What should people look for in a web hosting company?

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Yeah, so, when it comes to web hosting, there's a lot of different kinds of hosts that you can choose from. So, I think it's important to figure out what the different kinds are first. So, the most common kinds of a web host are shared hosting, virtual private hosting, and dedicated hosting. And there's more beyond that, but those are the most common.

And when you have those three different types, I like to relate them to how you think of renting space, say, in an apartment.

So, when you have a shared host, what you're really dealing with is you're renting a bed, say, in a hostel, with other people living in the same room with you. So, your resources aren't necessarily defined. You're sharing the resources with people in that room. And so, the kind of web application or website that you would run on shared hosting would use very limited resources. And as soon as you become too rowdy and use too much resources, they kick you out of the hostel, and so shared hosting tends to be, like, less than $20 a month.

Virtual private hosting is more like renting a room in an apartment complex. So, you have your own unit. You have your own resources essentially dedicated to you. And you have control over what happens inside of your apartment. But again, you're still part of a larger building, which is the server, that's not owned by you. In that situation, you can have, you know, more powerful web applications running on it because now you know exactly how much resources is assigned to you. And the host won't necessarily kick you out, but they may charge you for using more resources.

The third kind of, you know, hosting you can purchase is dedicated. So, that's where maybe you're renting a whole single-family house to yourself. No one else is in the house. So, that's equivalent to owning the server yourself. You still don't own the house. Like, there is an owner, but you have full rights over it. And in that case, it's the most expensive because they're dedicating a whole machine just to your website.

When it comes to web hosting, you also make your choice based on the amount of traffic you anticipate coming to your website. So, what does traffic mean? It means the number of visitors coming.

So, if you are, you know, a real estate agent and you only anticipate having maybe a

few visitors a month or maybe one hundred visitors a month, then you can easily get by with something like a shared host, where you're in that one hostel, because you don't need a lot of resources. But if you're like Time.com and you expect, you know, thousands of visitors an hour, then you're going to need dedicated hosting. And so, the amount of traffic that comes to your application determines, you know, your choice of web hosts.

The other concern that you'll have in web hosting is: What kind of regulatory restraints are you under and what kind of security restraints are you under? And usually, that's imposed either by your client or by the organization that you're working for. In terms of regulatory constraints, one example is called HIPAA, and it deals with, you know, health insurance and health insurance private information. And in that situation, you can't just pick whichever host you want because you need to have a host that's specialized to dealing with that kind of regulation, which means more configuration for that host and more expense.

On the security side, you might have to deal with, say, building a website for a bank. And maybe you're not building the actual banking part of it, but you're building the front end of it, so what the consumer sees when they visit the site before they log in. That still has all kinds of regulations in terms of the requirements of security from the organization, and that will be more expensive.

Finally, the other concern you'll have when you're choosing a web host is: Is it best tailored for your application? So, for example, if you're dealing with a Drupal CMS, which is a type of platform to build a website in, you might want to decide to go with, say, Acquia because they're designed specifically for dealing with Drupal installations. Or, say, if you're dealing with a WordPress installation, you might want to consider WP Engine because they are a host that deals specifically with that type of application. So, there's special tools built into the servers to deal with those applications.