Web Hosting

For our backend and front end we decided to use SiteGround as our host. The reason we decided to use SiteGround is because it offers a free year subscription to DePaul students. It is extremely simple to setup and you can install any popular CMS you want on it including WordPress, Drupal, and in our case Joomla.

SiteGround has servers in Chicago, London, Amsterdam, Milan and Singapore as these are the locations which host all the data for SiteGround.

SiteGround is partners with Joomla so they have their Joomla servers optimized. They built their infrastructure on SSD hardware and they also have a unique caching solution for all their plans including PHP7, HTTP/2 and free CDN.

SSD drives provide an increase of 1000x compared to regular drives, which helps everything load faster and run smoother. SiteGround also has a NGINX web server technology to speed up and load of the static content of all the websites they host. Anyone who deals with working with websites knows the importance of Caching. SiteGround has Geeky SuperCacher which is a NGINZ reverse proxy. It speeds dynamic content of the sites and allows for website speed optimization through memchached and google page speed.

There is also free CDN which means data will load faster regardless of where your located. It will automatically deliver the content through the data center which is closest to the user. HTTP/2 is also available. This is the newest network protocol. SiteGround is one of the first hosts to offer it on all its servers. Encrypts free SSL certificates.

We had an issues with our https and http and this might be one of the reasons why. Security wise as well the Joomla has built in JHackGuard to protect against hackers and custom firewall rules.

Joomla has cPanel integration so we get access to MYSQL databases. We used phpMyAdmin to configure and edit our databases. All this already comes preinstalled with SiteGround. This is why it’s extremely convenient and we didn’t have to do any backend work as far as actually setting up our server and database and worrying about storage, etc.

We also decided to go with Joomla and not something like WordPress because it is less blog oriented and seemed like a better choice. Either one could have worked. Both of these platforms have many similarities while at the same time having significant differences.

At the end of the day everything worked out well for us as far as the backend and frontend and SiteGround made it extremely easy without us having to do it ourselves.