

4-STAR SAMPLE

The Different Types of Web Hosting Explained

Choosing the right type of web hosting for your business is incredibly important – [2 out of 5 internet users](#) will abandon a website that takes longer than 3 seconds to load. At the same time, you don't want to overpay for services that are way more advanced than what you actually need.

There are many different types of servers, making it difficult to select the right one for your website. We will cover the following 3 types:

1. Shared Hosting
2. VPS Hosting
3. Dedicated Hosting

What Exactly Is Web Hosting?

Before we dive into each hosting type, let's go over the basics.

To publish your website on the internet, it needs to be stored on a computer called a server. A web hosting company can set you up on a server and help you register a domain name (a "dot com" address) that visitors can use to access your site.

There are many different types of servers, but the 3 that we're going to talk about are kind of like an apartment (shared), a townhouse (VPS), and a house (dedicated).

With that in mind, let's look at what each type of hosting has to offer and the pros and cons of each.

Shared Hosting

Like an apartment complex, shared hosting is the perfect option for those just starting out. Just like it sounds, shared hosting means that your site is on the same server as other websites. This is a great option for those with limited funds or just starting off because it teaches you the basics at an affordable price.

Pros

- The most affordable option – you can find a shared server as cheap as \$2/month.
- Easy to set up, very little technical experience required.

Cons

- You share CPU speed, hard drive space, and RAM with multiple parties, meaning you may experience slower loading times and have access to less disk space.

VPS Hosting

VPS stands for a Virtual Private Server and is a popular option for individuals who want more security and have a little more money to spend. While this type of web hosting is more expensive, it delivers better performance than any shared option.

You'll still be sharing a server with websites, but you'll have your own dedicated space on that server. So like a townhome or condo, you own the space, but you still share a wall with a neighbor.

Pros

- Great for individuals who get a good amount of traffic on their website. This is a more reliable and stable option than shared hosting.
- Limits 10-20 websites per server which decreases the overall demand on the server.

Cons

- Costs more than shared plans.

Dedicated Hosting

Now we're talking about the big leagues here! This type of hosting gives you a server all to yourself which comes with a lot of benefits, but also a few downsides.

Just like owning your own home, you can customize nearly everything without worrying about a landlord – on the flip side, customizing your site is tricky without the right technical know-how. You may need outside help from a programmer if you choose this option.

Pros

- You will never have any “bad neighbor” issues – great if you have a site with large amounts of traffic.
- Highly secure.
- Users can customize this site extensively and choose the OS, memory type, among other elements. It's a more flexible option.

Cons

- Having this type of server isn't cheap. You can expect to pay anywhere from \$60-\$350+ a month.
- Requires quite a bit of knowledge about computers and server technology.

Conclusion

These are the three most common types of web hosting servers out on the market. Knowing your skill level and where you're at with your business will help you narrow down your decision in choosing a provider.