

What is Hosting?

Hosting (also known as *Web site hosting* and *Web hosting*) is the business of housing, serving, and maintaining files for one or more Web sites. More important than the computer space that is provided for Web site files is the fast connection to the Internet. Most hosting services offer connections on T-carrier system lines. Typically, an individual business hosting its own site would require a similar connection and it would be expensive. Using a hosting service lets many companies share the cost of a fast Internet connection for serving files.

What do these terms mean?

Below are many of the terms you will need to be familiar with in order to understand your web hosting options.

What is a Web Server?

Generally used in reference to the computer hardware that provides World Wide Web services on the Internet, a Web server includes the hardware, operating system, server software, TCP/IP protocols and the Web site content. Web servers process requests from Browsers for web pages and serves them up via HTTP.

What is HTTP?

HyperText Transfer Protocol - the underlying protocol used by the World Wide Web. HTTP defines how messages are formatted and transmitted, and what action Web servers and browsers should take in response to various commands. For example, when you enter a URL in your browser, this actually sends an HTTP command to the Web server directing it to fetch and transmit the requested Web page.

What is a Domain Name?

An addressing construct used for identifying and locating computers on the Internet. Domain names provide a system of easy-to-remember Internet addresses, which can be translated by the Domain Name System (DNS) into the numeric addresses (Internet Protocol (IP) numbers) used by a network. (netrep.co.za is a domain name as is Google.com)

What is an IP Address?

Every computer connected to the Internet must have a unique address known as an IP (Internet Protocol) address. The IP address is a numeric address written as a set of four numbers separated by dots, for example 64.149.219.213. The address provides a unique identification of a computer and the network it belongs to.

What does URL stand for?

Uniform Resource Locator - the global address of documents and other resources on the World Wide Web. The first part of the address indicates what protocol to use, and the second part specifies the IP address or the domain name where the resource is located. <http://www.netrep.co.za/> is the URL for Netpreneurs International.

What does DNS stand for?

Domain Name System - a system of mapping names to IP addresses. Because domain names are alphabetic, they're easier for humans to remember. The Internet, however, is really based on IP addresses. Every time you use a domain name, DNS translates the name into the corresponding IP address. It is similar to a phonebook for the Internet.

What does FTP stand for?

File Transfer Protocol - Allows the transfer of one or more files from one computer to another across the Internet. Usually from a personal computer to a Server or vice versa

What is Bandwidth?

Bandwidth in respect to hosting is the amount of information that can be transferred from the server to a Browser. Hosts usually limit the amount of bandwidth a user has available per month. As an example, if you had a file on your site that was 1mb and you had 1 GB of bandwidth, users could download the file 1000 total times.

What is Disk Space?

Disk Space - the total physical amount of hard drive space a host allows a user to have.

What is a Dedicated Server?

A Dedicated Server is one that only has a single website running on it, rather than a shared server, that has multiple websites being served up.