

CDN or local



CDN (content delivery/distribution network) is a geographically distributed network. The goal of CDN is to provide high availability of the content.

When it comes to the web, CDN is generally faster because it can redistribute the content to many places around the world and store it into the cache memory. CDN knows where the user is located so it can serve him the content from the nearest point.

Local means that your content is stored locally on your web server and every time somebody wants to display the page, the request goes directly to your web server, which takes time and resources if there are many requests at the same time.

From this point of view, you can get to problems when CDN is not available. In such case, Bootstrap CSS classes won't be loaded, and your user will get the page without styling. But then again, this can happen even to your hosting provider, and in such case, your user won't get anything at all.

We will use the CDN approach because I believe that the advantages are worth the risk of short-term unavailability.

There's one disadvantage with CDN though and it's purely connected with development. If you have CSS classes stored locally, code editor can offer relevant classes while you write the code. This won't work with remotely stored CSS files.

So, if you rely on this feature, you can download CSS files and use them during development, but when you deploy your website to the server, you should switch back to CDN URL.