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An introduction to website hosting

With the number of websites and blogs constantly on the rise, the need has grown for standard web hosting providers. It becomes difficult to get the best performance out of websites and blogs without proper hosting. Due to such demand, there is stiff competition among the web hosting service providers.

Among the various kinds of web hosting services, three web host types are the most popular. The first is shared or personal hosting, in which many webmasters share a single web server for operating a number of websites at the same time. The second type is Virtual Private Server, which is best for webmasters handling a large number of rapidly growing websites. The third type is dedicated server in which you get an entire server for taking care of your multiple functions.

How to choose the best website hosting providers?

With so many choices available, selecting the best of the web hosting companies is really a tough job. As stated earlier, the competition among different web hosting plans is really high. As a result, you might have to match both the service and the price while doing a comparative evaluation.

The most affordable option for creating a professional website is a budget web hosting provider, which gives you services at rates lower than \$10 a month. Apart from the price factor, you must also check out whether the features of the hosting provider are clearly defined and professionally listed. This is important because your website must have a professional look in order to make its online presence felt.

The accessibility of the hosting provider is yet another factor to concentrate upon. The best of website hosting providers have their own toll-free numbers where you can reach and get your queries entertained. There should also be alternative means of communication via phone and email. Easy accessibility calls for 24X7 support and contributes to the professional image of a hosting provider.

Reliability and guarantee—must-have features of hosting service providers

Always opt for a web hosting company that offers you a reliable guarantee. A guarantee often involves a full refund within a limited period if you are not satisfied with the service quality of the provider. In case the guarantee is not explicit, you must check out the terms and conditions of the provider thoroughly before buying it.

The best of the website hosting plans also offer uptime guarantees. This will give you an idea about the duration for which the server can actively serve your pages to the web. Companies offering 99% uptime guarantee are the best as they can keep your website mostly active. You can probe the reality of the uptime guarantee from the “Support” or “About Us” section that contains the information about what kind of server is being used by the company.

Some of the other features that standard web hosting providers usually offer include scripts for e-commerce purposes, multiple domains and email accounts and access to database. Specific marketing tools and after-sale support are the other top features.

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