

# What is hosting?

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Hosting is the home of your website. Web Hosting is basically a server computer where your website files are living. When someone types your domain name, their computer points to the server, downloads the website files and display the website

There are different types of hosting: Shared Hosting, Reseller Hosting, Virtual Private Servers (VPS) and Dedicated Servers.

## Shared Hosting

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Basically explains itself in the name, you're sharing your hosting with others. Varies based on the web host but there may be as many as hundreds or thousands of other websites hosted on the same server as yours. It's the most economic way to start a website.

- **Pros**

- You can hosting at a affordable cost, anywhere from \$2 a month to \$10 a month;

- **Cons**

- Resources: When you're sharing the host with other thousands of other websites, and everyone is sharing the same RAM and processor;
  - It's sounds bad, but hosting platforms have a way to compartmentalize resources and make sure that there's not a hog website, using up all the power, but it's still a limitation;
  - For example: You're own an eCommerce store and you get a spike traffic from a Black Friday sale, this scenario are not handled well by shared hosting
- Malicious Attacks: Like a Denial-of-Service Attack (DoS). But that doesn't mean that your website is hacked if someone else's site on your hosting gets hacked, and this is because the separate and compartmentalize hosting accounts to stop that from happening.

- But if someone website gets attacked and that attack affects the server and not just the website, this means that your website is going down, because of the server is not working;

If you're running a casual blog or small business website, the shared hosting is worth it, it's available, offered by almost every hosting company, and highly affordable.

## Virtual Private Server

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A VPS acts like its own isolated server, but it's shared with other virtual private servers on a single physical hardware server. This doesn't mean that it is shared, like a Shared Hosting, because VPS take the separate resources a step further, giving dedicated resources (X amount of RAM and CPU). So with a VPS, while you're still sharing a server, you're guaranteed the resources you're paying for.

VPS beats the two downsides of Shared Hosting, you can have significantly more server resources and can be easily scalable (you can upgrade or downgrade your RAM or disk space with a click). So in the Black Friday scenario, you can upgrade your VPS for a day that can handle the traffic.

And if someone took down another VPS that's on the same server as yours, this doesn't affect yours, since it's treated as an entirely separate computer, so they need to attack your specific server.

When you own a VPS, you can do whatever you want with it, you make the rules.

- **Cons**
  - Massive Headache: it's a challenge to manage a VPS. Typically, you'd have to get your hands dirty and mess with command lines; But with a managed VPS, you just have a convenient panel but you get a leverage the big power advantages of a VPS, and it's more expensive than an unmanaged VPS, but can be worth it depending on your needs;

## Dedicated Server

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It's simple to understand, basically take all the advantages of a VPS but now visualize yourself having an entire physical server to yourself. It can be the most powerful option because you're not sharing it with anyone, but you can't upgrade or downgrade like a VPS. And it's very expensive.

## References

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[What Is Web Hosting? Explained - YouTube](#)

[Different Types of Web Hosting Explained! | Shared Hosting vs. VPS Hosting vs. Dedicated Server - YouTube](#)