



## **Area Networks Types Of Managed Hosting**

What is server hosting, and what options are available? How do they compare when it comes to security, expertise, included services, cost and value?

### **Managed Hosting**

Managed hosting is an advanced type of hosting. Unlike basic hosting, managed hosting offers system level administration and support, comprehensive Internet infrastructure, and extensive services that relieve IT departments of many critical, but costly responsibilities. These services typically include advanced monitoring, load balancing, elevated security, data storage, stress testing, industry-leading technical expertise, and content delivery.

The provider owns the data centers, the network, the server and other devices, and is responsible for installing, maintaining and monitoring them. The customer retains full control of the application data. This balance of responsibilities allows for higher levels of security, and also allows for scalability and uptime that far exceeds basic hosting. Although it is seemingly expensive, managed hosting is a smart and cost-effective hosting solution for those companies that need constant network uptime, responsiveness, technical expertise and a secure, high-end infrastructure. The cost of building and maintaining these capabilities in-house is far too demanding for IT budgets and staffs at most companies.

### **Colocated Hosting**

For customers who desire complete control over their own servers, colocated hosting is the best option. The provider offers rack space for the servers to be installed along with high performance bandwidth, power & cooling. The customer controls everything else — purchasing, configuring, and maintaining the software, physical hardware (e.g. servers, firewalls, routers, switches), and the operating system.

### **Dedicated Hosting**

This form of hosting offers greater flexibility than other hosting options. It allows customers to lease pre-configured equipment, and to have connectivity from the provider. The customer can choose its operating system, and off-the-shelf application software. The customer generally retains control over the hosting environment, while the provider remains responsible for administration on a time and materials basis.

### **Virtual Hosting**

This form of hosting is the fastest growing and most cost effective. Numerous customers are given a Virtual Machine on a Blade System Server, which has a high performance connection that is generally faster and more secure than other connections. A range of bundled services are available at a monthly fee.