

## Choose Your Web Host

Without a good web host, all the hard work you have put into your website will have been wasted. Make sure you know what to look for when choosing!

### HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR WEB HOST

#### 1. What is a web host?

- 1.1 Stores your website on a computer
- 1.2 Receives requests from visitors' computers
- 1.3 Sends visitors to your website

#### 2. First, decide what your hosting requirements are:

##### *Bandwidth (volume of data transfer)*

- \* How much traffic are you expecting?
- \* Most websites will only need low bandwidth
- \* Websites with a lot of large files (e.g. videos) may need more

##### *Disk space*

- \* How much space do you need for your website files?
- \* Most websites will only need a small amount of space
- \* Websites with a lot of large files (e.g. videos) will need more

##### *Server Side Language*

- \* Your website may be written using a specific coding language
- \* What coding language are you/ your web developer going to use?

##### *Functionality*

\* What specific features does your website require? e.g. mailing lists, databases, email forwarding, secure servers

#### 3. Now you can choose one of 3 types of hosting

##### *Shared server hosting*

- \* Many clients using one shared server
- \* Suitable for small to medium-bandwidth websites
- \* Ideal for new websites

##### *Virtual private hosting*

- \* Partitioning a server into several virtual servers
- \* For higher bandwidth websites

##### *Dedicated server hosting*

- \* One server per website
- \* For large websites that require very high bandwidth

#### 4. Now decide which hosting features are important to you

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### 5. Support

- \* Are there guaranteed response times?
- \* 24 hours a day, 365 days a year?
- \* What is the process to get a human response? – Avoid web hosts with multiple layers of automated responses
- \* If you prefer speaking to someone, do they have a phone helpline?

### 6. Server uptime

- \* Do they guarantee a high percentage of uptime?

### 7. Price

- \* Are there monthly or yearly fees?
- \* Are there hidden fees?
- \* Cheaper not always best, but not always worst either

### 8. Geographic location

- \* Less important, but better if the server is close to your target market to maximize response times

### 9. What about free web hosting?

### 10. Free Hosting?

- \* Usually supported by advertisements
- \* May suffer from poor server uptime
- \* May have reduced bandwidth
- \* Non-existent customer support
- \* No grounds for complaints

### 11. How to make the final choice

### 12. Read testimonials and reviews

- \* While not always reliable, these can give you an idea about quality

### 13. Visit websites hosted by the company

- \* Test the website response times (but bear in mind bad web design can also slow a website's response time)
- \* Contact the website owner for their opinion

### 14. Take a trial

- \* Look for a money-back guarantee
- \* Try out the web host for a period

15. *Without a good web host, your website will suffer. Choose carefully, and start with a basic plan – you can easily upgrade later.*

16. *You've now seen how to choose a web host. This is the sixth step in the process of good website design.*

17. *Need Help? Ask the experts at guiding you through website development.*

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You can also check the reference [here](#) [1].

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### Links

[1] <http://www.realfreewebsites.com/articles/how-to-choose-your-web-host/>

[2] [http://theingots.org/community/how\\_to\\_build\\_website\\_using\\_Google\\_sites/#website\\_plan](http://theingots.org/community/how_to_build_website_using_Google_sites/#website_plan)