

Offshore Hosting and Freedom of Speech – Free or Not?

When Aleister Crowley wanted to publish his book of erotic poetry, he knew that his overtly sexual poems would not be agreeable to the British authorities. Amsterdam, an offshore safe haven, quickly presented itself – **why not publish somewhere else where this kind of content is acceptable?**

Like offshore publishing, offshore hosting provides you with a much wider range of acceptable content, but is that Freedom of Speech free? Well, no.

And why so if there is such a thing as a free onshore hosting?

Onshore hosting will be located within the borders of your own country and it will probably have stricter Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) which means that your desired content may not be allowed (adult content, piracy, gambling etc.). Also, your data privacy will be limited – onshore web host tend to comply with DMCA (The Digital Millennium Copyright Act) requests (no copyrighted content, censorship).

Furthermore, when free, this type of service has a number of limitations when it comes to disk space, bandwidth, data transfer speed, etc.

Nevertheless, if you're on a tight budget or want to first test your business idea without much expense, free onshore web hosting may be a good starting point.

Offshore hosting is for you if you have greater expectations from your host - stricter privacy regulations, higher level of data security, technical support, and a less rigid AUP. Excellent encryption, anti-DDoS protection and support can hardly be guaranteed if your host doesn't get financial means to provide it.

Additionally, if you want to be heard on the Internet, you should know that data-transfer speed, site uptime and downtime, which mainly depend on the quality of your hosting, influence website's SEO.

Offshore hosting can hardly be free when you consider all the advantages, but luckily, even if you are not willing to spend a lot of money, quality service can easily be found at a reasonable price.

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