CHEEKS FAMILY SYSTEM (CFS) – INTERNET DOMAINS

The **Internet Domains** are the foundation for the **Relational Database**, **Cheeks Family Website** and **Cheeks Family Mailing Lists**. The internet domains we own are:

- **Cheeks-Family.us**
  *This is the domain/URL for the production, released **Cheeks Family Website**. It is the URL (internet address) for the website you are currently using that is the gateway into the **Cheeks Family System**.*

- **Cheeks-Family.dev**
  *This is the primary domain/URL for all **Cheeks Family System** development, updates and testing. Once successfully tested, new development and updates are automatically moved to the released production domain, **Cheeks-Family.us**, that you will always access.*

- **Cheeks-Family.net**
  *This is the secondary domain/URL for **Cheeks Family System** development, updates and testing, where a separate set of that activity, in conjunction with the primary development domain, may be occurring.*

- **Cheeks-Family.org**
  The domain/website is for beta testing. Alpha testing is internal testing completed by the development team. Once alpha testing is completed successfully, the new/updated code is move to beta testing, performed by selected family members for their feedback. After successful beta testing, the new/updated code is staged for release to the production domain/website.

  If you access either of the development domains or the beta test domain, a header at the top of the home page *(index)* will be displayed informing you of your location. A link is provided in the header to allow you to transfer to the production domain/website.

- **Cheeks-Family.com**
  This is a parked, reserved domain. If you access this domain, a message will be displayed informing you of your location and automatically transferring you the production domain/website after ten (10) seconds.

The suffixes, **.us**, **.dev**, **.net**, **.org** and **.com** are "top-level domains" (TLDs) used to construct and register a full internet domain name. While there are many TLDs to choose from when selecting and registering an internet domain name, those five TLDs are among the most widely used when constructing and registering a full domain name.

Our "base" internet name, **Cheeks-Family**, has been registered with all five of those TLDs. This ensures that no other "Cheeks" family or group could register and use **Cheeks-Family** with any of those five TLDs.

If that occurred, it would possibly create confusion about what "Cheeks" family or group is being referenced.

You do not need to use the **www** prefix when specifying the URL for the website you want to access, **Cheeks-Family.us** and **www.Cheeks-Family.us** interchangeable, either can be used successfully. Most modern websites are configured to support either name format.

URLs are case-insensitive, which means capitalization or lack of, is ignored. For example, **Cheeks-Family.us** and **cheeks-family.us** are treated the same. I use some capitalization for readably.

Note: Why did I select the **.us** TLD for the pre-release/released **Cheeks Family Website** (Cheeks-Family.us) rather any one of the other TLDs that have been registered?

In general **.us** is one of what are considered "country-specific" TLDs where in that case **.us** would represent the United States. Examples of other "country specific" TLDs are **.fr** (France), **.ru** (Russia), **.es** (Spain)…

Since there is are no requirements for use of those TDLs, I selected **.us** to represent a "group" rather than a "country". And the group is our Cheeks family. "Us, the Cheeks family".