

THE BLOG MANUAL

WEB HOSTING WORKSHEET

1. WHAT DO YOU NEED?

If you already have a blog, write out some of the features you're looking for in a new host, including price. Also, check your stats to see how much space and bandwidth you're using. If you don't already have a blog, then you'll just need to figure out a budget. Most starter hosting plans cost between \$3 and \$10 per month. And don't forget that you'll probably want a domain name, which will usually cost between \$10 and \$15 per year.

Budget:

Domain name?

Stats: (if currently hosted)

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2. RECOMMENDATIONS

If you have any friends who have blogs or websites, ask them who they're hosted with and if they're happy with the service. You can also check your favorite blogs, websites, and other influencers to see who they recommend. Just be aware that many of us do receive a commission for our recommendations, so that could be a factor in why they are recommending a company to you.

Another way is to ask around in any groups or communities that you're part of to see which hosts they recommend. Most people are excited to recommend their host to you and may have some helpful tips.

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3. COMPARE

Take the recommendations you have above, and compare their plans and pricing with what you're looking for. Write out what you find for each host, and eliminate the ones that won't work for you.

4. CHECK REVIEWS

Do a quick Google search for the remaining web hosts. Look at the first page. What do the reviews say? What are the ratings like? Consider going back to Step 2 where you looked at recommendations for reference. Write down your thoughts.

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5. TRY IT OUT

Take the recommendations you have above, and compare their plans and pricing with what you're looking for. Write out what you find for each host, and eliminate the ones that won't work for you.

6. MAKE A CHOICE

You should have enough information at this point to make a choice. If not, go back to Step 2 and work through it again. Try not to spend weeks trying to decide on a web host. If it doesn't work out with the company you choose, you could always just switch hosts (although I admit that moving can be a pain).