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Which hosting plan for a membership, booking or course site where visitors log in

Choosing the Right Plan

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Which hosting plan for a membership, booking or course site where visitors log in

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A site where people **log in with their own account** (members area, bookings, courses, a forum) weighs much more than a site that is only read. The reason is a single one: a page that differs for each user **cannot come from cache**, so every visit makes the server run the code and query the database. The entry plan is enough to start, but the Business line is the safer starting point if the members area is the business.

What changes when there are accounts

On a site that is only read	On a site with accounts
The page comes from cache, almost effortlessly	The page is built on every visit, for each person
A hundred simultaneous visits cost little	A hundred people logged in at once cost a hundred runs of code
The database is barely queried	Every click reads from and writes to the database
E-mails are rare	Confirmations, password resets, notices: sending per hour matters. See **SPF, DKIM and DMARC: why your e-mail lands in spam**.

How to size it, step by step

1. **Count the people logged in at the same time at your peak**, not the registered ones. Ten thousand members of whom three hundred log in at the same hour means three hundred requests in parallel. See **how many visitors a hosting plan can handle**.

2. **Know the cost of each request.** Long requests keep the plan busy for longer. That is what uses up the simultaneous-process limit: **entry processes**.

3 **Put the heavy part elsewhere.** Lesson videos on a video service, huge files in storage of their own, and the plan only for the site. See **what you can host here**.

4 **Rehearse with real users** before launch and watch **Resource Usage** in cPanel. See **how to monitor your site performance in cPanel**.

Backups on a members area

On a members area the database changes all day long. The daily backup taken before dawn leaves out what was recorded during the day, and a lost sign-up or purchase is hard to recover. Before big changes, also make a copy of your own of the database, and check that you can restore it. See **making and keeping your own backup**.

If the plan gets tight, fix the cause before paying more.
Plugins that query the database on every request, WordPress scheduled tasks running on every visit and *bots* hammering the login form are the commonest causes. See **what eats CPU on a website**.

The next step is a VPS
when you need permanent services (job queues, real-time notifications) or control of the server. Costs and responsibilities change: **shared hosting vs VPS**.

NEED A HAND?

Launching a site with user accounts and want to know whether the plan will hold? Tell us the platform and how many people you expect.

Open a support ticket →

In our plans

Situation	Plan	Why
Testing the idea: a few members	Pro	1 site, 10 GB NVMe SSD, unlimited databases and unlimited mailboxes
A course or booking site with members growing	Plus	20 GB NVMe SSD and 200 e-mails per hour for confirmations and password resets
The members area is the business	Ultra or Business	unlimited sites, 30 GB on Ultra, 50 to 200 GB on Business, up to 300 e-mails per hour on Ultra

WHEN TO MOVE UP: move up when the people logged in at the same time at your peak keep growing, when the confirmation and reset e-mails come near the hourly ceiling (100 on Pro, 200 on Plus, 300 on Ultra), or when uploads fill the disk. First fix the usual causes of heaviness, and only then pay for more. When you need permanent services such as job queues or real-time notifications, or control of the server, the next step is a VPS (VPS1 has 1 vCPU, 2 GB RAM and 40 GB NVMe) or a Cloud server. Changing plan keeps the site, and the daily backup is on every plan.

SEE ALSO

- How many visitors can a hosting plan handle →
- Entry processes: why a site with few visitors can still hit the limit →
- Business hosting: who it is for, and when it pays off →
- Hosting plans →

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