

Introduction in Hosting

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Overview

- A web hosting company is one that rents out space on their server for a monthly fee.
- A web host is a company with several computers that are connected to the internet at all times.
- These servers are assigned IP addresses so that they may be found by other computers connected to the internet.
- To run a web site you need access to a server, and although you could operate your own server, it is usually easier and more convenient to use a third party.
- Web hosting servers cost money to set up properly, configure and maintain, therefore web hosts must charge for their usage.



Choosing web hosting service

- Different options are available for signing up with a web hosting company
- Online businesses should be very careful when choosing a web hosting service as it is crucial to the success of that business.
- So be careful when choosing a web hosting company as many feature a lot of bells and whistles to entice new customers.
- And choosing the right kind of web hosting service can be a challenging task



Types Of Web Hosting

- There are three main categories of web hosting
 - Shared Hosting
 - Dedicated Server Hosting
 - Colocated Server Hosting



Shared Hosting

- Your site is given a section of a server, which is shared with other web sites. This is the most common type of hosting, and the most affordable.
- It is often referred to as 'virtual' or 'budget' hosting.



Dedicated Server Hosting

- The next stage up. You rent an entire server for your site.
- This gives you more control over your web space. It also tends to be more reliable, holds more content, and can handle more bandwidth than shared hosting.
- Predictably, it is also more expensive.



Colocated Server Hosting

- The most advanced level of hosting
 - this is where you own the server and the hosting company simply provides the maintenance for it.
- You have full and complete control of your server.



Finding Your Hosting Company

- Your first step should be to establish what you need from a hosting company.
- Make a list of what you must have, what it would be useful to have, and lastly what it would be nice to have. Consider.....



Establish Your Requirements

- How much space you need?
- What bandwidth you'll require?
- Do you need E-mail aliases?
- Do you need URL redirects?
- Do you need Web mail?
- Do you need Autoresponders?
- Degree of Reliability, Security and Speed
 - The presence of these three components can make or break the success of you site. A host that is not reliable can cause your site to be unavailable or not updated in time, which will cause you to lose visitors. Speed will also cause visitors to leave your site. You also want to make sure that you will be well protected from intruders, especially if you have an e-commerce site.

Obtain a List of Hosting Companies

- There's lots of sites out there that will help you to find possible hosting companies, but to start you off, here's a few suggestions.
 - www.hostcompare.com
 - www.whoishostingthis.com
 - www.findwebspace.com
 - www.google.com



Narrow Down List

- Once you have your list of possible hosting companies cross off any duplicates that are immediately obvious.
- Next, get rid of any companies whose web sites do not look professional or up-to-date.



Features

- Check out what features the hosting company provides.
 Look for:
 - 99.9% uptime guarantee
 - High level of bandwidth
 - 24 hour support
 - 30 day money back guarantee



Meeting Requirements

- Dig out that must have/should have/be nice to have list you drew up earlier. How does each company compare?
- Cross off any company that does not meet the criteria in your 'must have' section.



Control Systems

- What happens if your hosting company has a power cut? Do they have an independent power supply? What protection do they have against viruses, fire or power surges? Do they carry out regular backups?
- If these points are not mentioned on their site, then ask!



Response Time

- The next step is to check the response time of the remaining companies.
- Write them an e-mail, perhaps asking about their control systems, and cross off any who do not respond within 24 hours.



Digging a Bit Deeper

- When you're down to your last few companies, ask them for a list of customers who have web sites similar to yours. E-mail these customers and ask for their opinions of their host's services.
- Read any customer reviews available and look around for articles on web hosting.



Summary

- Decide on your requirements
- Draw up a list of possible companies
- Remove unsuitable/inferior companies
- Check the companies can meet your needs
- Research remaining possibilities
- Make your choice!



Home work

- Compare Web hosting services
 - Godaddy vs HostGator
 - HostGator vs BlueHost
 - BlueHost vs PowWeb
- Mark your preferable hosting company





Thank You

