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How to choose web host billing software. by Ed Rickles

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Web hosting is an extremely competitive field - mostly due to the fact that anyone can get into it. That is why the financial decisions of your company need to be monitored heavily. This article will give you a brief checklist of things you should look for before purchasing billing software for your web hosting company.

The first, and most important, thing that you should look for in web host billing software is that it meets the requirements of what your company wants to do (in this case: sell web hosting). Some questions you should ask yourself include: Does the software make it easy for customers to order web hosting? Does it include some kind of support system to make customer communication easy? Does it keep track of purchases? Is it simple and easy to use? These questions are entirely up to you and your business because only you know those needs.

A second factor is pricing. Does the software require monthly fees or is it one time pricing? Purchasing a product outright tends to be a smarter financial decision (especially for successful companies). Monthly fees could increase overtime and will ultimately cost more than a single payment. You also need to make sure that the software is set at a reasonable price and that the cost of the software is justified. Many companies will list their software at higher prices to give customers the illusion that the software is better than others. This is one tactic to look out for when making a purchase.

Another aspect to check is ownership - is the software a web based service or one that you can install on your own server? Both have their pros and cons. Web based services generally have automatic updates and are sometimes easier to use for inexperienced business owners. However web based services offer very little customization and it is often very hard to hide the logo or backlink of the billing system. If you're looking for complete control and customization over your software getting one that installs on your server is generally the best way to go.

Finally you should look for a web hosting script that has been around for a while. A company that offers software in its 3rd or 4th version tends to have most of the bugs and kinks removed compared to newly released software. This can save you a lot of time and frustration since you'll be less likely to need to contact the development team for help.

In closing, remember to consider these four aspects when purchasing web host billing software: Requirements, fair pricing, ownership, and stability. Following these simple things will make your purchase more worthwhile.

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