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Web hosting on Linux is becoming increasingly popular, particularly for those sites that prefer, and are large enough to warrant, Linux dedicated servers. Choosing the right hosting for your site is important, so it's a good idea to understand what sets Linux apart from Windows-based systems in order to decide whether it may be right for you.

> Hosting Types

There are three main types of hosting: shared hosting, VPN, and dedicated hosting. Web hosting on a Linux dedicated server offers access to resources in amounts that aren't possible with shared or VPS hosting. Web hosting on Linux hosting also allows full use of the entirety of server capability rather than having to share with others across hosting accounts, or taking whatever fraction is assigned to them.

> Reliability

Usage of Linux Web hosting makes for a more reliable site, while at the same time reducing the dependence on virtual servers. This means minimal downtime, which equals greater accessibility to visitors. Linux's open-source operating system has fewer technical issues than, and it requires less maintenance, which can lower operating costs for the website owner.

> Performance

Linux hosting provides more speed, so visitors aren't left twiddling their thumbs while landing pages load. It increases the likelihood of landing a customer, and more visits increase profit to the site, both in click-through ads and actual sales. In addition, it's well-known that Linux dedicated servers are some of the most powerful on the market; combining Linux servers with Linux hosting results in less down time and lower lag.

> Security

Maintaining high security is of utmost importance when considering a hosting service. Some argue that Windows servers are more at risk than a Linux dedicated server would be. In reality, both have their strengths and weaknesses. In general, Linux is considered more secure because the platform offers more customizable options. However, any system's security capabilities are highly dependent on the hosting service's ability to properly administrate them, not just the operating system that's used. Good administrators will provide a secure system, regardless of platform.

> Server Access

Windows and Linux access servers differently. Both can use FTP, but Windows cannot offer SSH access. Both can handle telnet access, but setting it up is much more complicated on Windows, and not many hosting administrators are willing to do so. The use of SSH and telnet allows files to be manipulated right on the Web server using UNIX line commands. More experienced administrators may prefer this bare-bones approach, but it can be intimidating to newcomers.

> A Final Word

Linux systems evolved from Unix, which itself is the oldest form of operating system, and is in fact

the basis of the two main operating systems in use today: Windows and MAC OS. Linux is compatible with many Web-based applications, which can make it less finicky. However, some applications will only work with Windows. In short, there are few reasons not to opt for Web hosting on Linux, with so many providers now offering Linux dedicated servers.

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