

Website Hosting

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Now that you have realized that you need a website for your business and you have started to create it, you are going to need a place to host your website.

You may be wondering what it means to “host” a website. Well, just like the name implies, web hosting is a service offered by many companies on the internet. These companies sell space in which to house your website. These spaces are usually connected to a main internet artery so that it will be available to the largest number of users possible on the internet.

As mentioned earlier, there are a number of companies that offer webhosting. Upon deciding on a website domain name, you will need to purchase that domain name. Often, the company that you purchase that name through will offer web hosting at a discounted price. Generally, this will be basic webhosting, which can start as low as \$10. However, there are a number of factors that can determine cost for webhosting.

When selecting a web host, a few factors should be taken into account in order to get the right hosting package for your specific needs. The first factor that will need to be considered is how much space your website will require. There are packages available that will actually limit the amount of data that can be accessed from your page. Each webpage will have a data size. For this example, let’s say that your webpage is 1 megabyte in size. If your webhosting provider offers a 1000 megabyte per month transfer limit, the 1001 person who attempts to view your page in any given month may not be able to see any of the material on your webpage. In this scenario, it is important to keep in mind the amount of data storage on the site. Once pictures, sound and downloadable files are added, the size of a webpage adds up quickly. If this is the case, you will need to find a host that will allow for a higher per month transfer limit.

A second factor to consider when choosing a web host, is e-commerce. If you plan to offer a store on your site, a database of some sort with programming language support will most likely be required. Deciding if you need a database and what kind will be determined by either your web designer or in the documentation that comes with your web design program.

Another factor to think about is whether you need to have email with your webpage. Email is generally an add-on feature that can be purchased with your domain name. Often, you will be able to choose a number of email accounts in order to meet your business and personal needs. Purchasing email accounts with your domain name allows you have email addresses that correlate with your web address. This adds a sense of professionalism to your business. Nothing sounds worse than running your business on a Yahoo or Gmail email account.

Lastly, it is extremely important to find out whether your webhosting service is backing up your data and offers virus, fraud, and possibly spam protection. These protective measures will give you piece of mind that your important data and hard work won't be lost.

Once you have selected a web host and uploaded your created webpage, the world can then be exposed to your business. This exposure will enable you to start growing your business' web presence.