

Web Hosting for PHP

People are reading this article because they look for a good web hosting service. And naturally you would like to receive the best agreement, which you can work with. A web hosting service is a big decision, which will have lasting effects, because you can use it, in order to support your business long into the future.

Today's modern PHP web host site is quite cheap and yet can still offer benefits to satisfy a customer.

Some important points will follow later but knowing a small amount about PHP would be good. There is no doubt PHP is a popular language, used for programming and capable of being placed into HTML. Some of the reasons for its popularity can be seen here:

- a. It is available for free
- b. Easy to learn and use.
- c. It is able to be considered a fully object orientated language
- d. It is platform independent.
- e. It has a rapid pace on the Linux server and this can be used effectively in utilizing and constructing complex web applications.
- f. It allows advanced programming and is very easy to integrate with web pages.
- g. PHP is able to be used successfully with MySQL.

There are many things to consider before choosing a PHP server host for your site. Be aware it can be difficult to get a decent PHP web host service. This is because a large number of firms just want to make money. They will not offer a complete service in their package and it is common to be without PHP for a few days. However, it is impossible to fix as you cannot contact the support, as often happens. You will be lucky if you find the right PHP host first time. This is because it can be easy to overlook a number of firms, including good ones.

The above facts may present a daunting picture, where selecting the right PHP web hosting service provider is concerned. But there are some tips following which one can land up with the right solution very easily.

A good PHP web hosting company will provide the following features:

- a. Technical products. Software and programs including Cron, Python, CGI, MySQL, PHP or Perl need to be on offer. Even if you don't know what they are, be happy to have them as they can be very useful later.
- b. Bandwidth. This equates to how many visitors your site can have each month. For many users, 75GB per month will be satisfactory.
- c. Price. Getting a service for no charge is not always good and paying a low fee does not always mean low quality. A price that should provide you with an enjoyable service would be around \$10.
- d. Who uses your web site. Having true statistics regarding usage of your site and where it is linked from can be a massive help to your site.
- e. PHP web hosting script installers: These are among the essential features to be included in your PHP hosting search. One should get a PHP web host script installation pack, at no extra cost from the service provider. You should be wary of providers that ask you to pay extra money for PHP web host script installation pack. On such application is "Fantastico", which comes free with cPanel in most cases.

Next up are PHP host sites who offer free products and services. The price may seem great but there are some points to them. As firms need to make money to survive, how can a company with no revenue stream last long? To bring money in, many offer advertisements to companies and place them on their users' sites. These advertisements can be placed in the following formats

- a. Banners

b. Pop-up adverts appearing on screen

c. Frames including advertisements

The web site owner would have no control over these advertisements. This would clearly be a bad situation for a great number of firms to be in. Anecdotal evidence tells of the time one firm had advertisements for a rival product appearing on their site and this is not good. Unfortunately, as the service is free, there is not much that can be done to complain about it.

Another problem with free web hosting sites is that, since they usually have thousands of websites running on a single server, they are prone to frequent crashing.

Equally, as there is no charge, it is usually impossible for the PHP host to offer services, even services that a cheap host may be able to offer.

These factors suggest choosing the paid option is the way to go. Although it may cost a bit, the benefits will make it worthwhile.

To fully grasp the situation regarding the best web hosting provisions of cheap providers, try to consider these issues:

i. You should look for balance among the benefits you aim for. This is because when you opt for a low cost service, you have to make some sacrifices which may affect uptime, customer service or even security. So think about it and determine what would be the ideal combination of benefits you would like to have.

ii. If you want to have blogs, shopping carts or forums then installation tools would be good and this is where Cpanel could be handy. Cpanel can also assist with running centers of support and controlling MySQL databases.

iii. Support services: You should opt for nothing less than 24/7 support services. It is an essential feature as you never know when you can meet a crisis for which you will require expert help.

iv. Available space on the disc: Depending on how much content will be on your site, how much disc room you will require will alter greatly. It is also good to consider future development when planning how much disc space to have.

v. Email Accounts: If a web hosting company acts cheap with essential facilities like email accounts, you should not think twice before dumping it. Web site hosting is a very competitive business, so you will be easily able to get a provider that offers unlimited email accounts.

Now comes the harder part of your search- look for companies that provide offers like 30 day money back guarantee, uptime guaranteed etc, you won't be able to find many, because such services cost money. But do look for them, because such companies do exist, and along with the afore-mentioned benefits they may also offer good service at highly affordable rates.

You should supplement the above pointers, with your own research before you sign-up with a company that satisfies your requirements and is in your price range.

Now if you have gone through the whole gamut of analysis and research, and finally signed up with a PHP web hosting service provider, how do you know, whether you made the right decision? This is simple- if the rates make you happy, because they are so low, you have at your disposal unlimited email accounts, and reliable 24/7 support, you get free statistics about the traffic at your site along with windows and PHP option, then you have taken the right decision!

About the Author

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