

# The Complete Hosting Plan Comparison Checklist

Compare two shortlisted hosting plans side by side, using the same criteria and the same cost window.

Work through each group for both plans simultaneously. Record the answer for Plan A and Plan B in the columns provided. The rows where the answers differ are the ones the decision should turn on. Rows where both plans are equivalent are not decision factors.

Plan A provider	_____	Plan B provider	_____
Website/domain	_____	Date	_____
Primary decision factor	_____	Reviewer	_____

Decision item	Plan A	Plan B
Best fit overall	_____	_____
Reason	_____	_____

Group 1: True Cost		
Comparison Point	Plan A	Plan B
Introductory rate (per month)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Billing term for introductory rate	_____	_____
Standard renewal rate (per month)	\$ _____	\$ _____
Blended monthly cost over 24-month window	\$ _____	\$ _____
Domain registration (free year one only or ongoing?)	_____	_____
SSL certificate included at no charge	Yes / No	Yes / No
Daily backups (included or add-on cost)	_____	_____
Email hosting (included or excluded)	_____	_____
CDN integration (included or add-on)	_____	_____
Other required add-ons and costs	\$ _____	\$ _____
<b>Total estimated annual cost (all-in)</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>	<b>\$ _____</b>
Money-back guarantee window	_____ days	_____ days

Notes for this group

Group 2: Uptime SLA and Reliability		
Comparison Point	Plan A	Plan B
Uptime guarantee percentage	_____ %	_____ %
Permitted downtime per year (converted)	_____ hrs	_____ hrs
SLA document reviewed (not marketing page)	Yes / No	Yes / No
SLA exclusions noted	_____	_____
Compensation structure	_____	_____
Claim process and window	_____	_____
Uptime monitoring method	Self-reported / Third-party	Self-reported / Third-party
Notes for this group		

Group 3: Support Quality and Availability		
Comparison Point	Plan A	Plan B
Pre-sales live chat response time	_____	_____
Technical question answer quality	_____	_____
24/7 live chat available	Yes / No / Limited hours	Yes / No / Limited hours
Support channels on this plan tier	_____	_____
Ticket response time expectation	_____	_____
Off-hours support tested	Yes / No	Yes / No
Knowledge base quality	_____	_____
Notes for this group		

Group 4: Performance Infrastructure		
Comparison Point	Plan A	Plan B
Storage type	NVMe / SATA SSD / HDD / Unspecified	NVMe / SATA SSD / HDD / Unspecified

<b>Full-page caching</b>	Server-level / Plugin-level / Not included	Server-level / Plugin-level / Not included
<b>OPcache</b>	Included / Not confirmed	Included / Not confirmed
<b>Redis or Memcached object caching</b>	Included / Add-on / Unavailable	Included / Add-on / Unavailable
<b>HTTP protocol version</b>	HTTP/2 / HTTP/3	HTTP/2 / HTTP/3
<b>Server location options</b>	_____	_____
<b>Resource limit behaviour under load</b>	Throttling / Queuing / 503 errors	Throttling / Queuing / 503 errors
<b>PHP version options</b>	_____	_____

Notes for this group

### Group 5: Plan Features and Included Services

Comparison Point	Plan A	Plan B
<b>Email hosting included</b>	Yes / No	Yes / No
<b>Staging environment</b>	Included / Add-on / Unavailable	Included / Add-on / Unavailable
<b>Upgrade path</b>	In-account / New account required	In-account / New account required
<b>Migration assistance</b>	Free / Tools only / Charged	Free / Tools only / Charged
<b>Control panel</b>	_____	_____
<b>Number of sites permitted</b>	_____	_____
<b>One-click CMS installer</b>	Yes / No	Yes / No
<b>Storage allocation</b>	_____	_____
<b>Bandwidth or data transfer limit</b>	_____	_____
<b>RAM allocation (VPS or dedicated)</b>	_____	_____

Notes for this group

Group 6: Security and Backup Coverage		
Comparison Point	Plan A	Plan B
SSL included at no charge	Yes / No	Yes / No
SSL auto-renewal included	Yes / No	Yes / No
Backup frequency	Daily / Weekly / _____	Daily / Weekly / _____
Backup retention window	_____ days	_____ days
Restore method	Self-service / Support ticket	Self-service / Support ticket
Restore cost	Included / \$_____ per restore	Included / \$_____ per restore
Malware scanning	Included / Not included	Included / Not included
WAF or firewall protection	Infrastructure-level / Plugin-only	Infrastructure-level / Plugin-only
Two-factor authentication on account	Available / Not available	Available / Not available

Notes for this group

**Disclaimer:** This checklist is for general informational and organizational purposes only. It is not medical, legal, financial, clinical, emergency or professional advice, and it should not replace a personalized plan or licensed professional guidance. Hosting plan features, pricing structures, renewal rates, SLA terms, included services and infrastructure specifications vary by provider and can change over time. Always verify current plan details, renewal rates, feature availability and terms directly with each hosting provider before purchasing. Adapt this checklist to your own website, budget, risk tolerance and technical needs. Web Hosting Services makes no guarantees regarding outcomes based on use of this checklist in any format.

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