

A Beginner's Guide to Web Hosting and How It Works

Introduction

Getting your website online requires web hosting, but what exactly is web hosting and how does it work? This beginner's guide will explain the basics of web hosting in straightforward terms.

- Definition - what web hosting is.
- How web hosting works.
- Types of hosting services (shared, VPS, dedicated, cloud).
- Key terminology and concepts.
- Factors to consider when choosing a host.
- Steps for signing up for web hosting.

What is Web Hosting?

- Web hosting provides servers where websites are stored and accessible 24/7.
- Allows your site files to be delivered to visitors' browsers.
- Gives you disk space for site data and bandwidth for traffic.

How Web Hosting Works

Your files are stored on remote servers maintained by the host.

- DNS points your domain name to the host's servers.
- When visitors request pages, the host's servers return site data.

Types of Hosting

- Shared - websites share server resources with other sites.
- VPS - allocated guaranteed resources on a virtual private server.
- Dedicated - single tenant physical server.
- Cloud - highly scalable resources across virtualized hardware.

Key Terminology

- Bandwidth - amount of data transferred.
- Disk space - storage for files and databases.
- Uptime - percentage of time servers are accessible.

Choosing a Host

Consider bandwidth needs, uptime record, customer support, costs, server locations when picking a host.

Signing Up for Hosting

- Research and pick a hosting provider.
- Purchase a hosting plan.
- Point your domain to assigned nameservers.
- Upload site files via FTP or control panel.

Conclusion

Understanding hosting helps you choose a provider tailored for your site's needs and get your site online.