



ThinkHost is a true web hosting leader specializing in extremely reliable, well-supported hosting solutions for small & medium sized businesses & personal / hobby site owners. We provide stable support for technologies such as PHP, MySQL and Microsoft FrontPage. Visit us at <http://www.thinkhost.com>. ThinkHost – simply the smart choice!

An Introduction to Web Sites and Hosting - Courtesy of ThinkHost.com -

What is a website?

Essentially, a website is a means for your to present information to a global online audience. Websites make the information you present or the products you sell more accessible to an immensely large market, now extending to billions of people. There are no limits to what can be achieved with your website. A website is essentially a series of documents all linked together in a self-contained environment, much like a book - but to move between pages on a website, we click on hyperlinks rather than turn pages. Unlike a book, a website can be a very dynamic environment offering a personalized reading experience with a high degree of interactivity.

Why do I need a website?

Every day more and more people are coming online. Every day, people are spending more time online. People are becoming more reliant on the Internet not only as a means of direct communication with loved ones, but as a source of information, a way to explore new ideas and as a place to buy products and services. Much of the world's business, legal and administrative infrastructure is now highly dependent on the Internet. Actually, the Internet and the WWW (World Wide Web) are two separate entities. The Internet is the basic infrastructure of our global network, and part of that network is the World Wide Web, which consists of web sites and pages, much like the one you are viewing now. There are now more web pages on the WWW than there are human beings on this planet!

As the Internet matures, websites are ceasing to become a novelty and are quickly becoming a necessity. It has been often stated by the powerbrokers of major companies that many businesses not making the transition to the World Wide Web will be out of business within a few years. If your business is not online as yet, it's important to remember that many of your competitors are - and they are targeting your clients!

Having your own website allows you to:

- Share ideas with an audience
- Meet people who share common interests
- Provide advice or support to visitors and clients
- Give your company a more professional image
- Market products to an international audience
- Provide a wide range of information based services

Those are but a few of the opportunities that the World Wide Web offers. Whether you choose to share your website with friends and family, or with millions of visitors, the possibilities are infinite.

Confused about which hosting option is right for you? Visit [ThinkHost](http://www.thinkhost.com) on the web and ask us – one of our friendly, professional team will assist you with any queries you may have. Our consultancy services are provided free, with no obligation! ThinkHost is simply the smart choice for all your hosting needs! – <http://www.thinkhost.com>





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How do I get a website?

In order to make your information accessible from the Internet, you must have a place to host your files, called a server. Web hosting companies such as [ThinkHost](#) allow people like you to make their ideas and products available to millions of people around the world by renting out space on their servers and providing connectivity to a global network.

Bringing Yourself Online

What is a Web Host?

A web host is a company who makes your website accessible via the Internet. The host does this by storing your website on a powerful computer (a server) which is connected to the Internet via a data connection capable of transmitting and receiving information at a rapid rate. As all servers are connected by similar means, when a web surfer wishes to see your website, the server sends them the information they requested through a complex network of telephone cables, fibre optic cables and even satellites. Although the connection to the computer which stores the web site you wish to view may be many thousands of miles away, this request only takes milliseconds!

Maintaining a web server is a difficult and time-consuming task. By working with a web host such as [ThinkHost](#), you no longer have to worry about that aspect and can focus on building and promoting your website. Essentially, you will be renting space on the web host's server for your website. This not only saves you the headache of running your own server, it is far less inexpensive than purchasing one!

How do I decide what hosting I need?

The first thing you probably want to do is take a quick crash course in the basics of hosting lingo:

Webpace/Storage - The amount of disk space your website files will use.

Bandwidth - The amount of data (from files) transferred to web surfers when they visit your website.

Hit - A file sent from the server to someone viewing your webpage. On average, 30,000 hits are equal to 1000 megabytes of bandwidth.

Domain - The web address used to access your website (in our case, www.ThinkHost.com)

Mailbox - An email account that receives email for an address at your domain. (ie. yourname@yourdomain.com)

FTP - A method used to transfer files directly to a server.

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(Server Side) Scripting - The ability to use programs written using the programming languages mentioned (PHP, Perl, C++, etc.) Message boards, guest books as well as online forms all use scripting.

These are the basic terms you should be familiar with when selecting a package. As your site grows, you will find that it is only the amount of storage and bandwidth that you will need more of. In general, other requirements (like scripting) tend to be the same for both large and smaller sites.

Why should I choose ThinkHost?

[ThinkHost](#) offers a great range of affordable, quality packages to suit every purpose, from hobbyists to business start-ups to e-commerce enabled organizations that may already have a well-established site. To learn more about the reasons you should choose [ThinkHost](#) web-hosting solutions, we invite you to review our web site and to read what our clients have to say about us. While you are visiting, we would welcome any questions you may have.

Establish Your Presence

Setting yourself up online is easy!

Get a Domain Name

If you don't already have a name chosen for your web presence, now is the time to do it! With thousands of domains being registered everyday, the domain you want might not be available tomorrow for you if you delay the registration.

A domain should be easy to remember and describe the subject of your site. If you have difficulty thinking of a name, you can always skip this step and think of a name once you have started your site. If you would like to review a guide on domain name selection, please visit the [ThinkHost](#) site. You can also register your domain name directly through [ThinkHost](#)!

Choose a Hosting Package

Selecting a hosting package for your website can be a difficult and often confusing decision. To make this process easier, [ThinkHost](#) has carefully tailored plans to meet your needs depending on the objective of your website. All our plans have excellent flexibility and upgrades available, which allows the hosting solution to grow as you do.

In addition to our comprehensive hosting packages, we have also created a Solution Wizard which can help you decide what services would be best for your needs.

If you would prefer to ask an expert for advice, feel free to contact our Customer Care Team and ask them what they would recommend. Remember to include as much information about your planned project as possible so we can get an idea of what your needs are – this is a free, no-obligation service!

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Build Your Site

Building a website is easy, and there are a few ways in which you can do it. The first method is to use a web page editor like MS FrontPage or DreamWeaver. These allow you to use your mouse to "draw" your website as you would like it to appear. There are also a number of free web development software packages available. Your other option is to code it in HTML using something as simple as NotePad or NoteTab.

To make things easier for you during the construction of your site, we have created [eDevCafe](#). [eDevCafe](#) is a webmaster resource with articles and tutorials on everything you need to know in order to build your website. In addition to the articles and tutorials, [eDevCafe](#) also has a popular Webmaster community where you can ask other webmasters for help and advice to make your project a success

- don't be shy in asking questions, we all had to start somewhere!

If that sounds too difficult, then you can always build your presence using one of the many professional templates available as part of our QuickSite package. This solution allows you to build a professional looking site in minutes without having to know any HTML or programming whatsoever! Exclusive to [ThinkHost](#), QuickSite is as easy as using any word processor or simple desktop publishing program. If you have ever used Microsoft Word, then you will be just as able to create a professional web site with QuickSite. Click here to learn more about QuickSite, our total web development and hosting solution!

Promote your Site

Once your site is built you will want people to see it. With so many web sites now around, it is no longer a case of "build it and they will come" - you need to actively promote your site. A good way to start is by submitting your web site to search engines. Beyond that, we strongly encourage you to talk with fellow webmasters and ask them for advice on the most effective methods. Experienced webmasters at [eDevCafe](#) are more than happy to help.

Now that you've read through our introduction to web hosting, we'd love to assist you further. If you still have questions, please don't hesitate to contact our Customer Care Team. Or, if you're ready to obtain hosting, choose a plan from [ThinkHost](#) and sign up now - in under 10 minutes, you'll be ready to start creating your web site!

ThinkHost... because not all web hosts are created equal..

ThinkHost
Quality Web Hosting Solutions
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