

WANT TO STAY CYBER-SAFE? KNOW YOUR URLS.





POP QUIZ

Which URL will lead you to eBranch?

Only one of these web addresses will lead you to the eBranch login screen. If you get stuck, use the hints on the right before checking your answers at the bottom of this infographic.

- A** <https://myebranch.iccu.com/authentication/>
- B** <https://iccu.myebranch.com/authentication/>
- C** bit.ly/2KEOXNx
- D** <https://myebranch.iccu.com/authentication/>
- E** <http://myebranch.iccu.com/authentication/>

HINTS

-  If a website uses subdomains, that subdomain will come directly before the domain.
-  Scammers often purposefully misspell domain names to get visitors to click on bad links.
-  Legitimate sites prefer to use secure protocols (or schemes) to protect visitors' data.
-  A shortened link can lead anywhere. Don't assume it will take you where it promises.

HARDER THAN YOU THOUGHT?

There's an easy fix.

If the URLs and hints barely sounded like English to you, you're on to something. Programmer-speak can be so complex that different coding styles are literally called languages.

Don't feel like learning an entirely new language to stay cyber-safe? We don't blame you. Use the following metaphor as an easy way to learn how each part of a URL functions.



Which house would you feel safest at?

Web addresses (or URLs) are like physical addresses. Just like your house has an address to help people find it, each webpage has a URL to help you find what you're looking for in the digital world.

Each address has a varying level of security, which means visiting certain addresses can make you more vulnerable than you'd like. While it's not cool to judge someone by their home, it's more than okay to judge a website by its URL.







THE ANATOMY OF A URL

protocol://subdomain.domain.tld/subdirectory/

<https://myebranch.iccu.com/Authentication>



-  **Domain**
Like a house, a domain is the location you're trying to navigate to.
-  **Protocol**
Like your front door, a protocol is how you enter the site. Some entryways (like HTTPS) are better protected than others (like HTTP).
-  **Subdomain**
Like a room in a house, a subdomain is a specific section of a site. Not all URLs have subdomains.
-  **Subdirectory**
Like the furniture in your room, a subdirectory gives you specific details about what you'll see on the website.

THE CORRECT ANSWER

Plus why the others are wrong.

- A** This URL has an extra 'c' in iccu.com. If you clicked this link, you wouldn't be going to your favorite credit union's site — you'd be going to iccu.com.
- B** In this URL, the subdomain and domain are switched. If you clicked this link, you would go to myebranch.com, a site NOT owned by ICCU.
- C** Who knows where this shortened link goes? Sure, it could *technically* be iccu.com, but it's best not to take the chance. If you are sent a shortened link, hover over it to see what the true URL is.
- D** Ding ding ding! This URL is correct. It uses the secure protocol HTTPS, has no typos, and is organized correctly (subdomain then domain).
- E** Odds are this URL will take you to an error page or buffer for eternity. ICCU uses the protocol HTTPS, not HTTP like this fake address.