GNBlockWebsite

1   Purpose

Windows has an inbuilt capability to block certain websites by host name (e.g. sub.domain.com) or ip address.
The feature is surely only usable with administrator privileges for security.

But Windows and also not browsers do not make this important feature available as easy dialog for users without studied computer experiences.
Why is blocking important?
When you visit a page regularly and this page automatically opens unwanted pages it can be disturbing or even dangerous. In best case the unwanted page only displays advertisement but in worst case criminal pages try to catch you clicking anything on the page that then could install unwanted program or virus or trojan on your computer. Do not trust any message like "we found a virus on your computer click here to remove it" or any page that asks to insert your credit card, pin code etc.

Never click into such a page. Best is only to copy the address url from the browser and close the page only with functions of the browser.

This Windows application offers a dialog where you can copy and paste an unwanted web page url and block this host for future downloads by a click on a button.

Then the browser should get an error page like access denied instead of downloading from this host again.

gnblockwebsite is tested with Windows 7, Windows 8, Windows 10, Windows 11. It cannot be guaranteed to work with other systems.
When Windows Home S-mode is active then Windows does not allow to start this application.

DONATIONS
If you find our work very useful and would like to help us with extra donation you may use GNBlockWebsite application order and choose your price by changing the quantity to what you wanted to donate (already includes legal vat).

2   License

This program is commercially and can be tried without limits. If you find it useful we hope that you purchase a license where you can self choose a fair price by choosing the order count (1 Euro per count) incl. vat.
The program shows a dialog for entering a license key at start up and reminds you about registration at exit. The functions are same between demo and full version.
After ordering you would get one license key that can be copied at program start into the asking dialog. It will not ask again on this computer when the correct key is entered.

3   Usage
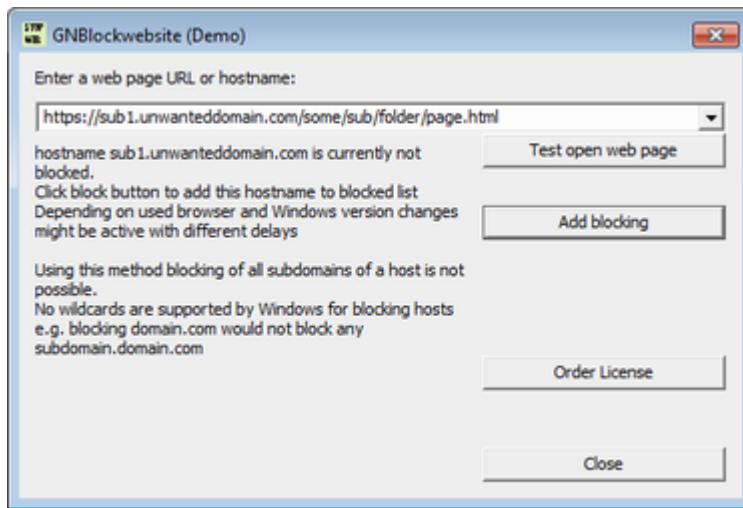
Starting the program
GNBlockWebsite requires administration privileges from Windows system since the block list read by Windows is protected by administrator account (changing the list is not possible for normal user rights).
Before GNBlockWebsite.exe runs Windows will therefore ask you the administrator password or 4 digits code. It will not start the application when wrong password or nothing entered.
GNBlockWebsite does not see what you enter (it is not yet started).

Enter a web page URL or host name
At top you see a combo box with drop down list and an edit field where a page URL can be entered (usually copy with Ctrl+A and paste with Ctrl+V)
copy the current URL from browser address row
 e.g. https://sub1.unwantedhost.com/some/folder/page.html

Hint: The combo list box shows which host names are currently blocked.

web page URLs
usually begin with a protocol like https://... or http://...
The host name follows and can use a sub domain name (e.g. sub1) and a domain name (unwantedhost) and a top level domain ending (e.g. com, uk ...) separated by dots and optionally port number starting with : (e.g. :8080).
Then follows optionally a folder path and a page filename and optionally url parameters starting with ? and in few cases also user account parameters when the page is restricted for certain users.

Hostname
is only the part subdomain.hostname.topleveldomainending e.g. sub1.unwantedhost.com

For blocking by Windows only the host name is important and automatically copied from your entered url.

Hint: Unfortunately Windows can only block exact host name and does not support wildcard matches like *.unwanteddomain.com

Hint: blocking unwanteddomain.com does not automatically block sub1.unwanteddomain.com
and reverse surely doesn't block either.

Add blocking
The text below automatically shows if the host name is already stored in the blocking list.
If not yet stored then use button Add blocking or simply <ENTER> key to add and store the host name in the blocking list.

Remove blocking
If the host name is already stored in the blocking list then the button Remove blocking is visible and could be used to remove it from the blocking list.

Test open web page
The entered URL will be opened by your default browser application.
It should open an error page "connection refused" instead of downloading the page content from this location.

Delay
with most browsers added blocked host names are very quickly handled as refused connection (e.g. Bing, Chrome).
There might be few browsers that notice the added blocking with some delay.

Order license
opens the order page where you can order a license for this product and use the order quantity for self choosing a fair price (e.g. order quantity 5 for 5 Euro incl. vat).

Close
In demo informs about registration and order page before exiting the program.

Edit Windows hosts file directly: Ctrl+D   (Strg+D in German)
opens Windows hosts file with notepad editor.
Hint: warning the file should only be modified if you know what you do. Syntax errors in the file could cause problems.

Undo all changes: Ctrl+Shift+ALT+Z   (Strg+Shift+ALT+Z in German)
This restores a backup of your blocking file from the state when gnblockwebsite application was started first time.
All changes to the blocking list (including manual changes without gnblockwebsite) are removed.