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# Before You Buy Hosting

Putting together a website can be scary, especially if you are new to web development and projects like it. Doing a project all by yourself is really scary. You might even feel that you are risking something important when you try to build your own site. It is important to practice caution when deciding who gets to access certain information and find out certain facts about you. Choosing a good web hosting company is the best way to ensure that your development project gets off on the right foot. Of course, knowing what you need to do is one thing but how do you know which hosting company to choose?

Spend some time doing research. There are lots of different hosting companies on the internet who all offer lots of different types of hosting packages. Choose some of the companies that seem like they make good offers and learn all about those companies. It is important to use offline research as well as online research as you investigate the companies. Try to find user reviews. Investigate the business practices of each company that interests you. Learning "too much" about each of your chosen companies is not an option. Remember, these are companies that will potentially have access to your bank account and private information!

Ask tons of questions. You need to make actual contact with every one of the companies that you might choose for your hosting. Ask to talk to a customer service agent on staff. Forget using any company that won't let you talk to a real person! You shouldn't trust a company that won't let you speak to live customer service agents over the phone or in person. If a hosting company is legitimate it will provide you with a way to contact a live employee and allow you and that employee to have an impromptu conversation-if this is not provided the company is probably just another internet scam. Even small companies should have at least one person you can talk to. If you cannot make actual contact with a live person be very careful!

Check out the day to day business practices of the company. Big companies are almost always registered with business bureaus. Do some checking into the company's physical location-make sure that the headquarters listed on the company site is registered with that city and state. Find out if the company is listed within the Better Business Bureau. Be wary of any company with a list of negative comments after its name within this listing. Tread carefully around any hosting company that is not registered with its city or state. Even people who operate independently are required to register themselves with their city and state. Don't give any money to a company that cannot be verified with the legal authorities.

Making sure that your web hosting company is safe and not trying to scam you takes some time and effort. It is better to be too careful than to get taken advantage of. Asking too many questions is simply not possible. Keep in mind that you will be paying this company to provide you with a service. You should remember to be very careful about who you give your personal information to. It would be terrible for you to trust someone who turned out to be scam artists. Identity thieves and other scammers are just waiting to take advantage of someone naive. It is absolutely impossible to tread too carefully.

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