

IN-DEPTH GUIDE

INFRASTRUCTURE AND PERFORMANCE

Web hosting for business: the decision guide

What managed hosting really means, when Canadian hosting matters, and how to avoid the pitfalls of cheap plans.



GXN

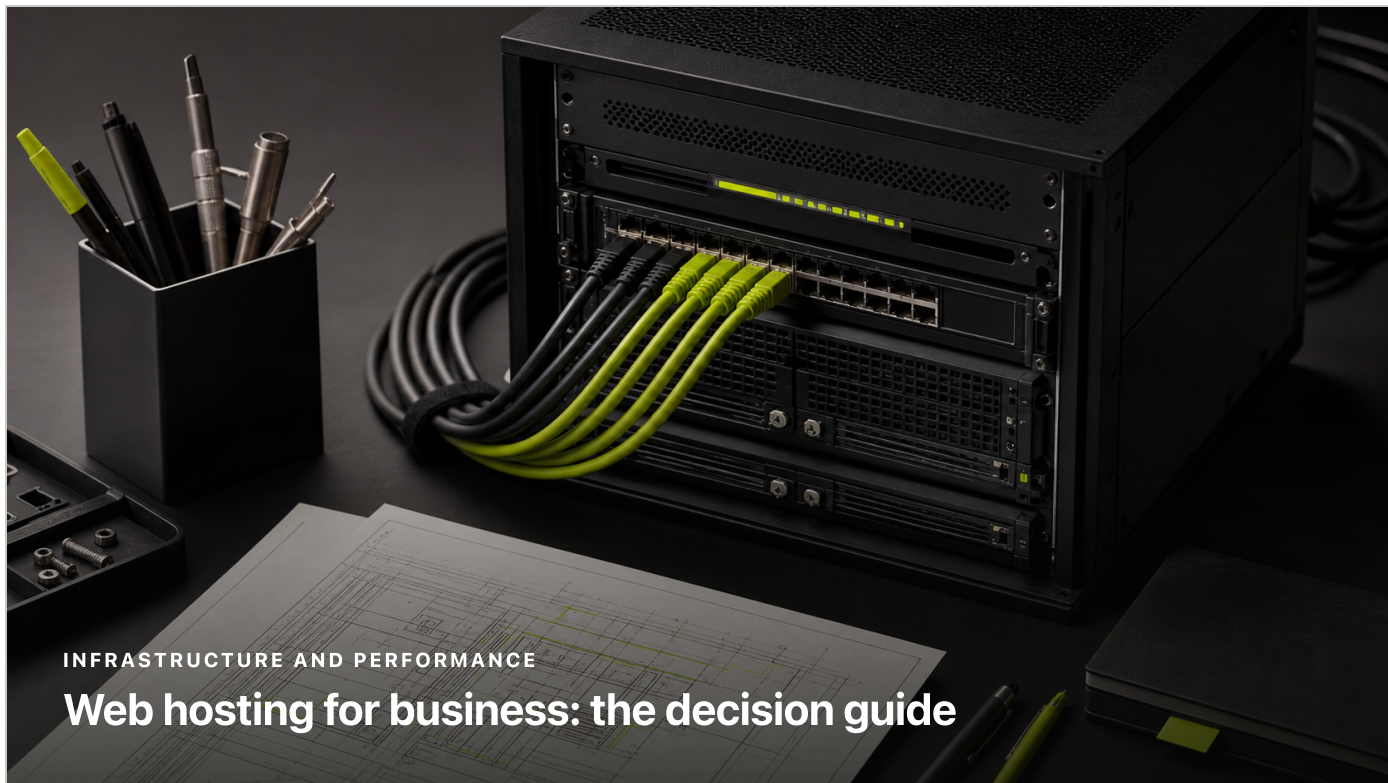
Senior expertise · Digital governance

Quebec First

Quebec business context

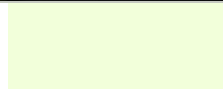
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Updated



INFRASTRUCTURE AND PERFORMANCE

Web hosting for business: the decision guide



TL;DR

The answer in one minute

The cheapest hosting costs a lot the day something breaks. Truly managed hosting includes continuous monitoring, server updates, truly tested backups, and a human to respond if something goes wrong. Many packages use the word managed without offering the substance. Canadian hosting actually matters in some specific contexts, but not universally for all businesses.

01 · BACKGROUND GUIDE

The word managed, often meaningless

Almost all hosts use the word managed in their package description. In fact, this word covers very different realities. For some, it means they run the physical server and nothing more. For others, it includes real surveillance, verified backups and reactive support. The only way to know the difference is to ask specific questions rather than rely on the word itself.

02 · BACKGROUND GUIDE

The honest comparison table

Typical anonymous shared hosting. No active monitoring, you often find a breakdown by a dissatisfied customer. Server updates remain your responsibility to follow. Backups are included in theory, rarely checked in practice. In case of an incident, a generic support ticket in a queue.

- A really managed hosting. Continuous monitoring with rapid response to problems. Actively supported server updates. Automated backups, outsourced, and periodically tested for real. In case of an incident, a human who knows your specific platform intervenes.

- Always check which side of this table is actually your current hosting, not just what word appears on the invoice.

DECISION CARD

The four angles to keep together

01	The word managed, often meaningless
02	The honest comparison table
03	When Canadian hosting really counts
04	What hosting has to do with controlling your business

GUIDE READING GRID		
Angle	Dimension to examine	Use in the decision
01	The word managed, often meaningless	Setting the Context
02	The honest comparison table	Identify dependencies

Angle	Dimension to examine	Use in the decision
03	When Canadian hosting really counts	Compare options
04	What hosting has to do with controlling your business	Preparing for the next step

03 • BACKGROUND GUIDE

When Canadian hosting really counts

For several Quebec organizations, the location of data is a real but not universal issue. It matters especially in four situations. When your business customers or calls for tenders contractually require it. When your sector has strong expectations for data residency. When dealing with particularly sensitive information. When you are a public body or work closely with one.

It means less to simple marketing content or public documentation without significant personal information. What matters in all cases is to be able to answer the question clearly if a client asks you one day.

INTERACTIVE TOOL

Set your decision

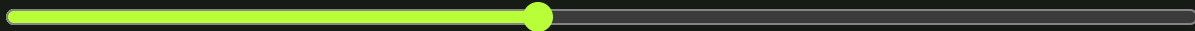
Select the dimensions that describe your situation. The result is to organize the next conversation, not to replace an analysis.

WHAT CONCERNS YOU NOW

- 01 **The word managed, often meaningless**
- 02 **The honest comparison table**
- 03 **When Canadian hosting really counts**
- 04 **What hosting has to do with controlling your business**

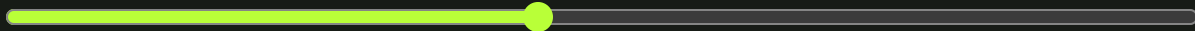
Urgent decision

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Current control level

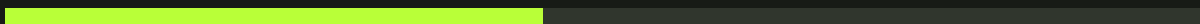
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RECOMMENDED ANALYSIS

Several dimensions must be treated together

Avoid an isolated decision. Map out the dependencies and agree on an intervention order.



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What hosting has to do with controlling your business

Hosting is often where real control of your platform comes into play, more than people realize. A hosting account in your name, with invoices that go directly to you, and access that you own, is the foundation of a site that you truly control. An account in the name of a provider, with access you've never had, is a disguised dependency, even if everything works fine for the moment.

05 · BACKGROUND GUIDE

Signals that it's time to change host

The site slows down especially at times when your customers visit it the most. The host becomes difficult to contact in the event of a problem. You don't know exactly where your backups are or if they work. Renewals and access are scattered without anyone having a clear overview.

06 · BACKGROUND GUIDE

What I see on the ground

The question I systematically ask to evaluate existing hosting. Show me your last successful backup restore. The silence that follows this question, in a striking proportion of cases, tells me all I need to know about the actual quality of the hosting in place, regardless of what the contract says.

When this guide does not apply

If your site is purely experimental or personal, without a real role in your business, a simple and economical shared hosting is enough. Investment in managed hosting is justified when the site really counts for your business.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Frequently asked questions

01 **Then I keep my domain name by changing hosting.**

Yes, domain and hosting are two separate things. The domain should anyway be registered to your name, regardless of who hosts the site.

02 **A host migration is risky.**

03 **How much does truly managed hosting cost.**

04 **How do I check if my current backups are really working.**

EDITORIAL METHOD

In-depth guide prepared by GXN based on real business situations. Recommendations remain independent of brands and suppliers.



ABOUT THE PUBLISHER

GXN

Senior expertise directly accessible, supported by specialists when the project requires it.

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NEXT STEP

You want to know if your current hosting deserves to be kept.

The free assessment examines this aspect with you, honestly.

No call required. No sales sequence.