

Four Tips for Choosing the Best Web Host

Whether you want to create a website for fun or for profit, you will need to find a reliable web host to support your site. While you shouldn't spend a fortune each month in hosting fees, you should expect to get what you pay for. But cost shouldn't be the only variable when it comes to choosing a host. Understanding what you need from a web host and visiting different host websites to see what they have to offer will give you some good information on which to make your choice. Below are four tips that can make this decision a little easier. **Check Out Different Web Hosting Packages:** Because your needs will be different from a large corporations needs or a medium sized business' needs, many web hosts offer packages for small, medium and large businesses. When comparing packages, you will notice that the major differences are cost, amount of data transfer and disk space available, number of email addresses offered, and amount of bandwidth you will receive each month. If you're planning to upload lots of pictures, video or other media that takes up more space than text, you should determine how much space you'll need before choosing a web host. **Quality Control Panel:** A good web host makes it as easy as possible for customers to upload files, manage email accounts, review site statistics and manage FTP accounts. Learn as much as you can about the control panel before choosing a web host. Learn which site statistics will be available so you can adequately monitor all marketing campaigns and incoming traffic. Lastly, make sure you can contact customer service at any time if you're experiencing problems. **Moving Your Domain Name:** If you're moving from one web host to another, keep in mind that you may have to pay to move your domain name. While some hosts offer to do this for you for free, others do not and will charge you for registration. When reviewing monthly fees and billing options, find out exactly what's included in these fees. If you don't have a domain name, you will have to register one in order to claim a web address so no one else can use it. Some web hosts include the domain registration fee in their monthly fees, while others charge service fees. Because your domain name needs to be renewed each year, find out who will be paying the renewal fee as well. **Customer Service** If you can't get in contact with your web host if you're site goes down, there is very little you can do except wait until the site is up and running again. Choosing a web host that provides excellent customer service 24/7 via phone, live chat, email and tutorials found on their website can make downtime seem less frustrating. Since you're paying for their services, you should expect their customer service department to be efficient and easily accessible. Now that you know more about what to look for in a web host, you should be able to make an informed decision that will enable you to choose the very best hosting services for your website.

About the Author

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