

Website Guide

Web Hosting

A web host is a company that leases space and bandwidth on their servers, so that you can store your website there. **Web hosting is never free**, but most companies give a substantial discount if you pay annually.

Try to avoid “free” webhosts. Most are supported by ads on your site and tend to limit your content, for example by blocking PayPal or JavaScript. They are often unreliable and can make your site slow to load. Plus, since you are not paying, the company has little reason to give you good customer support.

However, there are some classier free webhosts, like Wix. This works because they don’t let you download the actual content of your site, so if you need to expand beyond the limits of their free service, you can’t switch hosting companies. They provide the free service because they hope you will upgrade to a paid service in the future.

Domain Names

Your domain name is the address of your site, e.g., “awesomemusician.com.” A visitor’s computer needs to know where to find the server for your site. Lots of companies sell domains. It can be especially nice to register your domain through the same company you use for hosting, if they offer that service. Sometimes you can get a deal this way. As with a webhost, make sure you would be able to switch to another company, should you choose to.

Domain names are cheap. Usually, a domain name will cost something like \$10-40 a year, depending on the name. Lots of webhosts will offer you a free subdomain. This means your web address would be

Comparison of Two Web Design Platforms

Conclusion: Squarespace offers more in the long run, though Wix is cheaper if you aren't expecting tons of traffic for now (and it may be easier to use). Their styles are a little different, so try out both with the free options before committing.

You might also consider checking out Jimdo and Weebly.

Jimdo is great for e-commerce, so if you want to sell a lot of products it will help you keep track of them,