An Introduction What is Web Hosting

What is web hosting?

Web hosting simply means internet hosting that enables businesses and individuals to make their online presence in the form of a website, accessible to the public via internet.

A website needs two things to be hosted or to become accessible to everyone:

Web space: Website files, HTML codes, images and everything else is stored in this space. The heavier your website, the more is the space you require to store its content.

Bandwidth: In the web hosting industry, bandwidth refers to the amount of data that can be transferred to and from a server or a website. It is the allotted internet bandwidth that makes a website accessible to everyone online. The more the bandwidth, the better and faster is your network, connection and system. Bandwidth requirement is directly proportional to the number of visitors who visit a site. The more the number of visitors, the more is the bandwidth that's required.

The requirement of space and bandwidth is fulfilled by a web hosting provider. However, in addition to these two, the hosting provider also maintains the server, ensures website uptime and provides data security.

Types of hosting:

Depending upon your web space and bandwidth requirements, you can purchase the required hosting from three basic types of hosting available:

Shared Hosting: In this hosting, multiple accounts are hosted on the same server and the resources are also shared among them. It is best for small businesses, whose websites have low to moderate traffic and CPU needs.

It's like an apartment building, where you need to pay less amount, but you share the space with many other people. You also get affected if your neighbor decides to party as he and his visitors may create disturbance for you or may use up your parking space. Similarly, in shared hosting, if one user uses more bandwidth in case his site has more traffic, then your site may go down.

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Dedicated Server: In this hosting, the owner has the complete server and all the resources exclusively for himself. However, the convenience and solitude makes it the costliest option in hosting. It is ideal for large enterprises and those organizations, whose websites have heavy traffic and CPU needs.

It's like having your own home where you can live according to your convenience, but you will also have to bear the costs for its purchase and maintenance alone. Similarly, in dedicated hosting, you will have to pay more than any other type of hosting for availing server, bandwidth and resources all by yourself.

VPS Hosting: In this hosting, virtualization technology is used to partition a computer virtually into multiple servers. No physical partition is there, but because of virtual or software partition, each user is given much more privacy and security as compared to the shared hosting.

It's like living in a comfortable condo, where you get your own privacy, fewer neighbors and better space but you still share your walls and plot with others. The price for added space is obviously more than apartment housing, but is not as exorbitant as the cost of having your own home. Similarly, in VPS, you are less affected with busy websites and the cost is more than shared hosting and lesser than dedicated hosting.

VPS hosting also gives you the freedom to install whatever you want on the server. You can try any new programming language or deploy a custom Apache module. As you have the root access, you can make any changes using the remote desktop command line or remote desktop.

VPS hosting offers many more advantages than shared hosting and almost the same advantages as dedicated hosting. But in terms of price, VPS hosting is less expensive than dedicated hosting but more expensive than shared hosting.