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Changing Web Hosts-All You Need to Know by [Devendra](#)

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Before you decide to change the present web host, it is important for you to have a copy of your website on your computer. It is very important for you to note here that you should do this without intimating your present web host as it may terminate your web hosting account even before you are ready. To make this copy, you need to follow the method you perform to upload files. However, you need to download them instead. You may copy through FTP (file transfer protocol) or access your site through the online "File Manager" of your web host.

Once this has been done, you need to check your site's internal links and make sure that there are no hard-coded URLs to the old address, if you do not have a domain. Now, upload the pages to the new host and test all pages. If you own the domain, you need to update the DNS (domain name system) records with the registrar but do this only after being satisfied with the new host. In case you do not have a new domain name, you need to point the domain name to the new host but do make it a point not to point the domain to your old host first as this may lead to complications and domain name delays.

In the interim, you should avoid deleting the old site as this may mean loss of visitors by maintaining two copies of the site. Till the domain transfer process is not completed, you need to avoid placing a page on the old site that will redirect visitors to your new domain.

If you had your own domain name in the past that was moved with the site, you just need to terminate your account with the old web host after the new site is live. If your site has changed URLs, you should avoid placing a redirection page on the old site and it is better to place a page that automatically forwards your visitors to your new site or create a page that offers a link to your new site asking your visitors to click on the link. Once done, you may decide to modify your old site's .htaccess file and put a redirect statement that points it to the new location for each page that is under the old URL.

The best thing for you will be to opt for the services of an expert such as a domain name registration and web hosting company. To simplify your search, you can look out for countrywide providers (such as Domain Registration Australia) in Google. If you can get best web hosting at an affordable pricing, there will be nothing better than that.

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