

Local vs Hosted Server Check List

When comparing hosted and local servers it is important to compare 'apples with apples'. This ensures an accurate comparison, and also helps avoid any nasty hidden costs.

Below is a checklist to help compare local and hosted server solutions. Tick off the associated boxes to show your points of comparison.

Requirements	Local	Hosted
Backups		
Is your server data automatically backed up to multiple data centres?		√
Have you factored in staff costs for someone to complete manual backups?		No Cost
Are you or have you planned to do trial backup restores every month?		√
Have you factored in the additional cost of tapes needing to be replaced?		No Cost
Costing		
Are you getting a fixed price for the installation?		√
Can your server scale up without additional infrastructure and licensing costs?		√
Can you scale down and reduce costs?		√
Can you change your staff's software needs month to month and only pay for what you use, when you use it?		√
If anything goes wrong with your server, does it get fixed for free?		√
If a new software platform comes out, do you get upgraded for free? I.e. Office 2003 – 2007		√
Have you factored in that you have the additional cost of extra power to have a local server?		Included
Have you factored in the additional cost of server maintenance?		Included
Will your server last longer than 3-5 years?		√
Redundancy, Disaster Recovery and Business Continuity		
For redundancy do you have multiple sources of power for your server?		√
Do you have power protection for your server i.e. UPS?		√
Do you have multiple sources of broadband for your server?		√
Does your server have disaster recovery automatically built into the setup?		√
In a disaster can you be guaranteed to be back up and working within 30 minutes?		√
Have you factored in downtime for upgrades and updates?		No Downtime
General		
Do you get free monthly/quarterly meetings with an account manager that understands your business?		√
Do you have an account manager that is not a technician?		√
Do you have a secure and suitably cooled server room?		√
Can your end users access your server data securely/quickly from anywhere?		√

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