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Webhosting: A Guide

To expand the field of your business world, setting up a website for making your business a part of the online world of business, is definitely an aspect of paramount significance. Having consolidated the foundation, you; fancy of having a domain name and then follow the idea of finding web hosting for the purpose of the website you're going to have. Primarily, you start thinking about the suitable web hosting that can help you. So, let me begin with the ABC of this world of web hosting.

Can you define web hosting?

Although getting the domain name may be the first consideration, consideration has to be offered to the ability to what a website really is. Basically, the images, texts and graphics that a person sees on their screen is a bunch of file that are combined by a code consisting of HTML. Having compiled your files, they need to be stored somewhere to enable people, as long as they have access to the internet, to see the site. This is where the web host comes in and it can be described as space rented on a server. The role of the web server is to allow a computer to obtain the files that have been stored. Another task is that it provides the requested files to a computer which can then display the website. This delivering makes the name server akin to a waiter who serves the public in a restaurant.

There are many services that are provided by a web server. It has the ability to display files to other people surfing the internet and it can provide further uses. These may include offering the ability to generate email accounts and addresses that are relevant to the domain name which will allow the sending and receiving of emails. In addition to this provision, the ability to make and control databases, show moving images and a number of other options are provided to the user. It does not matter about the computer as the software is what is important in making a server.

As it is a service being provided, there is a fee for purchasing a web host and this money goes towards the general upkeep and maintenance of the software and hardware of the server. This payment is also used to keep the server online, to ensure it is held securely and that a rapid internet connection is maintained. Payment also goes towards paying for the person who maintains this service. It may be possible for the user to do it all themselves but having a dedicated provider do the tasks for you is usually a better idea for most people. Yes, this incurs a charge but it can be worthwhile providing the person does it in reliable form.

Varieties of Web Hosting

Shared Hosting- Although there are websites such as Yahoo! which are able to provide access for everyone on the internet, it is more common for a site to have a narrower target market, which means they don't require an almost infinite amount of pages. This means that the complete services of a web server is not required by the majority of web sites. It is said that in excess of 95% of the websites that are available are hosted on shared hosting sites. This is where more than a single website is held on a specific server and this method costs less than a dedicated hosting service. This is due to the fact that it spreads resources and costs over a number of different users. The reduction in cost is a reason for its popularity and shared, or virtual, hosting allows every client to have an agreed proportion of the resources available on the server. Depending on how much resources are being used, with respect to number of email accounts, amount of disk space being used, size of bandwidth, the price will vary accordingly.

Dedicated Hosting- When you feel the need of having lots of visitors for your big website or you think about dominating resources or feel antipathy towards sharing the server with anyone else who might crash it, you need a web server that is entirely dedicated to you. So, dedicated hosting is all about renting the service of an entire server. Ownership of machine and responsibility for maintaining the hardware and the web hosting software still remains in the realm of the web hosting company but you gain control over the configuration and use of the server. Semi-dedicated hosting is another interesting term where a web server extends service to 2-4 clients with a strong line of demarcation between them. This is also treated as managed hosting for here hosting company maintains the server. Having clarified all the ins and outs, it goes without saying that dedicated hosting is more expensive than shared hosting.

Server Co-Location- If you must have complete control of your server and domain the option to buy one and

control it yourself is an option. However, as tempting as this sounds, it may still be unable to prevent server problems such as power outages, losing power due to leaks, suffering from thieves and break ins, employees who do not know what to do and many other unforeseen difficulties. There may be difficulties in maintaining your server on an internet speedy connection but this is where a data center can provide assistance. You may want to look for a Co-location which is where a physical and secure place for your server is rented, with continual power and a speedy connection. In this situation the user retains responsibility for maintaining the hardware and software and the data center does not get involved in this issue. If the user has the knowledge, ability and time to maintain their web server, then this facility can be more beneficial and priced better than a dedicated hosting service.

UNIX Hosting- Different kinds of web hosting have already been discussed. But, to put it in the right way, one has to say that it is the variants of UNIX that the large share of web servers run on. Basically brought forth by the universities for servers and networking, The UNIX operating system has got many other versions designed by the programmers with the aid of 'open-source protocol' allowing them to have the code for the operating system and make any kind of amendments. Linux and BSD (the popular ones) of UNIX system provide varieties like Red Hat Linux, Debian, SuSE, and FreeBSD. If you are a web host, UNIX hosting is cheaper and better than other operating systems as you can get hold of most of its versions for free. It cuts down the cost and lets them tender lower prices. UNIX hosting platforms, which endow you with software to accomplish most web programming applications, are thought to be stable, powerful and secure. With the advancement of technology, the term 'UNIX hosting' now denotes any platform derived from the original UNIX.

Windows Hosting- There are clearly many products developed by Microsoft and Windows Server 2003 is one of them. In order to operate this product, a license needs to be bought and this raises costs and increases prices. Even with this cost, this type of operating system supplied by Windows is not as powerful and is less secure than the UNIX version. Products such as ASP, ColdFusion or ASP.NET are extremely popular for a number of applications and can only be run on a server like Microsoft SQL Server or Access. If you wish to use these features there is a requirement to have a host who uses Windows.

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