2021

7 Easy Steps to Host Your Website

Every day, more businesses are going online and it seems to be very common to use web resources for all varieties of shopping and searching for the desired products and services. Even if you think that it is not really necessary to create a website, you would be wrong. Indeed, despite the fact that educational clubs, restaurants, hotels, and stores are well-developed in social networks, having a website is still important. It is especially important for e-commerce sites, to which you can connect a blog, social networks, comments systems, data collection, etc.

Building websites involves a huge amount of material. These are templates, illustrations, fonts, UI elements, logos, icons, infographics, etc.—and this is only the website design. There are also plugins that help connect translations, mega-menu, blog modules, visual effects, pop-ups, and more.

Once you have a ready-made website on the computer, you need to find a «home» for it on the Internet and place it there. At this stage, such notions as a web server, hosting, and domain appear. It can be difficult to understand this, especially if you are a beginner.

We have prepared an article with 7 simple steps to host a website. Sit back and relax as we explain to you how to do everything quickly and easily.

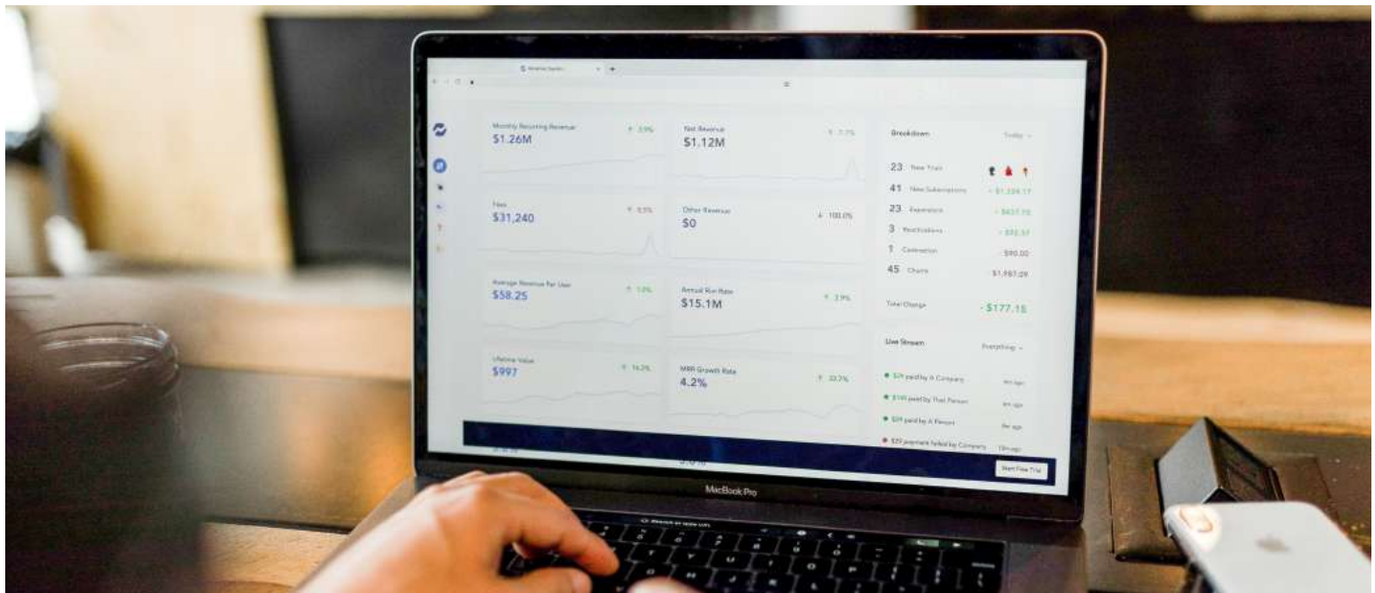
Step #1
Figure out the type and features of the website

Before starting to compare hosting types, you need to understand that even the most perfect product may not suit you. After all, a lot depends on the website.

- To start with, figure out what type of resource you will create. Different site types, such as WordPress, Shopify, or static HTML require different technical approaches to web hosting. Therefore, it's crucial to know what your site will be created on.
- Next, you need to make a complete list of technical requirements for the site. It is possible to build just about any site without much experience, but individual maintenance tasks require a different level of technical knowledge. Just as important are the technical tasks. If you are confident enough, you may solve such issues as maintaining your own server. If you are less sure, you probably want to find a full-service provider where they will do everything for you.

- The next thing to consider is the security level. Most sites require minimal protection, but there are certain types of sites whose security should be given special attention. If you will be processing credit card data, storing personal information, passwords, etc. you need to keep these users' information secure.
- You need to decide whether you want to host one site or several. If there will be multiple sites, will they be stored on subdomains or does each site need its own top-level domain type?
- The next logical point is the data volume. The bandwidth requirements to your host are not just about traffic, but also file size. The larger the file size, the more space and bandwidth your hosting needs.

Step #2
Take a look into the basic criteria for choosing the perfect hosting service



Let's start by defining what is behind the term “hosting.” Hosting is, in simple words, renting space to store files on the web server of a web hosting company. It is the space on which your website “lives.” You can put the files in the rented space, and the web will provide the content to users.

To choose the appropriate hosting, you need to know the main sets and qualities of its services. So, focus on the main criteria:

Reliability and access speed. This is extremely important. A site that doesn't have access will lose many visitors. It will fall down the list in the search engine.

Operating time. Hosting requires not only reliability and speed. It must guarantee its regular operation. The minimum up time is 99%.

Technical support. Reliable support is also of great importance. Indeed, the phrase 24/7 support is often just a trick. Check in advance how quickly the company answers. And besides the speed of action, make sure that they are technically literate. Also, not insignificant is the friendliness and how pleasant it is to communicate with a person from the support service.

Price. Be sure to find out how much it costs to be placed on the site. Don’t forget to check how much you can count on after the first payment. Often, companies will attract customers with cheap rates, and then increase the prices at times.

Hosting platform. Linux hosting is used for websites that don't run scripts and is more economical. Windows hosting is best for websites that need scripting and database support.

Reviews. Look at hosting overviews and read feedback because, despite having a high price, the product may have a low rating. Next, pay special attention to negative reviews and try to assess whether the described problems may occur with your site.

Usability. One of the most frequent sections of the hosting control panel is usually a file manager. The more convenient and functional it is, the better a solution it will be.

Step #3

Find out the types of hosting and the differences between them

Hosting stores all the pages of the website and makes them available to users. The main types of hosting include:

Shared-hosting. By far this is the most common and popular type of hosting. It is providing the server for the needs of many users. In other words, besides your site, on one such server, there may be dozens or even hundreds of other projects, each of which, accordingly, also gets its share of the total resource available. This type does not guarantee the stable operation of the resource, and it is suitable only for small projects. Most importantly, it is the most insecure type of hosting, but its popularity is due to its simplicity and low cost.

Virtual Dedicated Server. VDS is a type of hosting that involves the allocation of part of the remote server in a separate virtual machine for each client. It is suitable for medium and large Internet projects in terms of cost. Top advantages are independent installation of preferred software, full independence from other server clients, administrative access to the settings, and management of a dedicated virtual machine.

Colocation. This is when you place your own real server in a special data center. You pay only for rent space and get full control over the server: hardware, operating system, and software. This type of website

hosting is similar to the previous one. Among the advantages are full control, installation of any software, high level of security, etc.

Cloud-hosting. You get reliable and scalable hosting based on clustered servers with distributed load. In any cloud services, there are many options to suit your requirements. At any time, depending on your needs, you can increase all the required parameters (automatically or on demand) by using additional capacities of the “cloud.”

Dedicated server. If you choose this hosting type, you will have access to a separate remote server, which you can fully control on your own. The hosting company only monitors the state of the hardware. It is usually used for large-scale Internet projects. This type is popular because of its high level of security, and the fact that a separate server is under your complete control.

Step #4

Check out the pricing plans and buy hosting.

This is also an important aspect. If your budget does not allow for the use of expensive hosting, you will have to give up additional features. If you have a more flexible budget, you may get extra benefits from various bonuses. You do not need to know the exact figure you will spend on hosting, but you should have a rough idea. After you have done the previous steps, feel free to choose the most suitable hosting plan.

Here's what to consider besides price when choosing a web hosting plan:

- Technical skills. Figure out how much time it will take to get to know all the tools included in the plan.
- Upgrades. As your site grows, you may need to upgrade to another plan that includes, for example, more bandwidth or email capabilities. Take a look at whether there are improved options, how much more expensive they are, etc.

For your convenience, we list the top 10 hosting services with high ratings:

Bluehost

More About this Hosting

Hostinger

More About this Hosting Service

A2 Hosting

More About A2 Hosting

DreamHost

More About this Hosting Service

SiteGround

More About SiteGround

GoDaddy Hosting

More About this Hosting

GreenGeeks

More About this Hosting Service

InMotion Hosting
More About this Hosting

IONOS (1&1) Hosting
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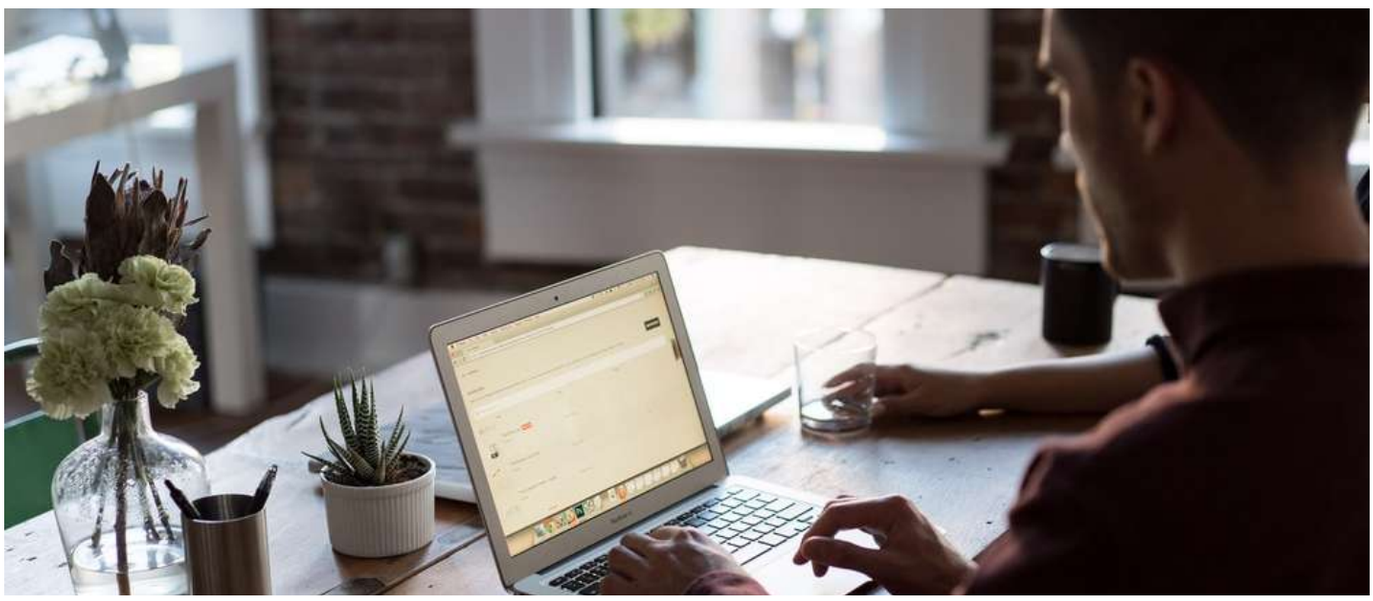
HostPapa
More About HostPapa

Step #5

Select a domain and register it



Before you host your site, you need to choose a suitable domain name. Domain is the website's name. The words “domain” and

“site” are often used interchangeably, although they have different meanings. A website is the web pages that are displayed on the Internet. Domain is the unique “address” of a site. Its type determines the reach of the target audience. For example, .COM, .ORG, .INFO or .BIZ domain name points to international resources. Additionally, the domain, as the unique address of the site, allows users to quickly find a resource in search engines.

After selecting a domain, it must be registered. On the order page you specify your contact information and select the term of domain registration — it depends on the domain zone. Thus, to register a domain means to rent it for a certain period of time. By renting a domain, you become its administrator. When the registration period expires, the domain will need to be renewed.

Step #6
Attach the domain to the hosting

Attaching a domain to hosting means to register DNS-servers for the domain. This establishes a connection between the site name and the IP address of the server hosting the site.

Domains are made up of letters and symbols. But the “machines” only understand the language of numbers. When you enter a domain name into a search box, DNS servers convert it to an IP address. Then they find the IP address of the server, and on it the site you are looking for, and send this information to the browser. Due to DNS-servers in search engines, the desired site is shown and users visit it.

The easiest way to register a domain is to buy a domain through your web hosting provider. That way, the domain is automatically linked to the web hosting account.

The domain name you choose should be unique to the purpose of your site and be something memorable.

To attach the domain to the hosting, you need to prescribe hosting DNS-servers automatically or manually. For this you will need to:

1. Specify hosting DNS for the domain.

2. Add the domain on the web hosting control panel.

To attach a domain to hosting without changing DNS-servers, you need to add or change two A-records with the IP-address for the domain on the current DNS-servers:

1. Find out the IP address of the site.

2. Write an A-record for the domain, containing the IP-address.

Step #7
Place the site on the hosting

There are a few ways you can host the site. The easiest way is to host the site through the hosting control panel. First, you need to upload the archive with the site files to the root directory and import the database (if there is one).

After placing the archive with the files, the site may not be available immediately. If you have previously assigned or changed DNS servers, wait until they are updated within 24 hours. The DNS servers will be updated and the site will appear on the Internet.

Having analyzed the listed types and characteristics of web hosting, you will be able to opt for one of them, guided solely by your needs and financial capabilities. If you are a novice webmaster, it is quite easy to use the usual form of virtual hosting to start, options which are now readily available on the Internet. If you need a platform for placement of a serious project, you should think about one of the more expensive and reliable solutions. The key thing is that now you know how to host the site on the Internet, and are able to do it easily.

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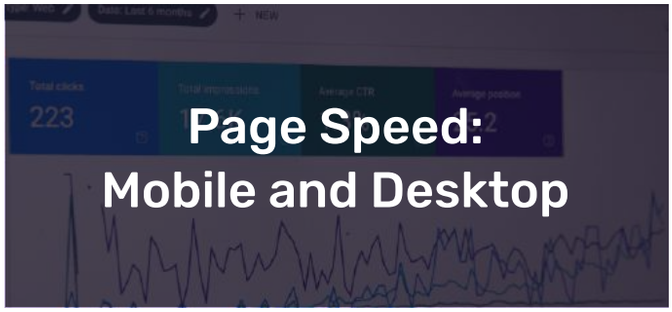

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