

Here are a few more things to think about. When you're looking for a web host, you want to look for a hosting package that uses open-source technology. Now this is going to come in the form of a LAMP stack. LAMP stands for Linux, which is the operating system that powers the server. Apache, which is the server technology itself, "my sequel" or my SQL, this is the open-source database. And PHP, which is an open-source, server-side scripting language. Chances are the host that you get is going to support more than this. It's going to support other types of server languages, databases, but what you need is this basic stack and it's not really important that you understand all these individual items. You're never actually going to use any of these or interface with them if you're not a programmer, but LAMP is what's going to signal to you that they use open-source technology.

The advantage of that is that you can use all sorts of open-source technologies like WordPress. Even more so, having an open-source technology stack means it's going to be easy to migrate your server somewhere else. If you need to. Even if you're really careful about picking a host, sometimes you have to switch. I've had to switch in the middle of a contract and just give money up because I wasn't getting good support and wasn't getting what I needed and then I couldn't support the people who using my website very well. So I had to switch and thankfully I was using open-source technologies and I was able to transfer. The other important piece of that and another thing to look for is something called cPanel. cPanel is also open-source. It's what makes it really easy for you to manage different things on your site.

And we're going to actually look at this later in the course. And the other thing that cPanel lets you do is easily backup your entire site. You can save it down to a file and then if you have to migrate somewhere else, you migrate somewhere that has cPanel, you can just import your entire site right in. So it's incredibly useful. I would definitely recommend using cPanel. If you're looking at a host that forces you to upgrade, to have cPanel—to pay a little extra—I would probably do it if you're otherwise committed to that hosting provider. Some other things that are nice to have, would be a free domain. Most starter packages (shared hosting), they will give you a free domain. The domain is not owned by the host, it's owned by you when you sign up for it. So that's again transferable. Free SSL...

Now more than ever, secure websites are getting priority by Google, so it's nice if you just get SSL for free with your package. Again, that's now coming with a lot of shared hosts and subdomains which we'll get into later in the course. And the main thing you want to look for is good support. That is the most important thing. When something breaks down on your website, you want to make sure that it gets working in or you can get the help you need. You definitely want to look at the uptime, but it's also, you know, when you have downtime, which inevitably happens, how does that hosting provider treat you? How quickly do they respond? So look for somebody with good support. So I'm going to provide a link to my preferred hosting provider, and you can see that on screen. It'll automatically link you there. I will update it if something changes. So that's an easy way to get started if you don't want to do the research. In the next chapter, I'm actually going to walk you through the purchase process and getting set up. So let's take a look at that.