Why get a domain name now?

Knowing what your site will be called will save you a lot of trouble.

There are so many things that are made easier, once you have a domain name to work with. These include valid SSL certificates, Maven groupIds, directories, hostnames, URLs for applications, etc. You can save yourself a lot of headache by purchasing a domain name for all of your systems, even if they are just learning projects, so you know better the names you choose, you can have valid SSL certificates in your applications, and you can make your work public on the Internet if you want to.

Where is a good place to buy a domain name?

Try gandi.net.

There at gandi.net, you can find pretty good deals on domain names: https://shop.gandi.net/en/domain/suggest

What do I do once I purchased my domain name?

Manage your DNS records

Once you have a domain name, you can start integrating it into your systems. You can ask your home Internet service provider for a static IP address, which might cost around \$10 a month. To me, it is totally worth it, so that you can create your own SSL certificates for free, and start using more powerful applications requiring SSL like Red Hat SSO. Also allowing OpenShift to run with SSL so that you no longer have to accept self-signed certificates. You can create DNS A records that point your domain to your static IP address.