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Find Hosting for Your Forum

Selecting the right host for the forum can be a difficult time selecting the perfect host for you online forum, many adverts would indicate they provide the best service but do they? Quite often a host provides good service at first only for things to become poor. This may come from servers being sold to too many people, quality of service becoming poorer or having to wait a while for answers. These occurrences can cause a person to look for a new hosting provider.

The way to avoid this predicament is to get quality information and to know the basics about web hosting clearly. This guide will attempt to take you through the paces so that choosing the right web host for your forum becomes an easy proposition for you.

Web hosting and simple facts

An online presence has never been more important and this makes having the right web host vital as a poor choice can ruin some sites. There are many reasons that will impact on your choice such as selling items on your site, having an individual site or passing data efficiently amongst work colleagues around the globe. Making the right choice is very important and price and value can't be your only choices, you need to evaluate quality and links and connections too.

Now that you have a little bit of idea about the basics, we can move on to the methods and strategies you can use to identify the best web host for your requirements.

What follows next is a list of companies who can provide forum hosting help. All of these companies provide forums and can do so very well with regards to cost and efficiency.

Leading Web Hosting Companies that support Forums (Arranged alphabetically)

1. Hostgator - www.hostgator.com
2. Hostpapa - www.hostpapa.com
3. Powweb - www.powweb.com
4. Hostpapa - www.hostpapa.com
5. Hostpapa - www.hostpapa.com
6. Powweb - www.powweb.com
7. ServerPronto - www.serverpronto.com
8. Hostmonster - www.hostmonster.com

Even when you have a list of best web hosts (for your particular purpose) to choose from, you still may need answers to a number of questions so that you can make the final call. These would mostly be questions relating to your own requirements e.g., the amount of storage space that you would need, or the bandwidth amount that would be just right for you.

For forums, there is a rule of thumb. You generally need about 50 GB bandwidth monthly and around 10 GB of storage space. Again, these figures are for average sized forums and may vary on a case by case basis. If you have a forum where users discuss software problems, you would not need too much space, since they would use only a limited number of images. The situation would change dramatically if the forum in question is one where the users discuss the latest car models. Here, images would consume a lot of space and your requirements would thus increase significantly. Generally, your web hosting provider would guide you based on your needs, and you can choose a hosting plan accordingly.

Aim for stability

It is not a good experience to move your website from host to host. This can cause downtime and a number of detrimental effects to your business. This is why stability is vital. Finding a reliable and established host is a must. Ensure you do a lot of research and know the industry well. If something seems not right, then leave it alone.

Cost

This is of course a deciding factor for a number of people. How much money you need to pay primarily depends on your storage space and bandwidth requirements. Hosting is usually sold in packages based on a combination of these three options:

Hosting that is shared

Dedicated Hosting

Having a virtual server that is private to you

The choice you make should be based on budget and key requirements.

Some of these options are discussed in more depth here:

Shared Hosting - In this option, the server is owned by the web host and is rented out in parts to a number of people. This is the most economical option if budget is your primary concern. But your performance may suffer since the various sites on the server keep competing for the server's resources on a continuous basis. This may result in your site running slow and you may also suffer outages.

Shared Hosting - The host owns the server and rents the service out to many people. This is the cheapest option but quality can suffer if too many people make demands on the server. This can see sites running slowly or note that are out a lot of the time.

Virtual Private Server - this is like a combination of the two options above. Although you share a Virtual Private Server (VPS), the server resources are divided up in such a manner that you get dedicated resources and do not have to compete for them continuously. This option gives you the best of both worlds.

Service

Service should always be a key issue in choosing which host to work with. A reliable hosting service will always offer reliable service and strong technical support. Many people prefer to work with a popular host but this may have drawbacks. A popular host will have many clients and this may make a huge drain on their time or server. If the host has too many customers, your website may be slow through no fault of your

Always find out what level of support is on offer from your host. Perhaps you can find existing or previous clients for an opinion on the firm. The following questions may help you make a better choice.

Will they provide a speedy solution to problems?

How good are the solutions provided?

Are the technicians always on call?

Are holiday periods and out-of-work hours catered for?

How responsive are they on email?

Is fixing problems a priority or do they offer excuses as to why they have not offered a solution?

Solutions offered to these questions will give you a better idea of what host is right for you.

Conclusion

Searching for a good web hosting provider can be quite a daunting task, but the above guide will help you in your efforts considerably. Just remember one thing - choosing a web hosting provider is like getting married divorce is a messy affair you'd rather not go through! Look around, do your research well, and then take a final decision after weighing all the pros and cons.

About the author: William MacMahon is a professional blogger and server admin in the [web hosting](#) industry. Visit [WebHostingMadness.com](#) to join him on his search for the [top hosting companies](#) each month.

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