Task 1: Cloud/Hosting Solution Review

The two main options for a local bakery wanting to launch an online store for placing orders etc would be a traditional shared web hosting (like GoDaddy) or using a cloud platform (like Amazon Web Services or Microsoft Azure) but each option offers different thing, and which might be better for a small business.

Cost  
Shared hosting is usually the cheaper and more straightforward option. Services like GoDaddy often charge a flat monthly fee — around £7.99 to £14.99 — which covers the basics like a website, domain name, and SSL certificate. Cloud platforms like AWS and Azure work differently. They use a pay-as-you-go model, so your bill depends on how much storage, traffic, and computing power you use. This can start out cheap, but if your site gets busy, the costs can jump quickly.

Scalability  
If the bakery gets really popular and lots of people visit the site at once (for example, during a holiday period), cloud hosting handles this much better. Cloud services can automatically add more resources to keep everything running smoothly. Shared hosting, however, has limits — your website shares space with others on the same server. If there’s too much traffic, the site might slow down or even crash.

Ease of Setup  
Shared hosting is much easier to set up, especially for someone without tech experience. Platforms like GoDaddy offer user-friendly dashboards and one-click installs for things like WordPress, so you can get online pretty quickly. Cloud services are more technical and require some knowledge to set up. AWS does have tools like Lightsail to make things easier, but it’s still not as beginner-friendly.

Maintenance and Updates  
With shared hosting, the hosting provider takes care of server updates, security patches, and other technical stuff. You can mostly just focus on running your website. With cloud platforms, you’re usually responsible for maintaining everything yourself — unless you pay extra for managed services.

What’s Best for a Small Bakery?  
For a small, local business like a bakery, shared hosting is probably the better choice. It’s cheaper, simpler to use, and you don’t have to worry about technical maintenance. Unless the bakery plans to grow fast or has someone with tech skills on hand, shared hosting should cover everything they need.

References

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