

Web Service Providers

A web service provider (or an ISP) provides storage space on preconfigured servers, called web servers, and bandwidth to host web sites.

ISPs also provide scripts and tools to rapidly build, deploy and manage online applications.

Application Service Provider (ASP)

This is a third party entity, it manages and distributes web based services and solutions to customers on the internet from a centralized data center.

Compared to an ISP, an ASP provides a complete and customized web based service.

An ISP provides the web server storage space and bandwidth to host web sites for a fee. In addition to storage space and bandwidth, an ASP provides messaging services, such as e-mail service, scheduling and Personal Information Management (PIM) services and telephony service.

* An ASP provides advanced web service and database connectivity, which includes the creation of custom CGI applications.

An ASP can support Enterprise Resource Planning [ERP], which enables you to automate the planning and operation of an organization.

Costs

* The costs of an ASP depend on the services rendered. The cost of database connectivity depends on the amount of database support you require.

You may have to pay a per-service cost, depending on the additional service used. In addition, you may have to pay the ASP to monitor your bandwidth usage.

* The costs associated with an ASP include customer support, which includes customer services, such as hiring, training and maintenance costs.

* An ASP provides security to your web based application. The cost of this depends on how much security you want. The ASP's application ~~team~~ development team can provide

custom applications, depending on your requirement.

Hosting options

The three hosting options for web based applications are

- A) Co-location
- B) Co-hosting
- C) Virtual server

Co-location

In co-location, service providers allocate space for equipment that enables you to host a web-based application.

You need to provide the hardware required for the server, and the server provider provides the space and bandwidth required for the server.

The advantage of co-location is that you have control over your own hardware. You have server resources dedicated to meet your requirements. You can decide on the hardware and software configuration that you require to host the web based application.

to trouble shoot hardware and software problems, a service provider provides fee based support. You need to check the hardware and software to find out if there are any problems. You must secure your server against hacker attacks.

○ This hosting is expensive because you have to support your own server hardware and software configuration.

CO-HOSTING.

○ In CO-HOSTING, a service provider gives you access to a dedicated preconfigured server that it owns. This reduces the cost of launching a web based application, and so the time required to launch a web site. The service providers configure the server and allow you to upload files. Therefore you don't require any server configuration knowledge.

The drawback of co-hosting is that there is a limitation to server resources and services. The level of customer support may be limited to

aws foundations

T4 (V)

reduce long wait times when offering customer service. In situation where you have total control over the dedicated host, you are required to provide security for the web server

Virtual server

- * In the virtual server option, a single web server supports your web site and several other web sites of other clients

Hosting websites through a virtual server reduces the cost and time required in the deployment of web-based applications. In this hosting option, the web service is configured and running. Therefore, you are required to upload your application files.

- * The disadvantage of virtual server is that you depend on the web service provider's server configuration. The service provider has total control over the web server and its functions, whereas you control the web files that are hosted.

* (Virtual servers centre)

The security of your web based applications depend on the level of security provided by your service provider

* To host a web page, you can either configure your own hosting solution or use the services of a service provider.

In a self-configured web server, you control the web services and server configurations. However, you need to acquire the necessary hardware and software.

This delays the launch of your website, and puts the onus of securing the web server on you.

* The advantages of using ~~a~~^{the} services provided by an ISP or an ASP include access to a configured server, with no additional hardware or software requirements.

In addition, An ASP provides complete service and custom solutions. However, this results in increased cost of hosting, dependency on their security service, and limited choice of configuration.

* To use the services provided by the ISP or an ASP, you need to provide information to them.

You need to specify the potential amount of traffic, hard disk space required, the database connectivity and maintenance requirements, CGI requirements, and additional services, such as configuring custom applications that you will need.

* Before finalizing on the service provider, you should negotiate the services and costs involved in hosting your web site.

You should discuss the payment plan requirements such as a downpayment and other terms, and you should also negotiate for discounts.

You should negotiate with the officials who have the authority to do so.

* When negotiating, you should specify your service requirements, such as storage space, bandwidth, and website maintenance.

You should also provide information about your organization type, such as educational institution, customer support, or non profit organization.

This enables you to negotiate on various terms and conditions.

* You require information from the service provider to update your files.

The a/c information includes un/pws of all a/c's associated with the server.

You also require the IP addresses and DNS names of the server, so that you can upload files and troubleshoot any network problems in the future.

* you also need to know the names of the directory location where you will upload your web-site files.

To resolve the issues related to connection and accessing of service, you should also obtain the helpdesk telephone number, email address and fax number.
