How to Choose a Web Host

Use this checklist to speed up your web hosting selection process.

Performance

- ☐ Server reliability (uptime > 99.9%)?
- ☐ Good hosting response speed?
- ☐ Full SSD/NVMe storage?
- ☐ Reasonable limitations on server resources?
- ☐ Data center location close to your site visitors?
- ☐ Higher hosting options (VPS / Cloud / Dedicated) available?
- ☐ Support latest network protocol (HTTP/2 or HTTP/3)?
- ☐ Support auto scaling feature?
- ☐ Load balancing feature included?
- ☐ Global CDN included?

Security

- ☐ Daily site backup & self-help recovery?
- ☐ Install SSL for free easily?
- ☐ Support sFTP and SSH access?
- ☐ Two-factor authentication (2FA) login supported?
- ☐ Automated software patching?
- ☐ Web application firewall (WAF) included?
- ☐ Auto malware scanning?
- ☐ DDoS protection?
- ☐ Mail spam protection?

Pricing

- ☐ Signup discount for new customers?
- ☐ Acceptable renewal rates (after first term)?
- ☐ Minimum of 30-days free trial?

Customer Support

- ☐ 24x7 live chat support?
- ☐ Specific technical (WordPress / Nginx / etc) expertise support available?
- ☐ Free website migration assistance for new signups?
- ☐ Server configuration assistance available for managed hosting account?
- ☐ Comprehensive self-help knowledge base available?

Others (If Relevant)

- ☐ Web design services available?
- ☐ Digital marketing (SEO/SEM/SSM) service available?
- ☐ Sufficient number of addon and parked domains allowed?
- ☐ Support email hosting?
- ☐ Auto software / applications installer?
- ☐ Staging tools available?
- ☐ Support Git-access?
- ☐ Support WP-CLI?
- ☐ Special development environment / programming available?
- ☐ Any major outage / hack incidents in the past 12 months?

Shortlisted Web Hosting Providers

1. ……………………………………………………………………………
2. ……………………………………………………………………………
3. ……………………………………………………………………………

HostScore