

A Web Host Checklist

See Chapter 3 for complete details about what to look for when selecting a Web hosting firm. Once you start researching your options, print out this checklist to keep track of what to look for when picking your site's home on the Web.

- _____ Web space. 20 MB is acceptable if you're getting free Web space from your ISP, but insist on at least 50 MB if you're paying for it with a monthly fee. If you want to offer photos, audio, or other large files, go for 250 MB to be safe.
- _____ Bandwidth. You don't need much. 1 GB works for normal Web sites, but look for 5 GB or more if you want to provide large files or are expecting to create a popular Web destination.
- Domain name. This is your identity—*www.You.com*. Ideally, the domain name should be thrown in for free.
- Email addresses. These go with the domain name. Look for at least one POP mailbox. It's better to have five or more, because it allows you to give separate email addresses to family members, or use them for different purposes. Also look for Web-based access to your email.
- FTP access. This ensures easy uploading of your files.
- Tech support. The best companies provide 24-hour tech support, ideally through a toll-free number or a live chat feature that lets you ask a tech support person questions through your browser.
- Statistics. These are useful if you want to check out how popular your Web site really is. If you want to analyze traffic patterns and more detailed statistics, look for

a Web host that provides access to *raw server logs*. You can download these and use them with a high-powered analysis tool.

FrontPage extensions. Useful if you're using FrontPage to create your Web site, and want to take advantage of a few extra frills.