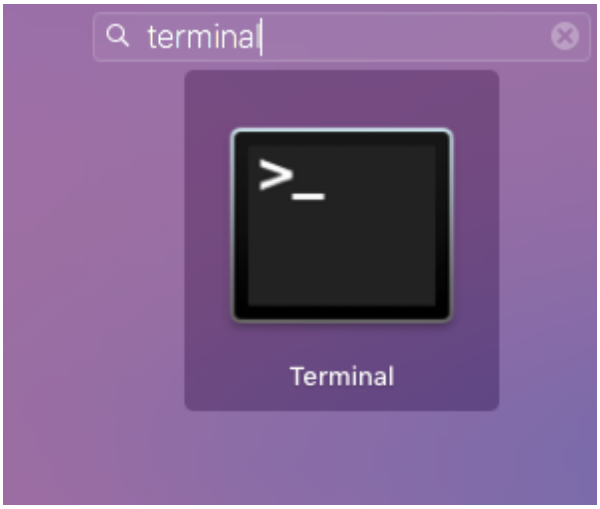
# Preview a site before it resolves using the Mac Hosts file

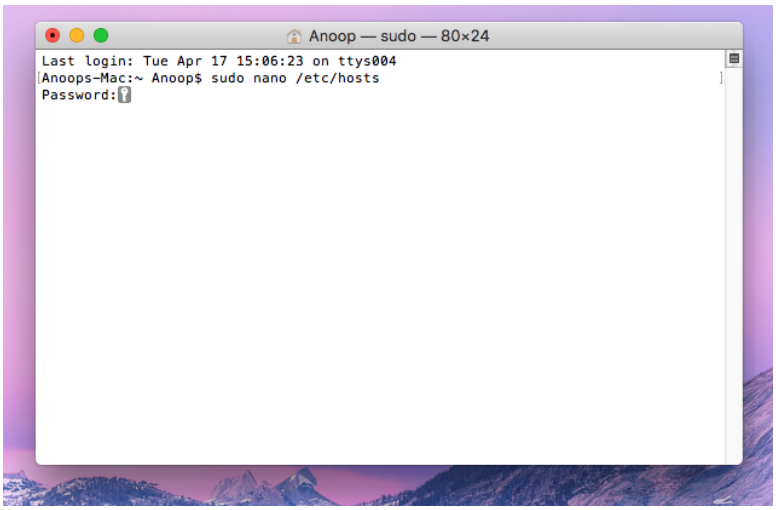
If you cannot access the site using the temporary IP address, you can modify your Mac OS hosts file instead.

**Step 1**
Launch the Terminal app. You can find the Terminal app under the Utilities folder in Applications. You can also find it using the Spotlight function.

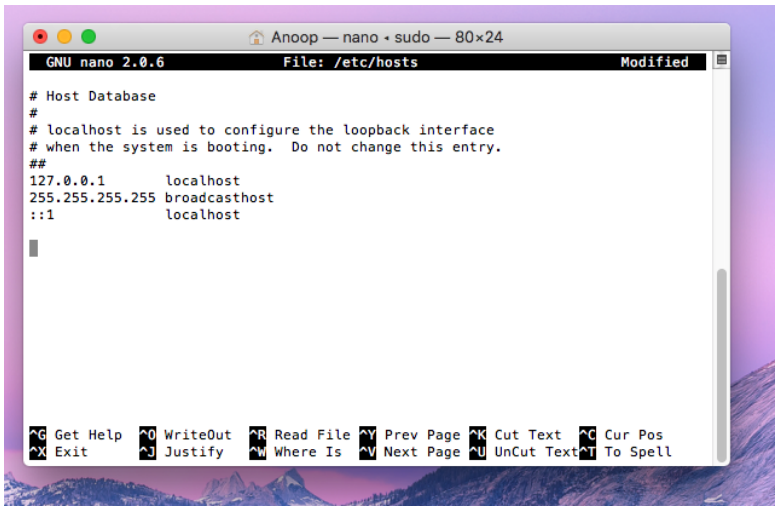



**Step 2**
Once the Terminal app is open, type the following command and press enter. You'll be prompted for your Administrator password:

*sudo nano /etc/hosts*



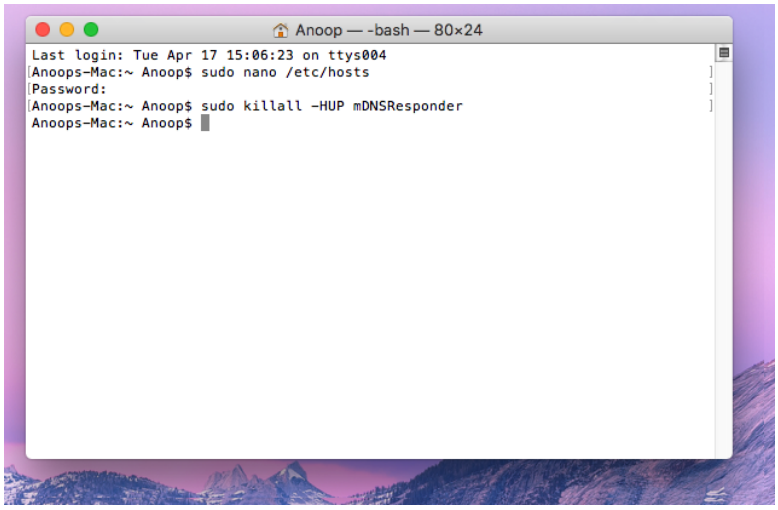

**Step 3**
The Nano text editor will appear with the content of the /etc/hosts file within it. Use your arrow keys to place your cursor at the end of the file. You can now type the IP address of where you want the domain to resolve to, followed by the tab key, and finally, enter the domain name.




**Step 4**
Once you have finished editing, hold down the **control** and **o** keys to save the file. Now you can exit Nano by pressing **control** and **x**. This will bring you back to the terminal command prompt.

**Step 5**
Finally, we need to flush the DNS cache using the following command and press enter

*sudo killall -HUP mDNSResponder*




**IMPORTANT: Don't forget you have edited the hosts file. At some point, you'll want to come back and undo the changes made here.**

## *Related articles*

- Run a traceroute on Windows XP/Vista/7/8/10/11 and MacOS
- Operating System Tools and Browsers
- Edit the global php.ini file in Mac OSX
- Preview a site before it resolves using the Mac Hosts file
- Preview a site before it resolves using the Windows Hosts file