



## Recommended Hosts For Internet Marketers

### Liquid Web

Over the last few years there have been many new web hosting companies entering this very competitive market, some really great and some not so great. Almost all of these new companies claim to have all the answers and by the time you find out that they do not, it is much too late.

With that said, in my humble opinion, Liquid Web is a name that you can trust for your business in the web hosting world. Although their setup may not be completely perfect, it is definitely worth your time to at least check them out to see if their strengths provide you with the value that you need for your individual marketing business requirements.

LiquidWeb powers you with very rich features to build a web site, including the support to php, mysql, python, ruby on rail, and more. Daily backups will make sure all your data is safe and their web site statistics tool will give you all the detail you need about your site traffic status. LiquidWeb guarantee to receive all of the resources that you signed up for.

#### The Strengths of Liquid Web Hosting.

As far as value oriented web hosting sites go, Liquid Web is one of the best on the market today. In the price range, you will be hard pressed to find any web hosting service that provides the same kind of flexibility, quality, and support features that Liquid Web do. In short, they are awesome.

LiquidWeb has established a world class Heroic Support team that is professionally educated and available on site at each data center 24 hours per day. There are currently over 150 Heroic Support engineers. This includes a dedicated Sonar Monitoring division that monitors and pro-actively responds to, and corrects, any issue that is identified. This includes network, hardware, infrastructure and application level errors. Heroic Support allows their customers to rest easy knowing their web sites are

in good hands. Liquid Web provides an industry leading Service Level Agreement (SLA) to our Dedicated Server and VPS customers which includes:

Of the hundred or so support tickets that I have created, all have had at least a response within 10-15 minutes, followed by regular updates. A couple have been 'dropped' as shifts rolled over, but this has only happened with low priority issues and a quick chase has been enough to illicit a grovelling response.

The most notable element of this is their willingness to speak to you on a level that you are comfortable with. As someone reasonably technical I like to know exactly what is going on, and what was done to fix a problem, so that the next time it happens I am able to sort out it myself. In some instances, however, I have played the role of someone less knowledgable and things have always been explained in a way that anyone could understand.

#### Managed Web Hosting by Liquid Web.

Another plus to Liquid Web is the ability to choose your data centre, which is a feature that is usually reserved for more expensive web hosting packages. Being able to do this gives you more control over the speed of your site as you can choose the area that is closest to your customer base.

Finally, there are plenty of optional extras that are actually useful. From firewalls to off-box storage, load balancers and backup options they pretty much offer them all. This really is a company that you could start out with some shared hosting and build up to a few dozen dedicated boxes configured just as you need them.

#### The Weaknesses of Liquid Web Hosting.

Although Liquid Web Hosting is one of the best values on the market, if you choose the shared hosting package, it is actually among the more expensive options out there. This is for good reason though as it is one of the best on the market. Downtime is kept to a minimum and I have not had any issues with speed, which is something that is frustratingly common with most hosts.

**Liquid Web Reliability.** Reliability is their top priority. Their data centres are designed with redundancy installed at every level, ensuring that a failure at any level will not affect your server. LiquidWeb's network is robust and reliable. They exclusively utilise

premium Tier1 bandwidth providers, ensuring minimal downtime and fast connections to all points of the internet.

### Liquid Web Ease-of-use

LiquidWeb uses the Cpanel/WHM control panel, which comes with excellent features on their user interface. You can use those tool to easily manage the files, FTP account, email, domain names or even configure and montior your web server. Those icon-based tools are so easy to be used that you can start managing your web hosting with almost no learning curve.

### The Bottom Line

If you are trying to find a great value for your start up or small business, then Liquid Web Hosting may very well be the web hosting solution for your immediate or short term needs. The fact that you can have a shared hosting price with the same features of a virtual private server make Liquid Web Hosting a great company for any business in need of a professional solution.

## [Vidahost](#)

Established in 2004, Vidahost, which is part of Paragon Internet Group, offers a wide choice of cloud hosting, dedicated server and shared hosting solutions that are suited to both individual needs and business requirements alike. Whether you have got a personal webpage or a large scale e-commerce store, Vidahost has solutions that duly cater to your needs.

### What Makes Vidahost Different?

Vidahost hosts clients websites on its own servers with custom built features to ensure finest speed, paramount features, supreme stability, and guaranteed uptime for its clients individual websites. As well as giving the company the deserve lead in its various competitions, the strong ability to value customers suggestions and feedback helps Vidahost in improving its services and support for customers benefit. The network and infrastructure are always fine-tuned and updated with the latest technologies to ensure

the best service and performance, along with 14 hours unrivalled support through the customer support centre.

Apart from its affordable pricing, Vidahost makes use of a range of technologies, including various Linux distributions, Solaris, Microsoft Windows, MySQL, MSSQL and more. The use of freely available software, wherever possible, allows for extra feature inclusion, software tweaking, and error fixing for clients. It also allows for easy tailoring of products to customers requirements without cooling heels on third-party vendors or requiring complex workarounds.

### How Does Vidahost Provide Such a Great Service At Such An Affordable Rate?

Most of the day-to-day business administration at Vidahost web hosting is automated allowing the company to keep its overheads low. The highly skilled technical support team are able to get to the bottom of any issues at the drop of a hat and this saves both Vidahost and its clients plenty of time. Literally, saving time means saving money, and Vidahost does pass these savings on to its customers! It is uncommon not to experience hidden charges with web hosting companies. The company does not charge any kind of setup fees with its various packages nor does it include any hidden or unnecessary administration charges. As well as long-term sustained growth and the desire to keep all of its customers for life, Vidahost aims to provide leading customer service and clients satisfaction through its industry leading and affordable web hosting service offerings.

### Customer Support

All of Vidahost web hosting solutions are well managed, which means if you require technical support assistance on any issue with your web hosting - you can get in touch with the company for free. Compare to other web hosting providers in the UK, the company is available 14 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365/6 days a year, to provide uninterrupted technical support and sales assistance to clients. You can easily reach its support team by email, free-phone, and/or live chat.

### [Unixy](#)

Unixy offer a superb support system, very helpful and quick response times, 24-7-365.



Regarded as a business infrastructure provider they strive for success in a very professional manner. They are getting rave reviews all over the internet right now and are an expanding company. With fully managed servers, an excellent support team and very reasonable price packages they realise the implications and the needs of the internet marketing industry.

## [D9 Hosting](#)

Established in 2007 from the UK, D9 Hosting are a very good company for the internet marketer. They have very reliable servers with little downtime, a professional, fast and friendly support team and are very affordable. Excellent for the internet marketing niche.

## Other Top Web Hosting Sites Reviewed (In no particular order)

### [iPage](#)

#### Pros

In addition to unlimited bandwidth, disk space and emails, this web service offers basic shopping cart tools, marketing tools and around-the-clock support.

#### Cons

The service lacks some advanced features, such as custom cron jobs and a script library.

#### The Verdict

This flexible and well-rounded web service is perfect for beginner and intermediate users.

Every day, new businesses take the plunge into cyberspace. They do it because that is where the money is going. If you want to stay ahead of the pack, you have to get in the race as early as possible. To have the best possible chances for success, you need a web hosting service like iPage. The basic package includes unlimited bandwidth and disk space, which gives your business room to grow. It includes unlimited domain email accounts, which ensures your company a serious, professional appearance. You even get access to various shopping cart applications and other marketing tools to drive traffic to your site and move capital with ease. This web hosting service is perfect for beginner and intermediate level users.

Everything about this hosting plan is unlimited. That is good, because you never know



how much you are going to need. Take the unlimited MySQL databases for example, as your business expands, you don't want to find yourself in need of a new database without a place to host it. Other services may limit the number of databases available to you, but iPage gives you the freedom you require. The same goes for disk space, bandwidth and email accounts. It doesn't matter how much your headcount or traffic increases this web hosting service will always have you covered.

Unlimited webmail is all very fine, but it doesn't count for much unless the email interface is up to par. Fortunately, this web hosting service includes a powerful email interface. You can email and forward documents, set up automatic responses and even filter out spam. Best of all, this email service performs virus scans on all incoming documents before they even reach your inbox, thus minimising chances of infecting your computer.

### Features:

More than any other aspect of their service, we really enjoyed using iPage's site creation tools. Included in the hosting package, iPage allows you to choose between three easy to use site builders, which can help you build a basic webpage or more complex site with multiple pages. iPage also has blog and photo gallery setup wizards, and it supports numerous content management systems, blogs, photo galleries and forum plugins such as Joomla, WordPress, Gallery2 and Gbook. We would like to see the web hosting service add more programming languages to their repertoire because currently it only supports Perl and Server Side Includes (SSI). If you want to add multimedia files to your website, you will enjoy the fact iPage supports Macromedia Shockwave, Midi File, Flash, and Real Audio and Video.

You can access an FTP account manager, add unlimited FTP accounts and enjoy the benefits of anonymous FTP security. This protection includes support for .htaccess to control user access to directories with sensitive information.

iPage provides enough marketing tools to drive sustainable traffic to your website right out the gate. As is the case with many other web hosting services, iPage includes Google AdWords, Yahoo/Bing Sponsored Search and Facebook Advertising credits in their plan. Such credits are beneficial because they allow you to purchase ad space on those high profile sites to drive traffic directly to your site. iPage also allows you to access online marketing guides and use Google Webmaster Tools to manage your website. A free Yellowpages.com listing and 60-day membership for RatePoint's Newsletter Manager round out their set of serviceable marketing tools.

iPage provides access and error logs in addition to monitors that allow you to see how much bandwidth and disk space you have used. Disappointingly, though, this web hosting provider does not have a statistical analysis program. This would be convenient because it would allow you to see your site traffic and gauge your site's overall performance based on those statistics.

### Ease of Use:

iPage web hosting is a pleasure to work with. Right from the control panel, you will find



that the user interface is logical, seamless and easy to navigate. The service is packed with considerations large and small that improve the overall user experience. If necessary, you can tailor the features page under the control panel to fit the needs of each individual user. That's great news for beginners and veterans alike, if you are a beginner, you can view a condensed set of basic, easy to use features. For experienced users, every feature category has a "Features for Geeks" button, which opens an extended list of advanced features to match for your skill level. This functionality makes the service accessible to more intermediate users and not just a narrow subset of beginners.

## Help & Support:

iPage web hosting has an extensive online help centre and ticketing system; users can search the knowledgebase for answers to their questions and use the ticketing system if they fail to find the explicit help they need in the knowledgebase. The service also provides useful step by step tutorials on how to fully take advantage of the service features. The tutorials are both informative and easy to understand, making them a highly beneficial resource.

For direct technical support, you can contact the web hosting service directly via phone, chat or email 24/7. We placed a few calls to the company and were happy to find we only had to wait a minute or two for an available customer service rep. Furthermore, the representatives were friendly and informative, with a clear understanding of the company's plans and subsequent capabilities. Upon further research, we found out each of the customer service representatives must undergo an extensive quality assurance process. This extra investment shows.

## Summary:

With the exception of additional marketing tools and supported programming languages, there is little that iPage could do to improve its already excellent offerings. A hosting package that offers true unlimited features and an interface that is as easy to navigate as it is to understand, iPage is an outstanding provider that is certainly a top contender among web hosting services.

## [Just Host](#)

### Pros

Just Host is easy for beginners to use, yet its ample features will appeal to advanced users.

### Cons

The service only provides Linux hosting, not Windows, though this shouldn't be an issue for most users.

### The Verdict



Stellar support, ease of use and rich hosting capabilities at competitive prices make Just Host the best web hosting service in our lineup.

Boasting robust functionality and highly responsive support, Just Host is an excellent web hosting service. This hosting provider delivers well-rounded hosting packages complete with everything you need to build, publish and maintain a website. Just Host manages to provide a wide range of advanced features while still maintaining an intuitive ease of use that helps diminish the inherent complexity and learning curve associated with web hosting. As a result, the service is an excellent option whether or not you are familiar with web hosting.

### Hosting Package:

Just Host is among one of the most affordable web hosting services in our lineup, offering comprehensive hosting packages at competitive monthly prices. The service provides many of the basic hosting components we looked for without restrictions. For instance, Just Host provides unlimited disk space, bandwidth and domains, meaning you can register as many domains as you want under your account and your websites won't have any space or data transfer limitations. The service is subsequently a good option if you plan on starting more websites or want a site that can expand with the anticipated growth of your business. All of the service's hosting packages also provide one free domain name, or if you have an existing site, free domain transfer.

While many web hosting providers offer either Linux or Windows hosting, Just Host has only Linux servers. The difference between the two operating systems and the functionality of their servers was once substantial, but that's not so much the case anymore. The only reason you might have a preference for one over the other is if you work with a programmer or designer who requires a specific programming language not supported by one of the server types. If your website doesn't necessitate such specific technical details, you don't need to worry about something as complicated as the type of servers the provider offers.

### Features:

Just Host provides all the features we were looking for in web hosting services. For starters, there are site creation tools that allow you to build a completely new site or add new site components such as blogs, image galleries or message boards to an existing site. Furthermore, the service boasts one-click app installation, meaning you can install those site components on your website in a single click. For eCommerce websites, shopping carts and shared SSL certificates are available.

Just Host also includes every email option you could possibly want, including webmail, unlimited storage, and an unlimited number of POP3 or IMAP email addresses.

Additionally, you'll have access to SMTP email, aliases, forwarding, mailing lists, auto responders, spam protection and the ability to form mail scripts.

The hosting provider also has an administrative control panel so you can manage all of





your websites from one centralized and intuitive interface. The cPanel control panel also provides access to site statistics so you can see how your site is performing and track your advertising credits. The credits allow you to place ads for your site on popular search engines such as Google and Yahoo.

If you know how to code webpages or have web design experience, you can take advantage of Just Host's advanced features that enable a more technical and hands-on approach to web hosting. You can create custom cron jobs and error pages, and the service's script library provides free scripts you can install on your site. You can also integrate videos on your site, as Just Host supports both JavaScript and Flash.

In terms of server access, Just Host gives you the option to create unlimited additional FTP accounts, which allows other authorized users (e.g., company employees) to access your site and will ultimately help you keep pace with the unpredictable and often rapid growth many websites experience. It also provides secure shell (SSH) access, a network protocol that allows data to be exchanged using a secure channel between two networked devices. In other words, it's a secure way to connect remotely to another computer. In regard to web hosting, SSH is useful because it enables you to execute commands on a remote host or computer.

### Ease of Use:

Given its technical nature, no web hosting service is without some sort of learning curve. With that said, our experience using Just Host was truly seamless and easier than most of the other web hosting services we reviewed. We were able to build a simple but polished and professional website using the service's site builder tool and evaluate Just Host's comprehensive web hosting capabilities. Just Host's ease of use is largely due to its control panel, which provides easy access to all of its features. We found very few things that were cumbersome or confusing, and we were able to easily navigate the interface.

### Help & Support:

Just Host provides excellent technical support, including 24/7 live support. The company provides three ways to contact them: phone, email and live chat. We tried using all methods and each time, our questions were answered in a timely and courteous manner. When we contacted the company by phone, our longest wait time was surprisingly only five minutes during what Just Host mentioned was "peak time." The service's email and chat options were likewise responsive, and we received immediate and informative answers to our questions. This is important to note because it means if you encounter an issue with your website, Just Host is available to provide immediate help at any time.

In addition to one-on-one support, the service provides multiple support resources, including a knowledgebase, video tutorials and user forums. Just Host is also one of just a few web hosting services we reviewed that provide a getting-started wizard. The wizard is especially useful for new users, as it walks you step-by-step through how to



create and publish your website.

## Summary:

Just Host is a relatively young web hosting service, but they have already learned the crucial necessity of wide-ranging customer service. The company's stellar and responsive customer support, in conjunction with its comprehensive hosting packages and rich features, clinch Just Host's top spot among the best web hosting services on the market.

## Hostgator

### Pros

You can host unlimited domains under your account, with no restrictions on bandwidth or disk space.

### Cons

Response times for the service's technical support can be sluggish.

### The Verdict

Flexible but lacking some features and usability, Host Gator is a decent web host that does not provide anything you cannot find elsewhere.

HostGator is a flexible and feature-rich web hosting service that excels in terms of unlimited services, with unrestricted bandwidth and disk space. The service also provides unlimited domains, so you can host as many websites under your account as you want. Although the service is brimming with features, HostGator lacks some of the intuitiveness and usability found on higher-ranked web hosting services. But if you are willing to spend the time and effort necessary to learn your way around the service, HostGator delivers robust hosting capabilities at an exceptional value.

### Features:

HostGator offers three different hosting packages. With the exception of the lowest-priced package, each one provides the unlimited features detailed above, and the service supports international domains. With the business plan, you also get your own toll-free number and a dedicated IP address and private SSL.

When it comes to features, HostGator provides all of the general features we were looking for, including a site builder, shopping carts for eCommerce websites and easy one-click installs of popular website apps and platforms. HostGator also includes an impressive amount of email features in each of its plans. In addition to a webmail option, you can create an unlimited amount of POP3 accounts. Additional email features include email aliases, autoresponders, mailing lists, catch-all and mail forwarding.



Finally, you don't have to worry about spam because HostGator includes Spam Assassin in each of its packages, a powerful spam protection program that effectively keeps unwanted junk emails out of your inbox.

Overall, we are impressed with HostGator's feature set which includes some advanced features including custom cron jobs and error pages. Cron jobs refer to server tasks you can schedule to occur automatically, such as downloading email. The service, however, lacks a script library. While these features aren't essential to web hosting, they are convenient and give advanced users more hands-on control of their website.

### Ease Of Use:

HostGator is a web hosting service that's relatively easy to use, though it does require you to spend some time learning your way around the service. Not all of its features are intuitive, and it will likely take you a few minutes to learn how to navigate its interface. It's a similar story with the service's support; it's good but there is definite room for improvement. On the HostGator website, you can read the frequently asked questions, browse through user forums or view video tutorials. You can also contact the company for technical support via email, live chat or toll-free telephone. While we think the company expertly strikes a balance between good help documentation and effective contact methods, we'd like to see better response times; more than once we waited to speak with a rep online and on the telephone for nearly an hour.

### Summary:

HostGator has features that cater to both people who are creating their first website and those who have web hosting experience. The service would benefit from more intuitive usability and quicker response times. And while its entry-level hosting package is rather sparse, HostGator's other hosting packages deliver unbeatable value with unlimited hosting capabilities.

## Blue Host

### Pros

BlueHost offers unlimited bandwidth, storage space and emails.

### Cons

They don't offer a monthly payment plan.

### The Verdict

This is a good choice for small businesses that can afford to pay upfront. Right on par with the best web hosting services in the market, BlueHost offers unlimited bandwidth, storage space, email accounts and an infinite supply of subdomains. If you expect your business to grow, BlueHost stands ready to support you along the way. That said, there are no standout features to discuss, so there isn't much



to recommend them over any other web hosting service.

Back in the day, unlimited everything would have been a dream come true, but the era of bandwidth limitations is ending. These days, there is little to distinguish BlueHost from the crowd, with the exception of their pricing policy. You pay the whole lump sum for a term of service upfront - no monthly payments. That might not be good news for small ventures, but it comes with the benefit of a locked price. Some competitors may alter monthly fees without a formal notification.

BlueHost gets good marks for ease of use. The feature set is streamlined and easy to work with. In addition to the standard fare, you can password-protect sensitive directories for a nice level of added security. The Help Center is easy to navigate and quickly leads you to the information you require. Each feature of the hosting plan is unpacked in detail if you find yourself in need of a little explanation.

This service also comes with excellent customer support. In your search for answers, you will find everything you want to know and learn a few things in the process. They have step-by-step guides for the most common tasks for new customers, over 60 video tutorials, a user forum, an in-depth knowledgebase and many other options to help you make the most out of their service. Their dedication in this area shows how much they care about their customers. Total mastery is not beyond your grasp.

BlueHost offers a decent traffic analysis toolset. Webalizer provides detailed, easy-to-configure usage reports in HTML for easy viewing in your browser. It is capable of crunching through log files with upwards of 2 million hits in less than 30 seconds. AWStats shows you your log information graphically, processing partial information from large log files for swift analysis.

Unfortunately, the marketing tools are weak - though you will find sage advice in the help section if you need to brush up on SEO. To help you gain early visibility, BlueHost will submit your site to search engines free and offer you mailing lists to promote your site. They also offer \$75 of free advertising credit with Google.

This service offers four different shopping carts: osCommerce, Agora, Cube Cart and Zen Cart. You can also create blogs, polls and surveys with WordPress. The free drag-and-drop site builder makes creating a complex site a breeze.

### Summary:

BlueHost offers exceptional bandwidth and storage for a low price, but the feature set is very standard - they don't do much that you can't find elsewhere. We like the service and the intelligent help and support. With a spark of innovation, this service could be one of the greats. For now, however, they are simply average.

## [Fat Cow](#)

### Pros



This web hosting service is honest and straightforward.

## Cons

Experienced users may feel restricted by the oversimplified approach.

## The Verdict

FatCow is great for small businesses with little web experience.

Cows are simple creatures, and that is what we like about them. There is nothing like the half-lidded gaze of a bovine to sooth frazzled nerves. Even in their wildest variations, they seldom venture beyond a dual color scheme. What if web hosting service was like that? Simple, easy and calm; FatCow is exactly that - an alternative to the technical, complicated market of web hosting. They offer everything you need to get a basic website off the ground. This service is easy to use and the supporting staff is competent, but don't expect sophistication. If you crave techno-talk, cows make for poor company. You can only be disappointed.

The pricing scheme is a little bit different from what you will find on most web hosting services. They sell their services in year-sized lumps called "terms." You will get the best price per month with the three-year term, but you can also purchase a two-year or 12-month plan. If you decide that FatCow is not the right fit for you, they have a full refund policy for the first 30 days following signup.

The basic package also includes \$75 in advertising credit from Google, \$25 from Yahoo and \$50 from Facebook. These credits are redeemable for advertising space on their respective sites, and can be a nice little boon to your traffic when you first start up. Other little goodies include a free Yellowpages.com listing, WordPress blogging tools and the Joomla content management system.

Although this web hosting service is easy to use, it is always nice to have a knowledgeable fallback to consult in the event of a technical problem. An emphasis on customer service is part of FatCow's unique business approach. The adorable, cuddly and always approachable Moo Crew is available to answer your questions 24/7.

This web hosting service strives to simplify the complex task of starting a website by offering one service package that includes all the essentials. If you are just getting your pinky toe wet before taking the plunge, they also offer a "MiniMoo" package that allows you to park a domain and start up your email accounts. When you are ready to push out into something bigger, you can easily upgrade to the full package. This simplified pricing scheme is good for new users. Veterans may find the FatCow service strategy to be oversimplified and suffocating. We would have liked more explicit information on their FTP. They don't mention .htaccess support or cron jobs compatibility.

The web hosting service's site builder is easy to use, but it offers enough advanced features that it will appeal to beginners and experienced users alike. The service



integrates Google Custom Search, which enables you to search within your website, and Webmaster Tools, which provide you with right features to manage your website. The web hosting service also supports WordPress, Gallery2 and phpBB, allowing you to turn your site into a blog or add message boards and photo galleries to it.

### Summary:

Overall, FatCow is a mediocre web hosting service that will meet most needs of personal and small business users, given its easy-to-use site creation tools, decent feature set and affordable price. However, subpar server access, reporting and statistic capabilities leave much to be desired with this run-of-the-mill site hosting service. Choose FatCow if you need a laid-back web hosting resource.

## Host Monster

### Pros

This web service offers unlimited disk space, bandwidth and email service.

### Cons

The databases cannot exceed 3GB collectively.

### The Verdict

If you do not expect to outgrow the database limitations, HostMonster's basic package is a little bit like a young hermit crab's first shell - small and functional. It gets the job done, but a few molts down the road and you may well find yourself in need of an upgrade. HostMonster is a standard web hosting service with unlimited bandwidth, disk space and email accounts, but there are limits that might make things a little tight as your website grows.

### Features:

Although they do not have any exclusive features, this web hosting service does a good job with average web hosting. It is particularly well-suited for people with beginning to intermediate experience levels. There are not very many drawbacks, but the limitations that do exist might become inconvenient for advanced users.

An unfortunate database restriction is the primary caveat to HostMonster's otherwise unlimited plan. They allow up to 100 MySQL databases with a limit of 1,000 tables each. No single database can exceed 2GB, and all of them together cannot exceed 3GB.

Overall, that gives you 10,000 tables and 3,221,225,472 expendable bytes. An average database only requires text data, which makes the 2GB seem nice and luxurious. If you need to store other kinds of data in your database, like images, for example - this limit could become a very serious problem. Evaluate your database needs before jumping aboard.

Other than that, we judge HostMonster to be fully scalable. The FTP is particularly



mature. You may create as many accounts as you like. The system is secure, so you do not have to worry about suspicious parties getting their hands on your information.

## Help & Support:

The live chat feature was good, they dispatched all our concerns in short order. For additional support, they offer a ticket-based support system, phone number, knowledgebase, video tutorials and a user forum. The overall package price is just about right for the level of functionality and support. You can find cheaper hosting on the market, but this web hosting service falls right on the median.

HostMonster's service package includes submission to major search engines at no additional cost. They cannot guarantee a good ranking - that depends entirely on the quality of your content, but they can get you on the list. From there, you will be in a much better position to collect traffic from search engines. A little bit of search engine optimization (SEO) magic can go a long way. This web hosting service also includes \$75 in Google AdWords credit with your plan.

HostMonster provides you with a drag-and-drop site builder, bulletin boards, blogs and image galleries. We especially like the site builder tool. It enabled us to quickly and conveniently design complex websites and get our operations up and running in no time.

## Summary:

Many people stay away from web hosting services because they think that they have to have advanced knowledge in coding web pages to get their money's worth out of them. HostMonster disproves this notion and gently ushers new users into cyberspace. Bigger fish are more likely to be frustrated - especially if they rely on large, flexible databases.

## [Arvixe](#)

### Pros

Arvixe has all-inclusive hosting packages and provides a free domain as long as you remain a client.

### Cons

The service doesn't support international domains, and support response times can fluctuate.

### The Verdict

Competitive and comprehensive hosting packages make Arvixe an ideal web host for businesses of all sizes.

Arvixe is a web hosting provider known for its wide-ranging hosting packages, decent uptime record and beneficial support options. The service provides all the basic web hosting features, plus easy-to-use site creation tools and notable domain capabilities. Overall, Arvixe is a great hosting option but it is lacking a few handy, though



nonessential, features. And while the service provides useful support resources, its response times can vary greatly. While you'll definitely pay a little more for this web hosting service, its comprehensive plans and robust features make it easy to overlook its minor shortcomings.

Arvixe's hosting packages are comprehensive, versatile and ideal for businesses of all sizes. The service provides both Linux and ASP .NET hosting on Windows servers for small businesses, and VPS hosting and managed dedicated servers for corporations in need of a larger web hosting platform. All of Arvixe's plans, including the smaller packages for small and medium-sized businesses, come with unlimited bandwidth and disk space. The web hosting service also provides unlimited domains under each of its hosting packages, with the exception of its lowest priced plan, which only provides six domains.

The standout feature of the service's hosting packages is its free domain. As long as you are a client with Arvixe, the web hosting service will pay for your domain name. This is notable because many hosting services will make you pay for your domain or will only pay for it for a limited time (e.g., one year). If you already have a website and simply want to switch web host providers, Arvixe offers free website transfer with your new account. Be aware, however, that the company places size limits on transfer sites - 5GB for sites hosted under its personal class packages and 10GB for business-class accounts. The only thing lacking from Arvixe's hosting packages is international domains, meaning it cannot register domain names that are available in other countries. Unless you operate a business in a foreign country, the absence of this capability shouldn't be an issue.

### Features:

Arvixe offers an array of both basic and advanced web hosting features. When it comes to creating your site, the service provides easy-to-use site builders that are directly integrated into the host's control panel. The service also provides a shared SSL certificate and shopping carts for eCommerce websites and one-click app installs. In fact, Arvixe offers access to a large script library that includes blogs, CMS apps and more, and that can be installed on your site in a single click. Not many web hosting services offer a script library, and access to one can help you easily create a unique and dynamic website without you having to code anything.

Once your site is published, Arvixe provides site stats that allow you to gauge your site's performance. You can use the integrated Awstats or Webalizer software to track your site's statistics and you can also access subdomain stats and raw access logs. Access to such information is important as it can help you pinpoint areas of your site that may need improvement.

When it comes to accessing your website to upload new content, the web hosting provider offers a handful of options, including FTP access with an unlimited number of FTP accounts, .htaccess support and secure shell (SSH) access. Arvixe also provides anonymous FTP and an FTP manager that allows you, as an administrator, to manage all





of the FTP accounts.

### Ease of Use:

When it comes to using Arvixе, there is undoubtedly a learning curve, albeit a small one. The integrated control panel for its Linux hosting is cPanel, a popular application used in many web hosting services for site management. At first glance, the control panel can be a bit overwhelming and new users may find it cumbersome to navigate. Unless you have first-hand experience with web hosting or using cPanel, a little time and research will likely be required to become comfortable and familiar with the service. Before long you should have no problem navigating its interface and accessing various features. One thing we liked is the sections in the left sidebar of the control panel are collapsible, which helps make the interface more navigable.

### Help & Support:

Arvixе makes great efforts to lessen its inherent learning curve through a rich repertoire of technical support options. The web hosting service provides ample resources, including a knowledgebase, user forums and informative video tutorials that illustrate how to use the service and its many features.

As do most web hosting services, this one also provides free 24/7 phone support. You can also contact technical support through email or online chat. Arvixе typically had fast turnaround times for support, but we did notice that its response times can vary greatly. For instance, during peak business hours we sometimes waited several minutes for an available rep both on the phone and on chat. Other times, we only had to wait a minute or two. While waiting for a rep on the phone, we would have liked the service to say what number caller we were to give us an indication of how long we would have to wait. As it is now, there's no way to tell whether you'll have to wait for two minutes or 20 for phone support.

That said, every customer service rep we spoke with provided informative answers. Furthermore, while reps from other services we reviewed were high-pressure and pushy about their products, we didn't feel this at all with Arvixе customer service reps; they were helpful, friendly and accommodating.

### Summary:

Arvixе provides stellar web hosting services, with plans and features designed to meet a wide range of hosting needs. The service isn't instantly straightforward and will require some hands-on effort to become familiar with how it works. Despite these nominal shortcomings, the robust functionality and all-inclusive hosting plans make Arvixе a worthy competitor in the sphere of web hosting services.

## Mid Phase

### Pros



MidPhase offers unlimited domains, bandwidth and disk space under its most popular hosting package.

## Cons

Its claim as the cheapest web host fails to ring true and the control panel may be cumbersome for new users.

## The Verdict

MidPhase proves to be a great web host, providing all the features necessary to build, launch and maintain a successful website.

MidPhase is a web hosting provider that boasts “cheap hosting, premium features.” For the most part, the service lives up to its simple yet frank tagline. MidPhase provides a range of robust yet easy-to-use hosting features that will appeal to a wide range of users. However, the service isn’t the cheapest in our lineup, and while its monthly pricing is competitive, some of the features other services include in their hosting plans cost extra with MidPhase. Additionally, learning how to use the service may require some extra time and effort if you’re new to web hosting.

MidPhase provides different hosting packages at different price points, each with varying features and levels of service. Most hosting providers offer this but it’s worth noting because it means the service caters to both large and small businesses and can meet a diverse range of hosting needs. Midphase offers three different plans: starter hosting, unlimited hosting and business class hosting. The starter and unlimited plans are ideal for small to mid-sized businesses, though the unlimited plan provides the most bang for your buck.

Under its unlimited and business-class plans, both Windows and Linux hosting is offered, and the service provides unlimited hosting in terms of bandwidth, disk space and MySQL databases. This is significant because it essentially means there are no limitations on how much information your site can have (i.e., how big it is) and how often you can update your site by uploading new files. And while the provider also offers unlimited domains, it only supports U.S.-based domains.

## Features:

MidPhase provides the majority of features we were seeking in web hosting services. For starters, the service uses the cPanel control panel to enable streamlined site management. The service also provides unlimited email addresses, along with autoresponders and spam filters.

One noteworthy feature MidPhase offers is a comprehensive site builder tool. Given how much website design and web hosting overlap, being able to manage both aspects of your site under a single, central portal is both convenient and efficient.

Each MidPhase website hosting package conveniently offers unlimited FTP accounts and a web-based file manager. FTP stands for File Transfer Protocol, which is the standard



network protocol by which site files are changed or uploaded to the server. Having unlimited FTP accounts allows multiple authorized users to upload files to the site under their individual FTP accounts. A web-based file manager is convenient because it keeps all your site files organized and readily available; you can log in from any computer with an internet connection.

MidPhase also offers all the necessary tools needed to create and host an eCommerce website. For instance, it offers shared SSL certificates to ensure the security of your site and, with the exception of ShopSite, supports all major shopping cart applications including CubeCart, AgoraCart and PayPal.

A few of the features MidPhase lacks include customisable error pages and one-click app installs. The latter would be convenient because it would allow you to automatically install a blog, CMS portal or other useful application on your site without having to code anything. And while the service provides site statistics and spam filters, these features will cost you extra.

### Ease of Use:

Overall, MidPhase website hosting scores high marks when it comes to ease of use. The main control panel offers access to each of the included features, which are organized under relevant categories, such as search engine optimization tools and logs. One thing we really liked was each category is collapsible, allowing you to view only the sections you want.

While we had little trouble utilizing the service's range of design and hosting features, we did find the integrated control panel to be a bit cumbersome to navigate. When you first log in, the main page is jam packed with feature icons, giving the interface an overwhelming and somewhat cluttered appearance. Furthermore, it lacks in-depth organization, which can make locating specific features time-consuming. For instance, it took us a while to find the site builder tool (located under software/services). Subsequently, we feel the ease of use of Midphase could be greatly enhanced and more on par with our top-ranked hosting services if the layout of the interface was more intuitive.

### Help & Support:

The technical support options provided by MidPhase are comprehensive and highly useful. Particularly beneficial is the help documentation that can be accessed directly from the control panel. Simply click on the "documentation" link and you'll be forwarded to the documentation section where you can browse help topics or search for specific information by keyword. There's also a MidPhase knowledgebase, brimming with informative articles regarding how to properly use the service's various functionalities.

When it comes to available contact methods, this website hosting service is versatile and accommodating. You can contact the company directly via email, toll-free telephone, an online contact form or live chat on the company's website. Our only real



complaint is response times; we often had to wait several minutes to speak with a service rep on the phone or over chat. Email response time was typically within 24 hours.

### Summary:

Boasting superior features and comprehensive help and support options, MidPhase is web hosting that delivers far more than basic hosting functionality. With its versatile hosting options and range of features, the service is an ideal springboard for anyone looking to launch a professional website. It may lack in terms of usability and a few features, but such drawbacks are minor and aren't likely to be a deal breaker for most prospective users. Whether you're just starting out with your first site or you've had ample experience in site design and hosting, MidPhase is a website hosting service we would definitely recommend.

## Dream Host

### Pros

They offer 50GB of free backup space and have a fantastic cancellation policy.

### Cons

There is no telephone customer service line and lots of downtime.

### The Verdict

Although the service offers unlimited bandwidth, the lack of customer support means it may not be ideal for beginners.

DreamHost is another web hosting service that has seen some decline in recent years. It once enjoyed a solid reputation for the innovative control panel, good uptime and excellent unlimited service. Although users still like the control panel, uptime is an issue and their customer support is impersonal and slow. This service may still do the job for experienced users who know how to solve problems for themselves, but a beginner may not want to enter the fray without reliable backup.

Although many other services offer a 30-day refund policy, DreamHost offers a 97-day money back guarantee. That gives you enough time to set things up and feel things out before completely committing to a service agreement. If you decide that DreamHost is not for you, just part ways. On the other hand, if you decide to stay, you will already have things set up.

DreamHost offers 50GB of free backup space. They have a strict user agreement license that forbids you from allowing visitors to access your server resources or from streaming copyrighted material. Furthermore, this web hosting service may ask you to

pay for a dedicated server if your site becomes unwieldy. What exactly that means is unclear, but they have good reason if your site causes problems for other users on the server, DreamHost will take action.

### Help & Support:

Unfortunately, DreamHost falls short when it comes to technical support. They don't offer a telephone number, and the live chat may not be sufficient in a tight spot. Furthermore, they have a history of scattered downtime. Small website owners probably do not need to worry about downtime because it typically only lasts for a few minutes. For large sites that rely on driving massive traffic loads, however, even momentary downtime can translate to a substantial monetary loss. If your website goes down, you can find status updates on the DreamHost blog to get an estimate for when it will go back up.

Despite the lack of a telephone support line, they do have a good knowledge base and FAQs that can answer many of your questions. They also provide a forum where other users can help you with problems and concerns. These features don't make up for qualified, knowledgeable tech support personnel, but they can be helpful.

This web hosting service offers unlimited FTP accounts, including anonymous FTP with support for .htaccess. Luckily, they don't have any limits on disk storage space or monthly bandwidth.

### Summary:

This web hosting service works well for small websites and experienced web developers. If your enterprise cannot endure short spats of downtime, or if you are a beginner to the world of website develop and maintenance, DreamHost may not be the best service for you.

## [Go Daddy](#)

### Pros

This service offers the widest array of features in the market.

### Cons

Many of the best features are limited or come at additional cost.

### The Verdict

Go Daddy is the largest web host on the internet for a reason: competent, comprehensive service.

Go Daddy is the giant of the web hosting service industry, many times larger than any other domain registrar. They service upwards of 45 million domain names and the number is on the rise. They definitely know what they are doing, and you can count on their service to be reliable and competent. They have some of the best domain



searching features available, if a domain you want to purchase is no longer available, Go Daddy can put it on back order. They also provide a massive domain auction where the shortest, spiciest domain names are up for grabs. Because they have grown so large, you can also expect Go Daddy to be somewhat more commercially minded and less personal.

This web hosting service has all the features you can imagine; email, database and blogging are only the beginning. No other web hosting service can match the breadth and depth of Go Daddy's feature set, which is a major reason that they have become such a prominent player. Don't expect to have access to all of these features with the basic package, however. Many features are contingent on additional monthly fees, the shopping cart software is a prime example. It is powerful, convenient and attractive, but you will have to pay extra, and there is a cap on the number of items you can store in the inventory. If you want to expand, you will have to pay more.

The email and database features are likewise capped. If you want unlimited everything, the price tag might get a little bit steep. On the other hand, Go Daddy's à la carte menu can be an excellent fit if you don't need unlimited access to email and database. If you only purchase the services you will actually use, Go Daddy can be an economical service.

Go Daddy doesn't offer much in terms of storage space with their entry-level Economy Plan. Most small business websites are not likely to outgrow the 10GB allotment, but more ambitious pursuits will require an upgrade. The Deluxe Plan offers much more as far as features go, but there are still limits when it comes to storage space (150GB). With the unlimited plan you get as much storage and bandwidth as you want, but the databases are still limited to 1GB each and you only get 1,000 email addresses. In other words, Go Daddy is great for small to mid-sized ventures, but it might get a little tight if fortune smiles on your web property.

### Features:

Go Daddy helps beginners easily set up their site and offers additional site creation tools for advanced developers. All of Go Daddy's solutions support several programming languages, including CGI (Python and Ruby), PHP, Perl, ASP, MySQL, ColdFusion and FrontPage extensions.

Go Daddy leaves most marketing tools out of its low-priced website hosting plans. It does offer them in a different section of the website, which took a little investigating for us to find. Users who want to market their site through email will need to expand their efforts on their own once they hit the limit of 5,000 emails per year. For an additional charge, the service also offers SEO tools and search engine submission. Every Go Daddy plan includes site statistics information and raw access logs.

### Ease of Use:

Go Daddy is very easy to use. The file manager, domain manager and database manager



are all fantastic. Online file managers are rarely so flexible. It does not do everything, but it is appealing to the eye and equipped with more than the standard array of features. Note that some things require setup time. If you wish to create a new database, for example, there is a delay that can take up to 24 hours.

### Help & Support:

This web hosting service has a wide range of useful help and support options available, which are accessible at any hour of any day. The online support forums and FAQs section contain a wealth of knowledge for beginners and advanced users alike. You can also contact Go Daddy's customer service representatives on the phone or via email. This website hosting service is a large company, managing millions of domains for millions of users, so personal help would be expectedly slower than other services. However, Go Daddy's support team is quick to respond, and the expected response time for emails is typically within 24 hours.

### Summary:

Go Daddy is a worthy competitor in the website hosting industry, especially given the immense reputation it has managed to build within the last few years. The service provides all the essentials including site creation tools, server access and secure facilities that house their data servers. The setup process is straightforward, and this website hosting service has an option for all levels of management, from beginner to expert. Go Daddy hosting proves to be an efficient and a versatile hosting provider.

## Bandwidth Explained

Most hosting companies offer a variety of bandwidth options in their plans. So exactly what is bandwidth as it relates to web hosting? Put simply, bandwidth is the amount of traffic that is allowed to occur between your web site and the rest of the internet. The amount of bandwidth a hosting company can provide is determined by their network connections, both internal to their data center and external to the public internet.

### Network Connectivity

The internet, in the most simplest of terms, is a group of millions of computers connected by networks. These connections within the internet can be large or small depending upon the cabling and equipment that is used at a particular internet location. It is the size of each network connection that determines how much bandwidth is available. For example, if you use a DSL connection to connect to the internet, you have 1.54 Mega bits (Mb) of bandwidth. Bandwidth therefore is measured



in bits (a single 0 or 1). Bits are grouped in bytes which form words, text, and other information that is transferred between your computer and the internet.

If you have a DSL connection to the internet, you have dedicated bandwidth between your computer and your internet provider. But your internet provider may have thousands of DSL connections to their location. All of these connections aggregate at your internet provider who then has their own dedicated connection to the internet, or multiple connections, which is much larger than your single connection. They must have enough bandwidth to serve your computing needs as well as all of their other customers. So while you have a 1.54Mb connection to your internet provider, your internet provider may have a 255Mb connection to the internet so it can accommodate your needs and up to 166 other users (255/1.54).

## Traffic

A very simple analogy to use to understand bandwidth and traffic is to think of roads and cars. Bandwidth is the number of lanes on the road and traffic is the number of cars on it. If you are the only car on a road, you can travel very quickly. If you are stuck in the middle of rush hour, you may travel very slowly since all of the lanes are being used up.

Traffic is simply the number of bits that are transferred on network connections. It is easiest to understand traffic using examples. One Gigabyte is 2 to the 30th power (1,073,741,824) bytes. One gigabyte is equal to 1,024 megabytes. To put this in perspective, it takes one byte to store one character. Imagine 100 file cabinets in a building, each of these cabinets holds 1000 folders. Each folder has 100 papers. Each paper contains 100 characters - A GB is all the characters in the building. An MP3 song is about 4MB, the same song in wav format is about 40MB, a full length movie can be 800MB to 1000MB (1000MB = 1GB).

If you were to transfer this MP3 song from a web site to your computer, you would create 4MB of traffic between the web site you are downloading from and your computer. Depending upon the network connection between the web site and the internet, the transfer may occur very quickly, or it could take time if other people are also downloading files at the same time. If, for example, the web site you download from has a 10MB connection to the internet, and you are the only person accessing that web site to download your MP3, your 4MB file will be the only traffic on that web site. However, if three people are all downloading that same MP3 at the same time, 12MB (3 x 4MB) of traffic has been created. Because in this example, the host only has 10MB of bandwidth, someone will have to wait. The network equipment at the hosting company will cycle through each person downloading the file and transfer a small portion at a time so each person's file transfer can take place, but the transfer for everyone downloading the file will be slower. If 100 people all came to the site and downloaded the MP3 at the same time, the transfers would be extremely slow. If the host wanted to decrease the time it took to download files simultaneously, it could increase the bandwidth of their internet connection (at a cost due to upgrading equipment).

## Hosting Bandwidth





In the example above, we discussed traffic in terms of downloading an MP3 file. However, each time you visit a web site, you are creating traffic, because in order to view that web page on your computer, the web page is first downloaded to your computer which is then displayed using your browser software (Internet Explorer, Firefox, etc.). The page itself is simply a file that creates traffic just like the MP3 file in the example above however, a web page is usually much smaller than a music file.

A web page may be very small or large depending upon the amount of text and the number and quality of images integrated within the web page. For example, the home page for CNN.com is about 200KB (200 Kilobytes = 200,000 bytes = 1,600,000 bits). This is typically large for a web page. In comparison, Yahoo's home page is about 70KB.

### How Much Bandwidth Is Enough?

Since bandwidth is a significant determinant of hosting plan prices, you should take time to determine just how much is right for you. Almost all hosting plans have bandwidth requirements measured in months, so you need to estimate the amount of bandwidth that will be required by your site on a monthly basis.

### Summary

Most personal or small business sites will not need more than 1GB of bandwidth per month. If you have a web site that is composed of static web pages and you expect little traffic to your site on a daily basis, go with a low bandwidth plan. If you go over the amount of bandwidth allocated in your plan, your hosting company could charge you over usage fees, so if you think the traffic to your site will be significant, you may want to go through the calculations above to estimate the amount of bandwidth required in a hosting plan.