letters long are worth slightly less due to the increased chances Internet users will misspell or forget the domain. Long names of more than 20 letters may be even more cumbersome and prone to misspelling, and as such may only be worth a fraction of the value of a shorter domain.

The term comprising your domain is easy to remember, which may have a positive impact on your domain's fair market value. The easiest domain names to spell and remember tend to be those that consist of one or two short, common real words, or words and phrases from popular expression. Because "vehicles" is a common term, this domain is memorable to the general public and Internet users, resulting in less marketing effort needed to build brand awareness.

# 3. Linguistic and Phonological Suitability

From a linguistic perspective, the domain name vehicles.com is composed of a single, meaningful word in the English language. Due to the limited number of single, meaningful words in the English language, as well as the relatively advanced state of Internet development in English-speaking parts of the world, domains in this linguistic category may have a significantly higher than average fair market value.

# 4. Typing Error Sensitivity

Organizations often have a collection of domain names that they use together to establish their online presence. This is commonly referred to as a domain portfolio, and as a result, an organization should try to acquire all possible variations, spellings and combinations of its name and product lines. Not surprisingly, missing these variant domains in your online portfolio can cause a significant loss of traffic for your primary site. In practice, it has been our experience that organizations who only register one variation of a key domain (as opposed to registering as many spelling and TLD variations as possible)

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suffer a substantial loss of traffic to their site due to visitors failing to spell or remember the exact domain. The two primary reasons for traffic loss are typos and use of uncommon TLDs. To prevent the former, a domain should be easy to spell and be as short as possible. To prevent the latter, a domain should use the appropriate TLD for its target market. For example, a UK-based business should use the .co.uk extension and a German company a .de.

The domain name vehicles.com may be considered resistant to natural traffic loss as the term is relatively easy to spell and the TLD matches the language of the keyword. This may have a positive impact on the domain's fair market value.

#### 5. Legal Situation

Legal requirements, jurisdiction and third party rights may have a significant influence upon the registration, sale, and fair market value of domain names. Unlike real estate, which is regulated by local and state authorities, domain names are primarily regulated under the rules of the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN), a non-profit organization. While the current registrant of a domain may not have received any complaints related to their registration and use of the domain, future uses of the domain by current or future owners that impact a third party's rights can result in legal claims or the loss of the domain pursuant to an arbitration hearing under ICANN's Uniform Domain-Name Dispute-Resolution Policy (UDRP).

If the ownership status of a domain name is under dispute or likely to be disputed due to potential trademark conflicts or violations of applicable law, this will have a severe and negative impact upon the scope of potential legitimate uses of the domain, thereby affecting the domain's fair market value. Current and prospective owners of a domain should perform a search of any relevant trademark database before hosting content or making an offer to purchase in order to determine its scope of potential legitimate uses.

The domain name vehicles.com may be categorized as containing a generic or descriptive term, which is generally a positive factor affecting the domain's fair market value due to its potential scope of legitimate uses. Trademarks granted on

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generic terms are less restrictive than those granted on unique, non-dictionary terms, so depending on its use, generic domain names are generally less susceptible to ownership disputes arising from trademark conflict than domains which are composed of a term with a meaning primarily related to a trademark. Trademark law varies from country to country so current or prospective registrants should consider consulting a qualified trademark attorney to determine the scope of potential legitimate use of the domain to avoid future legal claims or UDRP complaint.

Famous trademarks, for example, including those comprises of dictionary terms, are often granted a wider protection than non-famous trademarks that may significantly impact the domain's scope of potential legitimate uses.

## 6. International Usage

A domain's suitability for international use, as determined by a wide geographic relevance, can be a valuable feature that may lead to a higher than average fair market value compared with domains only suited for one country or region. In this regard, both the language and TLD influence a domain's suitability for international use.

Due to its .com extension, vehicles.com is suitable for a wide range of international use. The .com extension is used in many countries around the world, especially where use of the local country TLD is restricted or less common, for example the use of .us in the United States. Use of the .com TLD may have significant effect on the fair market value of a domain name. Overall, domains with high international relevancy, such as .com domains, may have a significantly higher than average fair market value as compared with equivalent domains with limited international relevancy.

#### 7. Search Engine Popularity

The appearance of popular search terms, or "keywords", in domain names allows them to achieve higher positioning in search engine results. Search engine algorithms appear to give higher placement to domain names that contain popularly

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searched keywords. For example, upon entering the term "bicycle" into a search engine like Google or Yahoo, the results will contain many domains that include the term "bicycle". Some search engines appear to depend more heavily on keywords to determine relevancy, and so domain names may have a significant impact upon positioning within a given set of the results. Keeping with the example above, this would mean in practice that websites like "bicycle.com" and "bicycle.co.uk" will likely be positioned towards the top of results generated for the search query "bicycle".

To the best of our knowledge, it appears vehicles.com contains a highly popular search term. According to our analysis, a query of multiple search engines returns 1-10 million results for the term "vehicles". This degree of popularity suggests that the domain is search engine relevant, and overall, search engine-relevant domains with significantly popular search terms may have a higher than average fair market value as compared with equivalent domains containing less popular search terms.

## 8. Branding and Advertising Potential

In our experience it is wise for a web-based organization to utilize at least two types of domains to capture domain traffic for their website: domains matching keywords relevant to their goods or services, and domains matching their brand or trade names. The former helps attract Internet users searching for information on the related keywords, while the latter helps ensure that current customers find your organization's front door. Both types of names can also be used to convert other forms of advertising that can be tracked for effectiveness. Although opinions vary as to what makes a good brand name, many experts suggest considering the memorability of a name, phonological characteristics, and ease of spelling. Different terms also evoke different meanings, and your use of the term would have to be safe from infringing the rights of a third party, so a trademark search is always smart.

Traditionally, significant marketing investment would be necessary to establish a brand around the term contained in a

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weak domain. Domain names featuring brandable characteristics and benefiting from a wide scope of potential legitimate use may have a higher than average fair market value as compared with domains containing less brandable terms. However, excluding unique buyer motivations or unforeseen circumstances, merely brandable domains will demand a lower than average fair market value when compared with a real-word, search engine-relevant equivalent.

Our analysis of vehicles.com for brandable characteristics has determined that the domain appears to have good advertising and branding potential, especially in relation to phonological features and international usage. Generally, domains with strong brandable characteristics may have a higher than average fair market value as compared with equivalent domains containing less brandable features.

### 9. Market Chances

Upon analysis, we have determined that vehicles.com likely possesses the attributes of a domain with a high fair market value. With a modest investment promoting the domain for sale, there may be a good chance of receiving reasonable offers. Sellers hoping for a quick sale should take into account that in our experience, buyers of domains with similar characteristics prefer to avoid lengthy negotiation and prefer clear price expectations over open requests for offers.

## **10.** Commercial Potential

The potential benefits a domain name provides for helping promote online commerce in its relevant subject area are important factors in its fair market. This kind of evaluation begins by determining which industries fit the domain best. Next, the relevant industries must be gauged for their size, international reach, growth potential and reliance on the Internet. Finally, the domain should be a close match with keywords that are significant within these related industries. For example, the construction industry is a large, global industry, but very few construction firms have made significant investments in developing a robust Internet presence. Similarly, a domain name geared towards a non-profit or a

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purely informational site may attract considerable interest, but the potential to convert visitors into revenue limits the fair market value, since a buyer's ability to achieve a positive return on investment may be limited.

Upon analysis, we have determined that the commercial potential for vehicles.com is strong. It contains a keyword identifiable and relevant within an industry well-known for online business. This may be an indicator that the domain could significantly help offset keyword marketing expenses or is suitable for traffic monetization. Generally, domains with high commercial potential may have a higher than average fair market value as compared with equivalent domains with weaker commercial potential.

As mentioned above, a key component in the commercial potential of a domain name is the industry associated with the terms it contains. Some industries lend themselves better to the online world than others, and have a reputation for using the Internet to promote their products and services. As a result, it is our experience that domain names containing keywords popular with these web-savvy industries enjoy a higher than average fair market value as compared with equivalent domains representing industries still experimenting with the web.

According to our analysis, your domain name contains the search term vehicles, which may be an indicator of strong commercial potential. With an investment in marketing the domain, the term has potential as a website geared towards the selling of products and services.

#### **11**. Comparable Transactions

Comparable sales are one of the most reliable ways to determine a domain's fair market value on an open, public market. Here we have listed a variety of prior domain sales that we feel exhibit similar characteristics to vehicles.com. These domain names were chosen because they share one or more of the following: 1) extension; 2) number of words; 3) approximate length of characters; and 4) comparable commercial potential. While strong indicators of fair market value, please remember that prior sales are not necessarily indicative of future sales potential and are for informational

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purposes only.

galaxy.com	1 800 000 USD 2021
freedom.com	2 000 000USD 2017
angel.com	2 000 000USD 2021
max.com	1 800 000 USD 2023
marketing.com	2 500 000USD 2021

The fact that domains similar to vehicles.com have been bought and sold on the open market is generally a positive indicator of the domain's fair market value and its chances of attracting a buyer if listed for sale. However, each transaction and the motivating factors of the buyers and sellers involved are unique meaning that these similar sales are not indicative that the domain will necessarily sell if listed.

# **12**. Estimated Fair Market Value

Based on our evaluation of publicly available factors and analysis of the domain's characteristics, we estimate the fair market value of vehicles.com is:

# 2 300 000 USD

Please note: this estimated fair market value figure is based in part on a system-based analysis of publicly available data and represents the value which we consider to be a fair price for both buyers and sellers on an open, public market. This estimate is subject to change based on unforeseen market conditions, unique buyer and seller motivations, and any legal limitations on legitimate use of the domain, whether due to intellectual property rights such as trademark law, the applicable laws of any relevant countries, or otherwise.

# Please remember that the evaluation refers to the

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domain name only and not the content of the site or the earnings generated from it.

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