Learn the secrets of how to profit from Web Real Estate by starting your own Web Hosting Company and get all your own hosting for FREE!

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I want to welcome you to this eBook where I am going to share with you the secrets of how to profit from Web Real Estate by starting your own Web Hosting Company and get all **your own hosting for FREE!**

Not many people want to share this information because it is a real money spinner. The only reason I am ready to spill the beans is that I have built up a great clientele and thought it was time to let others in on the secret.

Don't pay for your own hosting anymore become the Host.

We won't just tell you how to do it we'll show you.

I have been active on the Internet for the past eight years and have never paid for any hosting for my websites by using the programs and strategies I am going to lay out in this eBook for you. I now run around 50 sites and use these programs myself and never pay a penny for hosting.

I am going to give you three separate options ranging from easy to moderately hard so let's get going. There are plenty of videos to help you every step of the way. Also I am going to give you the ways I sell my hosting to help you.

WEBHOSTING: is the business of housing, serving, and maintaining files for one or more Web sites. We will be talking about you **becoming the hosting provider** in this eBook so it is important not to get this confused with buying a hosting account.

This is really quite a simple way to do business on the Internet and is not as hard as many people think **but let's not tell them** after all they will be your customers.

The three separate systems we will be looking at are:

1. **Affiliate Sales –** There are plenty of hosting companies offering great affiliate packages and we will show you some of the better ones. The only problem with most affiliate sales is that you usually only get paid once except for a couple.

2. **Reseller No Payment –** If you are just a beginner then this is probably the best system for you to start with. These are companies that do all the work and you just set up the links. They are wholesalers and you are the retailer.

3. **Reseller Payment –** This is the best system if you have a lot of domains yourself and also good if you want to set up a really strong business model. I personally prefer this system as it lets me add as many of my own domains as I like for both sales pages and test sites. I also sell from here and I will show how I do it later in the book.

There are a few more options such as getting your own server and installing your own hosting programs or leasing a dedicated server. This is mainly for larger corporations and this book is not intended to cover this information mainly because it is a corporate decision with many different factors to be taken into consideration.

The other option is to have your own server in your home. We will cover this a little however it also requires a lot of special features etc and not what we are looking at.

I am going to provide you with what I use but I will also provide you with other options. The main reason for this is that many people want

something simple and just follow instructions. Others want to do the research and look into it for themselves. I understand both points of view.

The plans we are going to use are for UNIX servers for a couple of reasons.

Web Host with Windows or Linux

Windows web hosts use a different language than Unix. Windows hosts serve many of the webs most powerful and complex sites and applications. One common misconception is that if you use a Windows PC, you must use a Windows host. This is not true. For most web sites a Unix plan is all you will ever need. If you need support for Microsoft products such as ASP, Access, or VBScript, then a Windows host is needed.

Asp (Active Server Pages) or Php

Many web sites use more advanced scripting than basic html. The most common are either ASP or PHP. Typically PHP is for Unix while ASP is for Windows. Microsoft also has a new technology called .NET which also needs a Windows web host.

You're Web Database

A common Unix database is MYSQL. Windows hosts use either Microsoft Access or MS SQL as their database. The beauty of using MYSQL and PHP is all the various free General Public License software around for this platform.

Making Your Choice

If you had to ask Windows or Unix, then a Unix plan is probably the best choice for you. **This will cover probably 90% of people wanting hosting**. The scripting language is much simpler and in most cases the plans cost is cheaper than Windows hosts. A Unix host also has a few more features, is far more reliable, and is easier for the technicians to repair making less down time.

Finally as you start to see the potential of this market you maybe lured to think it is money for nothing. While it is an excellent way to make a lot of extra residual income the secret is in the service. Try and read our important steps before making your decision. Backing up files and sites and providing excellent service will bring you more clients and if anything happens you will be ready.

A Scary Scenario:

I have a number of reseller accounts and the tendency is to set and forget.

Well last month one company went out of business and all the clients started to email me because their sites went down. I tried to contact the company but to no avail. Believe me when 60 customers get on your back you can feel like curling up and dieing but it happens.

IMPORTANT: Contact your customers once a month and remind them to back up.

This is also a great way to introduce any new products you might have to release and also to send them some articles or information to help them. Don't make it a big selling frenzy. Just be open and caring.

The outcome was that I did not loose one customer and in fact I got more referrals because of my great service.

The point is there are plenty of great reseller programs around but business is business and sometimes bad things happen. Service in the hosting business is KING!

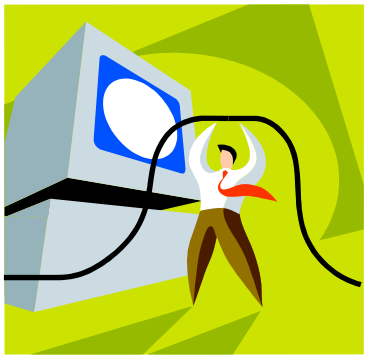
I simply went out and got another reseller package and sent them the new instructions and most had their sites back up in a couple of days.

You could even backup the sites yourself once a month as an added service. Believe me service like this pays big dividends.

Always be on the lookout for additional products to help your customers and try them out yourself before suggesting them.

Some other good things to provide your customers are tutorials on how to utilize there hosting more efficiently. Because we are mainly looking at UNIX plans they can have php and mysql programs for free in a lot of cases.

These are things like Content Management Systems, forums, phpforms, data bases and so much more. Be pro active.



Before we get going there is one last thing to discuss before we get into the mechanics. Keep good accounts. Always make sure you have scheduled when a package is coming up for renewal and advise the customer. Again it is all about providing excellent service. All the services I suggest have this built in or it can be added on.

Customers and Promoting

Lets be honest right up front. Web Hosting is a great business however it is also very competitive. I am going to share with you how I have built a great hosting business.

Tip One – ***Don't try and compete with the big guys***. There are literally hundreds of people selling hosting however there are niches where you can get a lot of customers. Local businesses, local papers etc. Lets face it people like to have some one they can reach and talk to. This also means you can charge a premium price.

Example: A local politician wanted a new website and knew I provided hosting so contacted me. He already had a site but wanted to change it to a Content Management site. He paid a premium price for me to transfer all the current information and set it up and then standerd local hosting price per year which is a lot greater than standard Internet prices a year. I used mambo which is free and simply contracted someone to copy his site into the CMS and then I copied and pasted all the information across. Why was he willing to pay so much more.

Simply I offered a service which his current hosting company did not. It was costing him a fortune every time someone did something on his site. I simply charged what the other company was charging add worked out the time to install a cms, copy the info across and and buffered in some training how to use the CMs. Another very happy customer.

Tip Two – ***Add value to your hosting.*** Learn some of the more advanced systems like forums, CMS, photo galleries etc. Things that people may want. The third system is great for this as you can set up a test site and practice and also show them the finished product before it is all transferred across. Many of the added features can be auto loaded through Fantastico which is included in the third package. Other services you can add is streaming audio by using our product at http://www.mp3soundstream.com Take their audio and compile it for them and offer to embed in their page. This can be a great money spinner as most people still think it is only for big corporate sites.

Offer to take their brochures and convert to pdf. You can pick up an older version of Acrobat which will do it just fine for cents on the dollar at auctions etc. There are also some good clones around. Here is a good one http://sourceforge.net/projects/pdfcreator/

Here is another great creator called Primo PDF http://www.primopdf.com You can also add this tool as bonuse when they host with you. Build a package of tools for them to use.

All these additional services and tools mean you can increase the cost from very basic hosting to 10 and 20 times what you would get if you just sell hosting like everyone else. Learn how to stand out from the crowd.

Pdf995 makes it easy and affordable to create professional-quality documents in the popular PDF file format. Its easy-to-use interface helps you to create PDF files by simply selecting the "print" command from any application, creating documents which can be viewed on any computer with a PDF viewer.

Pdf995 supports network file saving, fast user switching on XP, Citrix/Terminal Server, custom page sizes and large format printing. Pdf995 is a printer driver that works with any Postscript to PDF converter. The pdf995 printer driver and a free Converter are available for easy download. **http://www.pdf995.com/download.html**

Tip Three – ***Find a local graphic artist****.* There are plenty of budding artists and web graphics people around. Universities, school children, at home mums that will do it for very reasonable prices and then you add on your commission. I have used a young uni guy I found a couple of years ago and we have developed a great relationship. I think I have almost paid for his uni course. He has also introduced me to some other great people.

Tip Four – ***Advertise in local places****.* I have found most of my customers locally. I did this through small ads in local papers, handouts to local businesses and as I started to get a few going they referred the rest. This has also given me other work creating eBooks and pdf documents for them. I am also now getting computer work that I use some of those uni students for. Businesses pay quite well for good service and advice. Find a good computer hardware wholesaler locally and do a deal for computers etc and add on your commission.

Tip Five – ***Offer spotters fees****.* Many of my customers have come through people just getting to know that I am local and offer good service. I offer a spotters fee depending on what product they buy. Word of mouth is the most powerful form of advertising in this area.

Tip Six – ***Offer your new hosting package to your current customers.*** Many of you will already be selling other products etc so this is another service you can upsell to current customers. You may have friends with businesses so you could also tap into their data base of customers by offering to share the profits. If they do mail outs to their customers see if you can add a small brochure. It doesn't have to be anything to spectacular.

Tip Seven – ***Check out the local competition.*** Look in your local yellow pages and find any companies offering the same sort of products. You will find they charge a small fortune selling what you can do for a lot less. They have probably ruled the local market for years. A friend of mine was quoted $7000 for about 10 pages and a few multimedia bits and pieces. It would also cost her about $50 every alteration etc and more for new pages. I told her to come around and I would have a look. We installed a mambo site for her and built her first 10 pages

and now she does all the work herself. She has become a customer for life and pays her hosting every year. We saved her $6000 and she could not be happier. Naturally she has referred quite a few customers our way.

Tip Eight – ***Thinking outside the square.*** A great way to find customers is to use your local library or community centre. In many cases they will let you run free courses and have internet connections already set up. Our local library has a small room with 6 computers that will let anyone run a course and use their equipment as long as you do not sell anything.

Run a courses on web page creation. How to use goggle adwords and adsense. How to add graphics, audio or how to set up a family photo site. There are so many of these you could do for free and of course they will want hosting which you can provide. The secret here is not to sell the hosting but to offer it as a service. Again word of mouth will spread you name far and wide.

If you do not know how to do some of these things then learn them. There are plenty of free tutorials online you can copy or base your own courses around. You can then put the tutorials on a cd and give it to them for free with a link to your hosting page.

Tip Nine – ***E-Commerce***. Find a couple of good ecommerce solutions and help your customers set these up. Most have affiliate programs you can use to make that little bit of extra income.

Summary – Providing hosting is a great revenue generator because it is recurring and in most cases if you keep up contact and provide training in your newsletters people will do most of the work themselves. Actually this is your aim to make them self sufficient except for your hosting which they will need.

Always see what competition is available locally and I am sure you will find that by using the above tips you can sell your packages for a lot more than you would get just by selling online and competing with all the other hosting companies. Remember to always be on the look out for additions products and services you can add to the package to add value.

Affiliate Sales – There are plenty of hosting companies offering great affiliate packages and we will show you some of the better ones. The only problem with most affiliate sales is that you usually only get paid once.

Probably the best two affiliate programs are Host for Profit and Third Sphere.

These two are on the top because they pay you monthly. While the hosting is a little expensive they have stood the test of time. I have my primary sites hosted on these two programs and over the last five years have experienced excellent service.

Hosting is all about service as I think I have already said and this means you need money to keep the servers in prime condition. If the package is to cheap where do they get the money to keep them in good condition.

They provide excellent graphics and tracking so you can see who you have sold to and where your customers are.

If you are a Clickbank customer then you can also find some great deals in the marketplace that you can affiliate with. Most of these will only be a once of payment to you.

Here is a list which is by no means comprehensive but I have seen these companies around for a while.

They make it simple! Place one of their conversion banners or text links on your web site, and for every person who clicks on the link and signs up for their hosting package, you earn $65.00. It's that simple!

But wait, there's more! If the person you refer signs up as an Affiliate, they will pay you $10.00 for every sale they make!

Globat is similar to Ipower however they have a little different management system. They pay $65 per sale.

Obviously you can also search the net for other affiliate programs. Just go to goggle and search for affiliate web hosting programs. A good way to see how good they are is find some hosting forums and see what people say about them

Remember that most people will be complaining because they tend to only go to a forum to post their complaints but look and see if any one answers their complaint and what they say.

Notes:

Reseller No Payment

If you are just a beginner then this is probably the best system for you. These are companies that do all the work for you and you just set up the links. They are wholesalers and you are the retailer.

I have chosen one to go through the tutorial with you because I find them to be more aimed at the Internet marketers and allow you to add some of your own links. These plans are a lot better than the affiliate sites as they allow you to make residual income each time your customers renew.

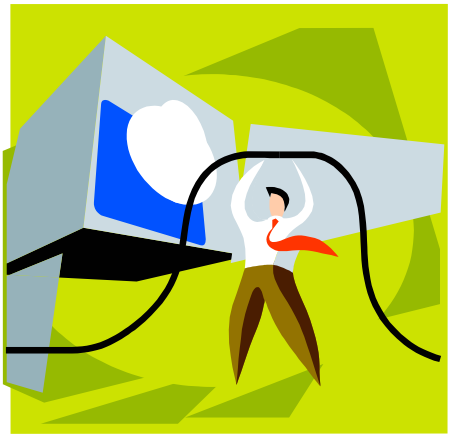
Resellers Panel

Here is what my hosting account looks like – http://www.msiwebhost.com As you can see you can also attach a domain of your choosing to the package which is very neat.

Resellers Panel is a unique FREE PROGRAM. They are the first free reseller hosting program that has successfully changed the way reseller hosting business operates by making it possible for everyone to resell web hosting and domain names without any investments.

They provide you and your customers with:

» Customer billing with instant account creation
» Multi-Language web hosting control panel
» 24/7 support for your customers (phone/ticket)
» 24/7 reseller support (phone/ticket/email/live chat)
» Affiliate program. 10% commissions on all affiliate sales
» Lifetime commissions on all hosting and affiliate sales



Using the reseller hosting solutions, u can take advantage of:

» Reduced rates on web hosting plans
» You set your own prices
» Complete automation
» Credit/debit/check card processing
» eCheck and e-mail payments with paypal.com
» Automated customer sign-up (for all PayPal payments as well)
»Automated domain registration

Multi-Lingual web hosting control panel for your customers

» Now including: English, Spanish, German and Bulgarian
» French, Russian and Portuguese to be added very soon

Dedicated 24/7 support for your customers

» 24/7 Ticketing support, with 25 mins average reply time
» 2 US tel. support lines are available from 4am to 8pm PST
» Soon an additional UK tel. support line will be available.

Fast 24/7 support to all resellers

» Call +1 510 870 0646 from 4am to 8pm PST (Los Angeles, CA)
» 24/7 Ticketing reseller support system (365 days a year)
» 24/7 E-mail support via our contact us page.
» Live chat support for resellers (16 hours on business days)

Additional Services

» $4.00 per domain name - the lowest price on the Internet
» Full control over your customers' accounts
» Ability to view and/or join in to the support chat

» No minimum sales or any kind of deposits required
» Customizable web design and opportunity to use your own
» Host of your reseller website at no charge
» Detailed reports of your sales
» 2-Tier affiliate program - 10% affiliate commissions
» Monthly payments for all reseller commissions via bank wire, check or PayPal

You will have a full control over the prices at which you are going to offer the web hosting services in your online store. When a potential client sees your web hosting store and decides to make a purchase they will be billed by Resellers Panel. Your client will be able to pay for web hosting services using a credit card or a PayPal account.

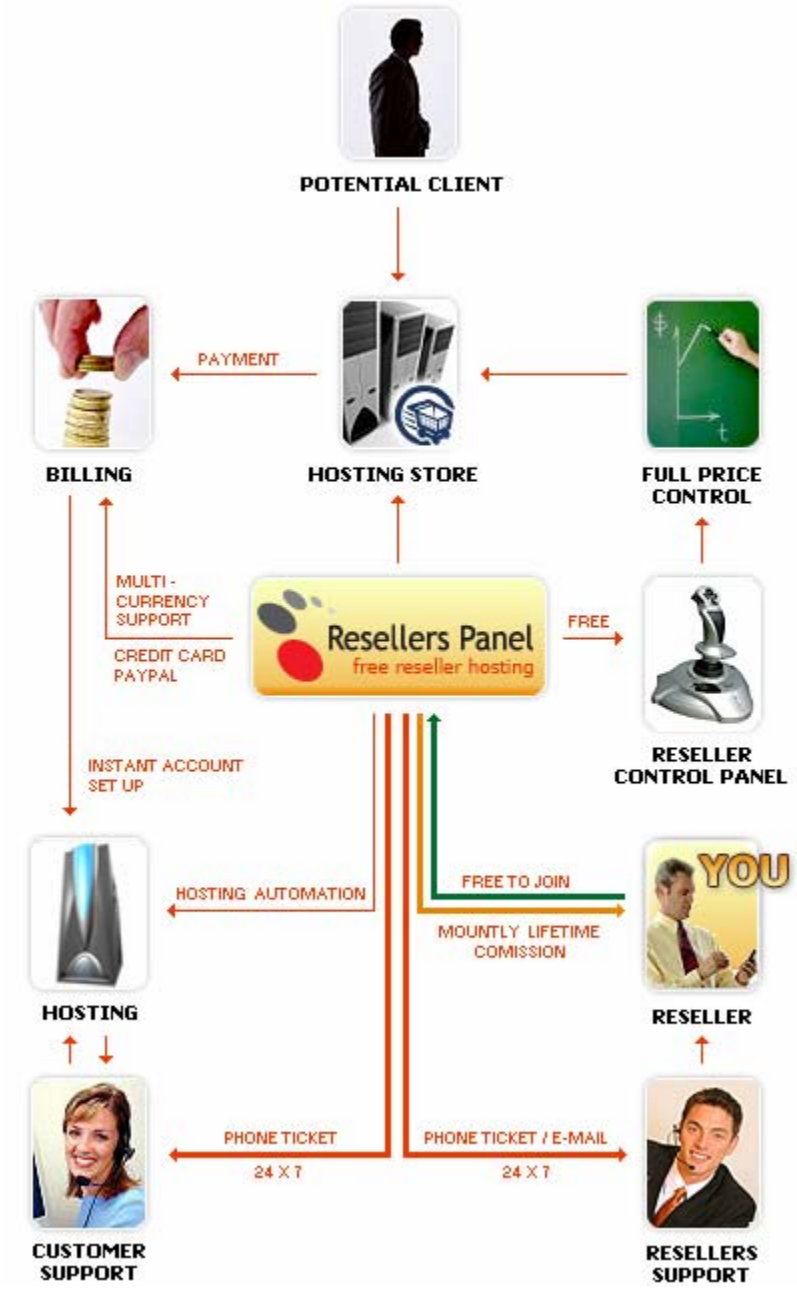
Their system provides support for multiple currency payments. Resellers Panel takes care of all billing costs, and you will incur no billing charges. After the payment from your client is verified their account will be instantly activated and they will receive access to their web hosting control panel from where they will be able to control their entire web hosting operations.

Resellers Panel provides 24/7 customer support to all your clients via a ticketing system, phone and e-mail. Support is provided with a complete anonymity through a dedicated support system your clients will never become aware that you are just a reseller of services provided by us. The resellers are also entitled to a free 24/7-reseller support via a ticketing system, phone and e-mail.

For all web hosting purchases, service upgrades and renewals made during each month you will receive a monthly reseller commission equal to the difference between the prices that you have set on your web hosting store and the wholesale prices at which they provide their services to your clients.

You will keep receiving your monthly reseller's commissions for each month during which a client decides to make a purchase, service upgrade or renewal through your online web hosting store.

How it works:

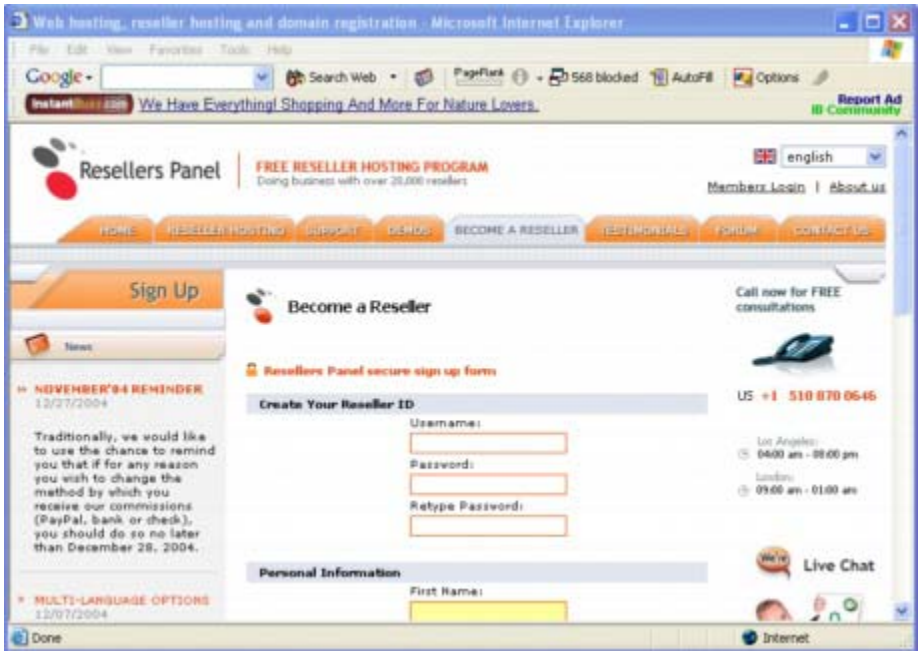


How to set up your Account:

Ok then that was the sales spiel now lets get into the nitty gritty of setting this up for you. The beauty of this system is you can also sell the same system to others and get a further 10% on all their sales by letting you offer the affiliate system above.

To sign up for the program click here.

I will take you through the whole process. Make sure you read through the other packages first to make sure this is the way you want to go.



Sign Up:

The sign up page is pretty straight forward so I will not go into much detail. Pick a user name and a password and fill in the other fields. You will almost instantly get an email with your login information.

To set up your hosting plan will take about 30 minutes and you will have a great site and be ready to start promoting your hosting packages.

Dear ResellersPanel

I really loved the way your Support Team helped me in difficult times. I could never set up a webstore like this even in 100 years! It's been only 2 weeks since I opened the domain and I am already seeing results! I get a lot of hits per day and I have already got a purchase. This is getting so cool.
Thank you very much for everything!

Best Regards,
SolonWeb Hosting Services
www.solonweb.net

Reseller Payment

This is the best system if you have a lot of domains yourself and just want add hosting as an additional service for your customers or sell to new people. It is also a form of wholesale and retail.

The difference between this form of reseller package and the previous one is that you actually buy the reseller package and then organize your own system for selling and etc.

In this system resellers have the ability to host UNLIMITED sites. As a reseller you create your own packages and prices. Being a reseller is completely anonymous allowing you to act as an independent hosting company. Your customers won't know that you are reselling the hosting unless you tell them. The control panel supports a dozen different languages, and has over 39 scripts that can be installed instantly with Fantasico. With this system the reseller hosting plans allow you keep 100% of the money you collect.

Turn Key Reseller Solution

Most of the reseller plans come with a free billing manager, free merchant account, free optional hosting templates to use, and a free domain reseller account. This combo provides you with a completed web site that allows visitors to signup from your website, pay you instantly, and automatically have their account created within minutes.

How does reseller hosting work?

You have a reseller hosting account control panel called Web Host Manager. WHM is where you go to create your customer accounts. After filling in their account information you click "create." This will instantly set them up with their very own control panel called cPanel. This is where they will go to administer their website. Once they are logged into cPanel they can create subdomains, email addresses, change passwords, and much more without requiring any help from you or us.

For this tutorial we have chosen a company called **Hostgator** and you can also use this as an affiliate system. The beauty here is that as you get more accounts you just move up to the next level.

This type of reseller package is also great if you have a lot of your own domains you want to host. The initial entry price is $24.95 which gives you 5 gig of space and 50 gig transfer traffic.

This equals 0.005cents per 1 mb and you could charge up to $0.10 per mb. That's a pretty good mark up in any bodies books.

You can create your own packages and organize the whole package how you want. You could have 100 packages at 50 mg each with 1 gig of traffic and sell them for $5.00 a month which would give you $400 a month income less your $25 fee. You could also set up smaller or larger packages depending on your clients. Add value by creating tutorials etc.

For example I have a lot of people just wanting a few pages so I have set up four packages. A 10 mb, 20mb, 50mb and 100mb. I then help them to create their web pages and add value by providing a monthly newsletter with helpful tutorials etc. Below is the plans and what you get.

Reseller Hosting Packages					
Disk Space More than Doubled! (Limited Time)					
Plans	Aluminum	Copper	Silver	Gold	Diamond
Disk space	5,000mb	7,000mb	10,000mb	15,000mb	20,000mb
Bandwidth	50,000mb	75,000mb	100,000mb	150,000mb	200,000mb
Monthly Price	$24.95	$34.95	$49.95	$74.95	$99.95
Private Name Servers	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Free Billing system	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Free Templates	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
24x7 support	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Instant backups	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
No contract!	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Site Builder*	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
99.9% uptime guarantee	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
30 day money	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

back guarantee					
Free / Instant setup	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
You can create....					
Domains	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited
Subdomains	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited
Pop3 accounts	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited
MySQL Databases	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited
FTP Accounts	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited	unlimited
All accounts you setup will have.....					
CGI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
PHP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Perl	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Python	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SSI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cron	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
FrontPage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Curl	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
GD	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Image Magick	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Streaming video and music	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Free module Installation	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Optional extra services... (click the question marks)					
JSP*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Site Builder*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Chillisoft ASP*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
All accounts will have the below E-mail tools....					
Web Mail	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
E-mail alias	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Auto responders	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mailing lists	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Catch All	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Spam Assassin	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mail Forward	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
IMAP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SMTP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

All accounts will have the below Control Panel Features...					
Fantastico Hot!	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Multi Language	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Hotlink Protection	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
phpMyAdmin	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Ip deny manager	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Search Engine Submittal	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Custom Error pages	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Redirect Url	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
web based ftp	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
PW Protected Directrories	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Instant Blogs	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Instant customer support desks	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Instant php nuke	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Instant Chatroom	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Instant Forums	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Instant Guestbook	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Instant Portals	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Instant Counter	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Instant Formmail	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
All accounts will have the below Web / Ftp Statistics...					
AWstats	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Webalizer	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Raw log Access	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Referrer log	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Error log	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Analog	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
All accounts will have the below E-Commerce Features...					
Shared SSL	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Private SSL*	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Interchange shopping cart	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Agora shopping cart	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔

Instant osCommerce	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cube Cart	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Setup Hostgator

Setting up your Hostgator is a little more involved than the previous models. All the information below is also available of their site and most of these packages will use the same terminology and systems.

Aside – With Hostgator I usually set up the accounts manually because I add the personal touch and sell packages to locals based on their needs so the packages vary for my clients however they also provide a complete automated system on their site.

You will need a domain name for this system. I suggest you use Godaddy.com or your could purchase from yourself from the previous program.

The very first step is to change your domains dns to the name servers you received in your welcome email. If you need help making dns changes please **read Changing DNS**. If you wish to use private name servers you must **read Private Name Server Setup**.

Changing DNS

Any time you make a DNS (domain name server) change it takes around 24-48 hours to complete. During this proprogation time routers all over the world are updating their cache. This causes your site to be up and down randomly during the first 48 hours for different people at different times. Think of dns like a zip code. If you don't put a zip code on your mail the post office doesn't know where to send it. Domains are the same way if they don't have the DNS the internet doesn't know what server to send your request to.

Making The Changes

Every registrar has a different procedure for changing your domains DNS, however they are all done basically the same way. The welcome email you received from us provides you with the name servers you need to change your domain to. You will than take those name servers to wherever you bought your domain, and fill them in for your domain name.

Your name servers should look something like...

- *ns1.hostgator.com*
- *ns2.hostgator.com*

(do not use the above unless told so in your welcome email)

Flash Movies – Domain registrars are continually changing but once you understand the process you will have no problems.

Below are some flash movies on how to make the changes at a few of the more popular registrars. If your registrars isn't included you can still watch the movies to understand how it's done.

- Dotster.com
- Dramsystem.com
- Enom.com
- GoDaddy.com
- Itsyourdomain.com
- MelbourneIT.com.au
- NameCheap.com
- NetworkSolutions.com
- OpenSRS.net
- Register.com
- StarGate.com
- WildWestDomains.com
- 000Domains.com
- 123-reg.co.uk

AHHH Help me

If you can't figure out how to change your sites dns contact whomever or wherever you bought your domain name from.

They will be able to assist you in making the changes or direct you to their faq on how it's done. Once you have done a few you will be an expert.
It is very easy to do.

Personalize Your Hosting Company

What are private name servers?

Private name servers would be ns1.yourdomain.com and ns2.yourdomain.com

What are my private name servers IP's?

For ns1.yourdomain.com the ip would be the ip listed in your welcome email.

For ns2.yourdomain.com the ip would the same accept change the last number in the ip to be one digit higher. Example: If the ip listed in your welcome email was 69.93.193.74 your ns2.domain.com name servers ip would be 69.93.193.75

What are the benefits of having your own name servers?

Many resellers choose to have their own name servers for appearance reasons. Using our anonymous name servers of ns1.websitewelcome.com and ns2.websitewelcome.com can be less professional looking for a hosting company. Other then the "look" of using private name servers there are no benefits.

How do I go about getting my private name servers setup?

You will now need to create the name servers at the place you registered your domain from. Every registrar has a different process for creating private name servers. If you purchased your domain from one of the below registrars click on their name for a step by step walk through. If they aren't listed below continue reading....

- directNIC
- Dotster
- Enom
- GoDaddy
- ItsYourDomain

- Network Solutions
- OpenSRS
- Wild West Domains
- 000domains.com

Try and look for something along the lines of "register DNS" "create DNS" or "add DNS" from within your account with your registar. The only way to create Name Servers is by using the ip addresses we assigned to your ns1 and ns2.yourdomain.com If there isn't a field asking for the ip you are not at the right place.

Private Name Server Notes

Changing your domains DNS is not the same thing as registering name servers. You will not be able to change your sites DNs to private name servers until your private name servers are registered with your domain registar. Some regsitars don't even have an option for you to create private name servers on our own. In many cases emailing them to do it is the only option.

Help

If you can't figure out how to register your private name servers with your registrar read their FAQ and look for a question along the lines of "How do I register name servers" If you can't figure it out from either reading their faq or navigating through your account with them you will need to email them asking...

My private name servers are registered now what?

After your Name servers have been created you will be able to use them for all of your domain names hosted with us.

Note: If you purchased your domain from Hostgator they will handle the dns changes including your private name servers setup. If you are new to this I suggest you do it all yourself so you can learn the process.

After your dns changes have been made please allow 24-48 for your dns to propagate worldwide. During this initial 24-48 hours your site will be working one minute then be offline the next. If after two days your site is still not working contact us ASAP.

1.Login at *http://the-ip-listedin-your-welcome-email/whm*

2.You must setup a hosting package by selecting "Add Packages." We recommend you pick the skin "x" for your packages.

3.After a package has been setup click "create a new account" and fill in the information you wish the account to have. When creating a site select the auto assign IP and fill in the site name as domain.com without the http or www.

Your main domain comes pre-setup with almost 0 space and bandwidth. After you create your hosting packages you MUST upgrade your site to one of your newly created packages.

Never delete your main site with us. If you delete your main site your reseller account will no longer work.

1 gig of space or bandwidth is equal to 1024 mb's. If you set a domain to under 1024mb's of bandwidth their site will not stay activated long before running out of bandwidth. Be generous with both space and bandwidth when creating an account. At the very least we recommend giving each site 1000mb bandwidth, and 50mb disk space.

***NOTE:** By default your main account and any accounts you create will have no email address setup. The main username may look like it's a setup email, but if you wish to use it you will need to add it as an email account.

Uploading to your site

You can begin uploading to your account now by using a **ftp client** or cPanel's **File Manager**. If you are using an ftp put in your sites ip address under the "host address" field. Once your ftp is connected go into the "public_html" folder and begin uploading to your site. To replace the default place holder page you must upload an index.html in all lowercase lettering.

Another great FTP program that I use is FileZilla - http://filezilla.sourceforge.net

Control Panel And Important Links

Note: "yourdomain.com" should be your sites IP address until your dns has proprogated.

- Your reseller control panel is located at *http://yourdomain.com/whm*
- Your control panel is located at *http://yourdomain.com/cpanel*
- Your webmail is located at *http://yourdomain.com/webmail*
- You can view your site before the dns has proprogated at *http://iphere/~usernamehere/* Note: Don't forget the trailing / and the ~
- **RESELLERS: Never give access to a demo account! Almost Every demo account we find on our servers are filled with hacking files that result in server down time. If you wish to use a demo you are more then welcome to use our secured demo which can be found at http://67.18.39.34/cpanel username: demo password: demo**

Support

If you have any questions please check out our FAQ: Reseller Hosting Help.

Another great place for help and discussion is the HostGator Reseller Hosting Forum.

Giving up? You can email us at support@hostgator.com.

Billing

If you wish to cancel, upgrade, update information, or anything else billing related please go to our billing page.

If you pay by credit card your web hosting fee will be billed automatically every thirty days.

If you pay by paypal you will need to manually make payments when you are e-mailed regarding an outstanding invoice by logging into the billing page. You can also setup a paypal subscription on the billing page to have it automatically paid.

Free Billing Manager, Templates, Enom

To get one or more of our free offerings please click here.

Merchant Services

Taking payments online can be very confusing, we recommend you read our comparison page for both prices and information on the many different ways to collect payment online.

Toll Free Number and Virtual Phone System

If you are interested in having your companies very own 800# just like 1-866-96-GATOR, having a virtual phone system with departments, professionally recorded greeting, and much much more visit http://www.hostgator.com/tollfree.shtml

Here are all the tutorials on how to use your Account Manager.

WebHostManager (Flash Movies)

- Managing your hosting packages
- Mangaging hosting accounts
- Managing your bandwidth
- Managing your subdomains
- Managing your skeleton directory
- Managing your DNS zones

- Suspending accounts
- Creating parked domains
- Managing your FrontPage Extentions
- Modifying account passwords
- Monitoring your server
- Troubleshooting email
- Setting up a Remote Access Key
- Changing your WHM theme

Some people have asked why I put all these in the eBook when they are available of the site. I guess when I am starting a new project I flit between the manual and the website so it is great when all the links are there as I go through the process for the first time. Once I have learnt I usually will just go to the site.

I figure if I do it then so will others.

My Own Experiences

I also use it to help friends and missionaries. The other day I was talking to one of my sons school mates and he wanted to learn Content Management Systems. By the way you have these in this package under the Fantastico button in your hosting Cpanel.

I was able to set him up a small 10mb site with 200mb traffic. We can now do the tutorials live and he can practice his graphics etc.

Other Hosting Resellers.

Reseller web hosts offer the web hosting plans that allow you to resell the web hosting services and set up your own web hosting business. Another good idea is to see if there are any local businesses selling reseller plans. This means you will have contact if this concerns you. A search on goggle will also provide a whole range of resellers.

Hosting (From Home) for Fun and Profit: Prerequisites, Hardware, and Network

Contributed by Michael Swanson

Many people believe that web hosting is a job only for large companies with huge server banks and dedicated service and technical personnel. However, this is not the case. Current broadband internet connections combined with most baseline desktop computer systems are more than capable of running one or several personal or test websites.

Running your own webserver can be useful in many ways. First of all, it gives you, the owner and administrator, full control over all aspects of your hosting environment. When you rent hosting space from a company, there may be certain aspects of the server, especially those on a global operating system level, that are beyond your control and are not likely to be easily changed to accommodate a need you may have. Secondly, you are combining the cost of your home broadband connection with whatever costs you may have been paying already for hosting. Thirdly, it helps you gain experience with and understanding of the difficulties and duties involved in webserver administration and server administration in general. This is great for anyone involved in web software development as you will gain knowledge of another aspect of web software that may not be totally familiar to you.

Another common misconception is that a single webserver can only host one domain name. However, both Apache and IIS have the capability through a mechanism called virtual hosts to host multiple domain names on a single server machine with only one IP address.

The main disadvantage inherent in running a home webserver lies in the fact that you will most likely not be using enterprise class hardware, nor do you have a huge bandwidth pipe that can handle huge amounts of traffic. In general, home webserving should not be used for any mission critical business sites (probably not any business sites), and any site that gets large amounts of traffic. What constitutes too much traffic for a broadband connection will be

determined by the type of site you are hosting, the type of server you are running, and the amount of bandwidth you have available on your home connection. ISP's also don't generally give residential connections the same priority as business connections when it comes to restoring outages and fixing other problems. Also, most people do not have the resources to run servers with the absolute minimum downtime like large hosting providers do. Updating a server may require a restart, and thus, some small downtime (not much, and it may not even effect any end users if the site doesn't get constant traffic), however, hosting providers have multiple servers which allows them to move some sites temporarily to allow them no-downtime planned updates.

However, even given all of these possible downsides, the upsides of total control and management, reduced costs, and the knowledge you will gain, make this in general a profitable experience. This article will cover some of the basic concerns when beginning the process of setting up a webserver. One notable thing that I will not cover is specific software concerns, they will be addressed in a separate article given those issues complexity.

Some examples of things you will probably need to consider before running a server:

1. Computer to act as the server
2. Broadband connection
3. Hardware NAT router with firewall
4. Domain name(s)
5. Your WAN IP address

Each one of these will be addressed in more detail in later sections in terms of what each can be used for.

The most important aspect of setting up a server is planning and thinking ahead. The type of hardware you will need will be determined by what sorts of webpages you will be hosting and what other kinds of tasks your server will do (FTP, email, telnet, etc.), so it is therefore very important to think about what your server will do before you start setting it up.

Because people generally want to minimize downtime when working with servers, any large changes you may make (both hardware and software) after your server is up and running will most likely cause serious downtime, so any of these large changes you can avoid by anticipating them during original set-up is a good thing. I will cover in the rest of this article

some of the specific things you should think about and decide before and during setting up your server.

The first thing you will need to do is find a computer that will act as your server. This could be anything from a Pentium 2 with 64 megabytes of RAM to a dual CPU Xeon with 2 gigabytes of RAM, depending on how much active content and how much traffic your server will get. For example, if your server will mostly be serving static pages with little or no active (scripted) content, few images, and relatively low traffic, a system on the low end of this spectrum will be sufficient (Pentium II or III with 128 to 256 megabytes of RAM). However, if you want to serve multiple domains with a lot of database and active or scripted content you will want a faster server (not necessarily the dual Xeon mentioned above, but definitely Pentium III or IV with 256-512 megabytes of RAM).

Another important aspect to decide early is how much hard drive space the intended applications will require. If you want to run an FTP server for you and your friends to swap MP3 and movie files, you'll want a large amount of hard drive space.

The next piece of hardware that's important is some sort of hardware router to allow multiple computers to share the same internet connection. This can take the form of a Linksys or Netgear all-in-one router/firewall (or something similar). If you choose to use something like this, it's important to make sure that the router has Network Address Translation and a built in firewall along with port pass-through so that you can allow certain types of traffic through to your server while disallowing others. This is the type of setup I would suggest as these routers allow for easy set-up and administration.

Another way to share a network connection is by setting up a computer with at least two network cards to act as a router. In this setup the computer does the work of translating packets from the outside broadband network interface to the internal local network interface? Both Windows and most Linux distributions come with built in software accomplish this on a computer equipped with multiple network cards. You can also increase security on your network by adding a firewall to this system. This set

up is best if you have an old unused computer laying around, as a computer acting as a router does not need very much computer power.

Before you set up your server, you will need to make sure that your ISP allows customers the ability to host servers on their connections and that your ISP does not block or firewall the low numbered ports (below 1024) that are necessary for running servers.

First, consult your Terms of Service to make sure that your ISP doesn't specifically deny you rights for running servers. If your ISP directly denies you this right, you run the risk of having your service cut if you do try and run a server. To avoid this problem, you may want to check with other broadband providers in your area and find out if they have similar restriction. Also, you may be able to change your type of connection (although this may cost more) to get the ability to run servers.

You will also need to check whether your ISP provides you with a static or a dynamic IP address. If you have a dynamic IP (which means that your IP changes periodically), you will need to use a special DNS service to get around your IP changing. You can determine this generally by either consulting your terms of service or calling your ISP's helpline and asking.

Checking if you are firewalled is a little more difficult. You can go to a computer not on your ISP's network (such as a work or school) computer and try to ping your IP address. Also, you can turn on or install a simple webserver and try to access your IP address from outside with a web browser. Also, you can of course call your ISP's helpline and ask this question as well.

Domain Name

A domain name is the golden key for a place on the Web. Getting an easily remembered and quick to say domain name is great for spreading word and drawing new users. There are many different companies that register domain names. The ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers) maintains a list of accredited registrars here:

http://www.icann.org/registrars/accredited-list.html

In general this is a very competitive industry, so checking several is a good idea in order to get a good price.

In order to use a Domain Name, you need to have Domain Name Servers (DNS) that map your domain and any sub-domains that you may have to the IP address of the server hosting them. Some explanation of DNS in general may be useful in understanding how you set it up:

When a user types a domain name like www.microsoft.com into a web browser, the browser first sends out queries to the domain name system to resolve that domain name to an IP address. It starts with the DNS servers the user has defined locally and continues up the DNS tree until the browser find which servers it must consult to resolve the domain name. After the browser has resolved the domain name to an IP address, it can use the regular TCP/IP protocol to connect to the web server(s) that hosts www.microsoft.com and start transferring data. In reality, there are many details of this system that I haven't addressed, but this works as a rough explanation.

The structure of this system dictates that there must be some DNS servers that know your domain name and can relate that domain name to your IP address. There are several different services that provide DNS service to the public. For example, Zoneedit.com will serve 5 domain names for free on their DNS servers. After you buy your domain name, its DNS will most likely be hosted on your registrar's parking servers until you define other DNS servers for that domain. Once you find a DNS service provider that you wish to use, they will give you the names of their DNS servers that have your domain information. Some examples of what these may be are: ns15.zoneedit.com and ns16.zoneedit.com. You will also notice that you need two domain name servers, this is for redundancy in case one goes down, a user will still be able to get the domain information and find your site.

One other problem to keep in mind when setting up DNS is the time lag between when you buy a domain name and when it actually takes effect in the top level domain registry. Usually, registrars say it may take up to 72 hours before the domain change (new DNS servers being assigned to your domain with the top level servers), however it is usually much shorter than that. Changes that you make to the DNS servers themselves becomes live immediately.

Subdomains are anything to the left of the actual domain name. For instance in www.microsoft.com, the "www" is the subdomain. You can set up many different subdomains. You can put just about anything in front of the domain name (the microsoft.com part). Some typical ones are: www, ftp or mail. If you were to host an FTP server on a different IP than the one that hosts the webserver, you are able to map that subdomain to a different IP. In most

cases, with home webserving, you will not map any subdomains to more than one IP, since most residential broadband connections are not allocated more than on IP address. You will want to set up at the very least the “www” subdomain as this is what most people will use to try and access you webserver.

Having your own webserver allows you great freedoms in regards to how and what you host, what sort of hardware you use, and many other advantages, but it also carries some important responsibilities, especially if you use your server to host other people’s sites. The most important of these responsibilities is security. You the owner and operator of the server are responsible for making sure that the software which runs your server is kept updated and secured to the best of your ability.

Most relatively savvy internet users have learned the importance of updating and maintaining the software on their computers, and the same applys to a server. Virus protection, spyware protection, and a software firewall are three very important parts of securing a server from attack. Virus protection and spyware protection are clear for reasons that should be well known.

The software firewall may seem redundant, especially if you already have a hardware firewall guarding your local network. However, maintaining both a hardware firewall at your internet gateway and a software firewall on the server itself is very important. Most hardware firewall’s block and allow by certain ports to be allowed and forwarded to specific computers on the network. However, it is still possible for various types of malicious traffic to come in on ports for your different services. Most software firewalls available now will only allow information to be received by certain applications, which can help prevent malicious executables from preempting trusted applications on open ports. Also, they often check file size and make sure the file hasn’t changed before allowing it access to the internet.

By keeping the software on your server updated, any malicious traffic that does get through the firewalls will hopefully not find any vulnerabilities in the software that processes it. This is the single most important way of keeping your server safe.

Final Words

This article has covered some of the basic concerns when setting up a server, including many network concerns particular to using a residential network connection. The most important

issues to keep in mind when embarking on this process are: planning and security. The more planning you complete ahead of time, the less time you will have to spend later either fixing problems or adding new software and features. Security is important in order to maximize uptime and maintain good performance for sites hosted on your server.

Overall, the knowledge and experience gained from setting up a webserver are well worth the effort and time necessary to complete this process.

This article by:

Michael Swanson

I am a student majoring in Math/Computer Science and History at a small liberal arts university in the midwest. When I'm not writing for school or Devshed, I'm usually flying or playing in some various musical group (from Symphony Orchestra to Jazz combos).

Lawrence University - http://www.atlantisvalley.com

Summary

As you can see there is plenty of opportunity to take your hosting needs and use one of these solutions to never have to pay for hosting again.

The secret of Internet marketing is not to always have the best product but to make the best out of the products you do have.

Some other great tools

http://www.quentinbrown.com

http://www.mp3soundstream.com

http://www.msiprompt.com

http://www.msijukebox.com