

DIY Website in a Week Worksheet: Website Hosting

2 videos

- Web hosting registration steps
- Web hosting terminology and tips on choosing

1 worksheet

What's covered in this lesson:

- What is hosting?
- Choosing a hosting company that fits your needs and budget
- Factors affecting hosting price
 - Customer service and support
 - Bandwidth (aka traffic to your website)
 - Storage space (lots of photos and videos take more space than text; ecommerce/shopping carts, # of web pages, email storage – average web page in 2013 is approx 1.7MB ***)
 - Managed hosting
 - Shared hosting (single computer hosting several hundred websites – think of it like wifi at home where your desktop computer, laptop, tablet and 2 Smartphones can all run off the same wifi) vs Dedicated hosting (single server or computer hosting only one website)
 - Committing to a longer term is cheaper

Tips:

- Pay for what you need – you can always upgrade as your website gets more traffic or you need more storage
- Beware of add-ons and upsells
- Decide if you want to deal with updates and maintenance (which are pretty easy, especially since you'll be adding plugins to your website to make some of these things function on autopilot)
 - If yes, you can buy basic hosting
 - If no, choose a full-service or managed hosting option (think of it as investing in IT support)

Good hosting companies are:

- Reliable (99.9% uptime)
- Have friendly, knowledgeable customer service and tech support that you can reach when you need them. Cheap web hosting often means FAQs and databases for support, whereas better hosting includes customer service support (some are 24/7, some have chat only not email or phone help)
- Have different levels of hosting packages to suit the needs of your business as it grows

Action Steps:

- Register for web hosting – buy what you need right now because you can upgrade when you need more. Remember to consider whether you need full-service/maintained hosting.

Website hosting (recommended)

Bluehost (affiliate link*) –

<http://www.bluehost.com/track/brightsparkmedia>

This is the web hosting company I use and recommend to my clients. Fees usually range from \$2.95-6.95/month, depending on the length of term you commit to. Bluehost also offers full-service WordPress hosting (approx \$25/month).

Bluehost has excellent, friendly customer service. It is standard hosting (not full-service or managed hosting) because I have installed plugins to do automatic website and database backups, scan for security hacks, etc (We'll cover these in a future lesson).

**If you use this link, I will receive a small referral commission, but I only recommend companies that I trust and use myself. You will not pay a higher price for using my link.*

Other web hosts.

These web hosting companies have managed or full-service hosting and I have seen other website developers in my online community recommend them. Fees usually range from \$20-40/month.

GetFlywheel.com
LiquidWeb.com
WPengine.com

Links and references:

<http://www.hostway.com/blog/how-much-disk-space-do-i-need-for-my-website/>