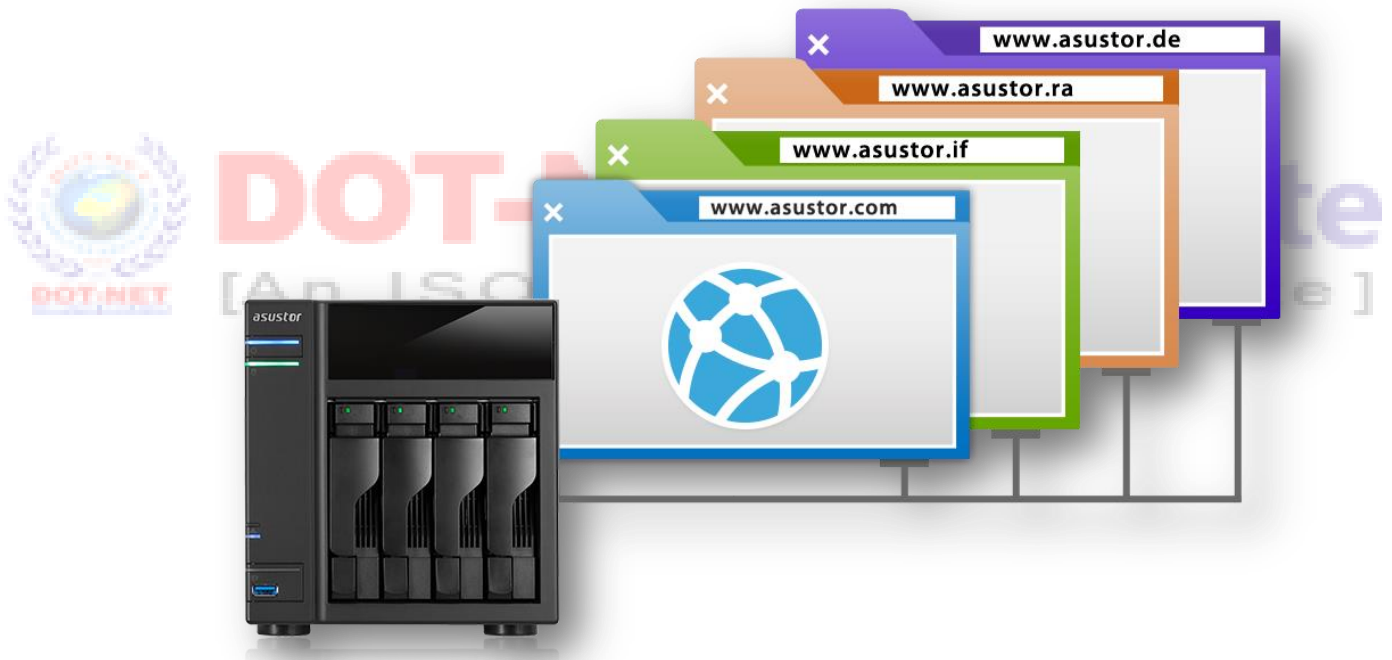


Lesson no. 4: What is Web Hosting

WHAT IS WEB SERVER & WEB HOSTING

A *Web server* is a program that uses HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol) to serve the files that form *Web* pages to users, in response to their requests, which are forwarded by their computers' HTTP clients

A *web host*, or *web hosting* service provider, is a business that provides the technologies and services needed for the *website* or *webpage* to be viewed in the *Internet*.



What is Web Hosting?

Web hosting is a service that allows organizations and individuals to post a website or web page onto the Internet. A web host, or web hosting service provider, is a business that provides the technologies and services needed for the website or webpage to be viewed in the Internet. Websites are hosted, or stored, on special computers called servers. When Internet users want to view your website, all they need to do is type your website address or domain into their browser. Their computer will then connect to your server and your webpages will be delivered to them through the browser.

Most hosting companies require that you own your domain in order to host with them. If you do not have a domain, the hosting companies will help you purchase one.



How Web Hosting Works?

A server is a physical computer that runs without any interruption so that your website is available all the time for anyone who wants to see it. Your web host is responsible for keeping that server up and running, protecting it from malicious attacks, and transferring your content — such as text, images, files, etc. — from the server to your visitors' browsers.

When you decide to start a new website, you need to find a web hosting provider that will supply you with that server space. Your web host stores all your files, assets, and databases on the server. Whenever someone types your **domain name** into the address bar of their browser, your host transfers all the files necessary to serve that request.



Types of Web Hosting

Most web hosts offer different types of hosting so that they can serve the needs of different clients — whether you want to build a simple personal blog or own a large online business and are in a dire need of an intricate company website. Here are the most popular options available:

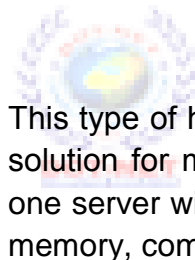
- **Shared hosting**
- **VPS hosting**
- **Cloud hosting**
- **WordPress hosting**
- **Dedicated hosting**

It's the best to start small and when your site reaches higher traffic numbers, upgrade to a more advanced type of plan. In any case, we're going to describe each one in more detail.

Shared Hosting

Web hosting providers usually offer more than one plan for each type of hosting. Shared web hosting services come with three different hosting plans.



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This type of hosting is the most common answer for most web hosting needs and it's an excellent solution for most small businesses and personal blogs. With this type of hosting, you're sharing one server with other clients. Websites hosted on the same server share all its resources, such as memory, computing power, disk space, and others.

Advantages

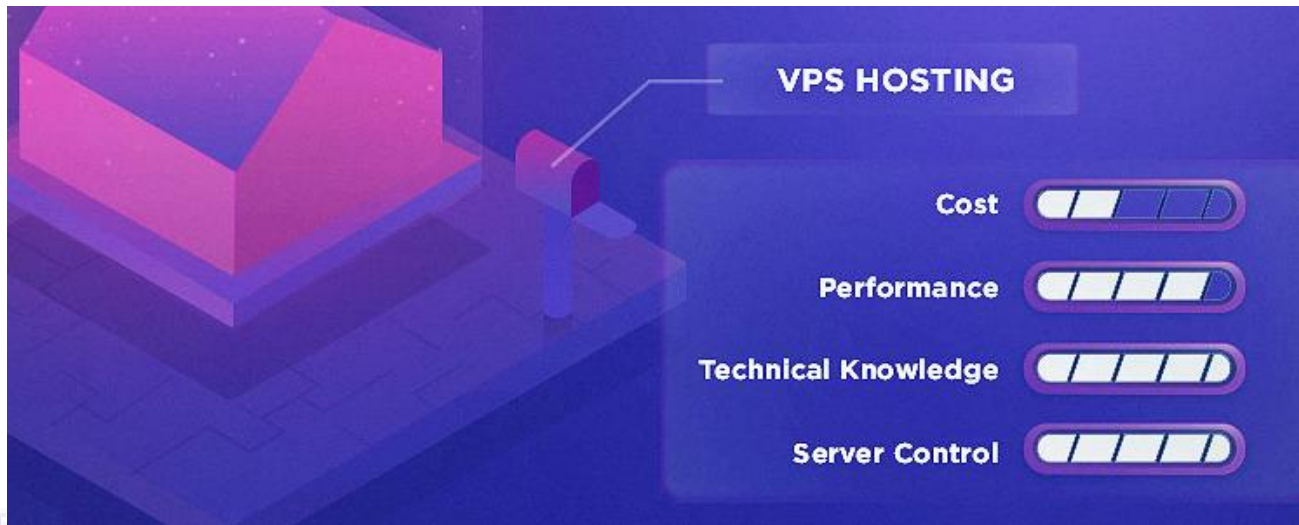
- Low cost, excellent for small online business websites
- No need for specific technical knowledge
- Pre-configured server options
- User-friendly control panel — hPanel
- Maintenance and server administration is taken cared for you

Dis-Advantages

- Little or no control over server configuration
- Traffic surges on other websites can slow down your website

VPS Hosting

When you're using a Virtual Private Server — or VPS for short — you're still sharing a server with other users. However, your web host allocates an entirely separate partition for you on that server. This means you get a dedicated server space and a reserved amount of resources and memory.



In fact, VPS hosting can be great for medium-sized businesses with a rapidly growing number of websites and traffic.

Advantages

- Dedicated server space
- Traffic surges on other websites have no effect on your performance
- Root access to the server
- Easy scalability and high customizability

Dis-Advantages

- More expensive than other types of hosting
- Technical and server management knowledge is a must

Cloud Hosting

Cloud hosting is currently the most reliable solution on the market. With cloud hosting, your host provides you with a cluster of servers — your files and resources are replicated on each server.



When one of the cloud servers is busy or encounters a problem, your traffic is automatically routed to another server in the cluster. This results in little to no downtime, which is excellent if you own a very busy website.

Advantages

- Little to no downtime
- Server failures have no effect on your website
- Allocates resources on demand
- Pay-as-you-pricing strategy — you only pay for what you use
- More scalable than other web hosting types

Dis-Advantages

- Hard to estimate the actual costs
- Root access is not always provided

WordPress Hosting

WordPress hosting is a particular form of shared hosting, created for WordPress site owners. Your server is configured specifically for WordPress and your site comes with pre-installed plugins for crucial tasks, such as caching and security.



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Because of the highly optimized configuration, your site loads much faster and runs with fewer problems. WordPress hosting plans frequently include additional WordPress-related features, such as pre-designed WordPress themes, drag-and-drop page builders, and specific developer tools.

Advantages

- Low cost and beginner-friendly
- One-click WordPress installation
- Good performance for WordPress sites
- Customer support team trained in WordPress issues
- Pre-installed WordPress plugins and themes

Dis-Advantages

- Recommended only for WordPress sites, which can be a problem if you want to host more than one website on your server

Dedicated Hosting

Dedicated hosting means that you have your own physical server that's dedicated solely to your website. Therefore, you're given incredible flexibility over how you want to manage your website. You can configure your server as you wish, choose the operating system and software you want to use, and set up the whole hosting environment according to your own needs.



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In fact, renting a dedicated server is just as powerful as owning your own on-site server, but comes with the professional support of your web host. Usually, this is more oriented towards large online businesses that deal with heavy traffic.

Advantages

- Full control over server configuration
- High reliability and security options
- Root access to your server

Dis-Advantages

- High cost, more oriented towards larger businesses
- Technical and server management knowledge is a must