Article Side

Web Hosting and its types

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Websites are the driving tools behind creating an effective online presence. It is easy to get a website for individuals or for a business or for an organization. However, having a website that can be seen by anybody in the web world is what is important and that is where web hosting comes into play. It is important to get an idea of this hosting and the types that are in practice, before running our own websites.

Web hosting

Wikipedia defines it as â€˜a type of Internet hosting service that allows individuals and organizations to make their own website accessible via the World Wide Webâ€™. This hosting service is provided by companies that are solely for this purpose. They provide a space for the smaller clients on their large servers along with internet connectivity. At times, the host will also extend its support in the form of an interface or a control panel for managing the web server. This will enable the users to install their own modules and service applications of their preference.

Types of web hosting

The three major categories of web hosting are

â€¢ Shared web hosting

â€¢ Virtual Hosting

â€¢ Dedicated hosting

Shared web hosting - The users website is placed on the same server as that of many others. As the name indicates, all the existing domains on the common server will share a common pool of resources like the RAM and CPU.

Advantages:

1. Low cost

2. Suitable for small businesses which require average traffic

3. Can have an own domain name

4. Excellent support

Drawbacks:

1. Reduced security as many servers share a single server.

2. Limited support for soft wares and database.

Virtual hosting â€“ This is also referred to as Virtual Private Server (VPS). This method of web hosting divides the available resources into separate virtual servers in such a way that there is no change in the underlying hardware. The users will have to take care of their own server and see to its proper

functioning and maintenance. It is like you are responsible for your own space in that large server which is the house of many others like yours.

Advantages:

1. Effective method of web hosting

2. No issues regarding speed, access and availability of the site

3. Suitable for small to medium sized websites.

Drawbacks:

1. Since this type of web hosting offers the user a way to use many applications that will increase traffic, users should have the technical ability to take care of these effectively.

2. Limited RAM, CPU and server disk space

Dedicated hosting - The user gets a full server for his/her own. In other words there is no sharing in this type of web hosting and a server is totally dedicated to a single user. Since an entire server is being allocated to a single user, the costs of this type of web hosting are very high but it has high flexibility.

Advantages:

1. Best suited for websites that aim to generate large amount of traffic.

2. Multiple domain names, email solutions and excellent database support

Drawbacks:

1. Very expensive

2. Technical expertise is a must to take care of a site in this type of web hosting.

Apart from these generally used types of hosting, there are several others like reseller hosting, managed hosting, colocation hosting, clustered hosting, grid hosting etc. Recently cloud hosting has been catching up as the next generation web hosting. It offers many advantages when compared to the existing types of hosting.

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