TO: Pueblo West Amateur Radio Club

FROM: Bobby Akins, WD0FBW

Subject: Moving our website to a commercial web service

At the 9 March 2013 meeting of the PWARC, I was asked to prepare a report/recommendation on moving our current web services from our current "free" web provider to a commercial web provider. My immediate recommendation is that we move to a commercial provider such as www.GoDaddy.com. But, this recommendation requires explanation.

First, our current web services are provided by www.qsl.net and they are "free", but not really. This site is owned and operated by private individuals that work on a volunteer basis. Because of the voluntary nature, technical support could possibly be sporadic and perhaps technically incorrect so a failure of their server farm would have an immediate effect on all users.

 Secondly, the "free" services are not free. The site requests a donations to defray operating costs and in all fairness, $15.00 a month is not unreasonable resulting in $180.00 per year. Presently, the club is not making donations. Bill, WA0KAQ, while he was webmaster was making private donations for the club.

Third, basic web service is all we get. They do sponsor mailing lists, which each person has to join, and provide a rudimentary email redirect service.

With the above in mind, if the club is happy with current services then my recommendation is that we continue as we are with one exception. That exception is that the club needs to start making a monthly donation of at least $15.00 to www.qsl.net.

As I stated above, my immediate recommendation is that we move to a commercial provider such as www.GoDaddy.com. The prime reasons for this are that we would have web security (security state on current web site is unknown), and that technical support is available 24/7 with service failure possibility near zero.

Will it cost? Yes. Will it be worth the move? My opinion is yes, but I am not funding it so if the club as a whole does not feel it is worth the continuing investment then we should continue as is, but once again we should start contributing to our current hosting site.

How much will it cost? Actually, if the club starts supporting our "free" service then the actual costs of a commercial service will be less than the free.

Bobby E. Akins, WD0FBW

Webmaster www.qsl.net/na0pw

Attachment 1: A quick overview of how the web works

How do you get to a web page? To understand this you need to know two terms; DNS hosting and web hosting.

- **Dynamic Name Service(DNS) Hosting**
    - Every device on the world wide web (WWW) has to have an address that is known and can be found.
    - DNS is the address service to locate devices.
    - When you type a site you want into your browser such as www.qsl.net the DNS service tells your computer how to find and load the site information.

- **Web Hosting**
    - Every site that presents data on the WWW has to be "hosted" by a provider. Look at this as a resting place for the site waiting for someone to request information from it.

- **How it works**
    - You open your browser
    - You type in the site you wish to go to
    - When you hit "Return" your computer sends a request to DNS and DNS then returns the known address of the site you want to your browser
    - Your browser then sends a request to the site to open communications
    - The site opens communications with your browser and presents data that you can read.

Attachment 2: Benefits of using commercial services

- Security for the web site and information contained.
- 24/7 technical support
- Near zero possibility of site failure
- Extended capabilities
- Data collection and maintenance on operations
- Potential to get sponsors that are willing to provide financial assistance to the club in exchange for advertising snippets.
- One of the capabilities presented for consideration is a "members-only" section. Accomplishing this takes two separate steps. First, a back end database must be created that contains all the passwords or members data that will be connected. Second, a front end web page must be created that initiates access to the members only area under control of the back end database. If we are going to use this capability then we will need to set up a password recovery capability through both the database and the initiating browser page. These are complicated programming tasks and capabilities not available through our current web site.
- Another capability is a visitor log. Again, this is a fairly complicated programming task and is also not available with our current site.

Attachment 3: Costs

Review your current order

Item	Term	Unit Price	Total
NA0PW.ORG .ORG Domain Registration ⦿ Public ○ Private **$7.99/yr! SAVE $2.00!** Why Private?	5 Years ▾ ☐ Upgrade to 10-yr registration! Why?	$8.99/yr Reg. $16.99/yr	**$44.97** Delete

Domains matching NA0PW.ORG Details

ON SALE! NA0PW.CO $29.99 $6.99 - Add
ON SALE! NA0PW.NET $14.99 $6.99 - Add
ON SALE! NA0PW.INFO $11.99 $1.99 - Add

Add All

Item	Term	Unit Price	Total
Economy Web Hosting Linux Change	2 Years ▾	$35.88/yr Reg. $64.68/yr	**$71.76** Delete

ICANN Fees: $0.90

Do you have a promo, source code or referral code? Click here

Total: **$117.63**

Your total savings: $111.98

Your personal and financial information is safe with us.

TRUSTe CERTIFIED PRIVACY   GODADDY.COM® VERIFIED & SECURED   VERIFY SECURITY ®

Your total is:
$117.63
Total savings: $111.98

☐ **Round up for Charity. Check this box and we'll donate $0.37 to the charity of your choice.** Details

Checkout

Keep Shopping