

# 5 STEP GUIDE TO CHOOSING **THE PERFECT SERVER**



## **INTRODUCTION**

My name is Andrew Horton and I'm Digital Media Producer here at ServerMania. I've been in the hosting industry for over 17 years and have learned so much along the way. I'd like to share my experience with you so that you can make the right decision when choosing a hosting platform.

Myself and the team at ServerMania have sat down and pooled our decades of industry experience to put together this guide. Today, I'm going to show you how to choose the perfect server for your project.

**Let's get started.**

Step 1.

# DETERMINE AND WRITE DOWN THE EXACT SPECS YOU REQUIRE

Choosing the perfect server starts with determining what server specifications you require. This includes things like:



Number of  
processors and  
clock speed



RAM size



Hard drive size  
and type



RAID  
requirements



Bandwidth



Network speed



Operating System



Server location

**As you can see, there are a lot of things to consider. Here's how you determine what you need:**

1. Start by writing down a list of the applications the server will run.
2. Write down the number of users at any given time that will use the server. Think about what you need now as well as what you may need in the future.
3. Start researching the server requirements for each application. We've compiled many video tutorials documenting the requirements for various applications. You can find it at [servermania.com/kb](https://servermania.com/kb). Our server experts can also do the work for you to suggest which server specs would be best for your application.
4. Compile your research and determine the combined specs required for all applications. We recommend taking this number and increasing system resources by 20% to accommodate fluctuations in load.

You now have a rough idea of the server specs your server will need.

Step 2.

# DETERMINE WHAT LEVEL OF SUPPORT YOU REQUIRE

There are three main types of server management:



## UNMANAGED SERVERS

Most servers on the market are unmanaged.

This means that you are responsible for any issues with the management of the server including server hardening and proactive updates.



## SEMI-MANAGED SERVERS

Semi-managed servers typically means that the server provider will harden the server, keep up with server updates, and monitor the server 24x7. This includes intervening when monitoring notices that a server service is not responding.



## FULL SERVER MANAGEMENT

Full server management includes all of the aspects of semi-management, and usually includes application support as well as data migration. Essentially, you can rely on your server management team to intervene on every issue of any type that may occur on the server.

## HOW DO I DETERMINE WHICH TYPE OF SUPPORT I REQUIRE?

If you're not sure which type of server management you need, we've created a quiz to help you determine which level of support may be best for you. It's available below this video.

If you do decide to go with an unmanaged server, it's important to know what assistance your server provider will offer if you do need help in one-off instances. Unlike many server providers, ServerMania isn't going to brush you away if you ask us a question. We'll point you to helpful resources and go above and beyond to help as best as we can. We also have server management packages available that you may upgrade to at any time to add management to your server.

## WHAT SHOULD I LOOK FOR IN THE SUPPORT TEAM OF A SERVER PROVIDER?

You should look for a hosting provider that offers:

- Real 24x7 North American support available via phone, chat and email
- Quick response times (ours are under 15 minutes, some of the best in the industry)
- Up to date self-service documentation either in the form of a knowledge base or video tutorials (we upload new videos every single week)
- Active social media and blog presence
- Dedicated Account Managers
- Follow through from start to finish (see any issue to its completion)
- Teach you how they solved the issue (empower client)
- Advise you when you should scale up on support (should you require)

There are many cheap dedicated server providers in the industry, but a vast majority of them drop the ball on support. With ServerMania, you know you will receive quality support and affordable pricing on servers.

## HOW DO WE DO IT?

### Own Hardware and Staff - No Reselling

ServerMania owns and maintains our own hardware with 24x7 onsite data center staff. This gives us full control of the network and the entire user experience, allowing us to truly excel in customer service.

### Dedicated Account Managers:

We also have dedicated account managers who advocate for customer issues to ensure every problem is resolved fully.

## DON'T TAKE OUR WORD FOR IT - HERE'S WHAT OUR CLIENTS HAVE TO SAY:

## COMODO

“ServerMania’s 24/7 support service is outstanding. I haven’t seen any other provider even coming close. What’s more, ServerMania always approaches problems in a positive manner. Every staff member I have encountered always made me feel that I was their priority.”

### DEVOPS MANAGER, COMODO

Step 3.

# DETERMINE YOUR LONG TERM SERVER GOALS

Understanding where your server requirements may be in 3 months, 6 months, 1 year, and 2 years could save you a lot of money in the long run.

## How does server usage 2 years from now impact a server I'm ordering today?

Depending on how drastically server usage may grow now and in the future is an important consideration when choosing server type. Some servers are easier to upgrade than others.

### **Scenario 1: My server requirements are unlikely to grow or shrink drastically in the future, and my CPU requirements are low.**

In this case, a hybrid server is likely the best option for you.

### **Scenario 2: My server requirements are likely to grow or shrink moderately in the future.**

ServerMania cloud servers can be dynamically upgraded and downgraded at any time. They're the perfect fit for constantly evolving and growing server.

### **Scenario 3: My server requirements are likely to grow significantly in the future and my site needs to remain online when it does.**

A dedicated server is likely best for an application like this. While it may be overkill until traffic increases, in the long term a dedicated server will best accommodate the high server load.

## It's About More Than Just the Specs

Here's the secret. The specs of the server are important, but you need to work with a web host that has a variety of upgrade and downgrade pathways. Many people work hard to find a great shared web host only to find they are out of luck once their site exceeds the system resources of shared hosting.

This is where scalability comes in. You need to work with a web host like ServerMania that provides a variety of upgrade options.

## Why does it matter?

If you order a hybrid server with us, you know that cloud and dedicated servers are instantly available when you need to move to a different server type. We provide personalized service to tailor a server plan just for your needs. We're also here 24x7 to assist with server upgrades of all kinds like adding more RAM, bandwidth, etc.

Migrating data between data centers is often slow and expensive, but changing server types is a relatively easy process. We can setup private LANs and we provide a full suite of migration services on request.



Step 4.

# COMPARE DISASTER RECOVERY AND RISK MITIGATION OPTIONS

Choosing the perfect server all means planning for the unthinkable.



Location of the data center and proximity to natural disasters



Uptime history and SLA



Network resiliency and DDoS mitigation options available



Hardware replacement policies and response times

## HOW DO WE STACK UP?

ServerMania facilities are located in geographically stable locations with low risk of earthquake, hurricane, tornado, or other natural disasters. Our networks are completely redundant with a variety of DDoS mitigation options available.

We offer a 100% network uptime SLA with 15 minute response times on all support requests. We're available 24x7 to intervene in the event of any data center, hardware, or server emergency.

Step 5.

## GET A QUOTE AND DO YOUR HOMEWORK

It's now time to choose a few server providers that meet your requirements based on the important factors we have discussed today.

Contact their sales team and request a quote. This is a great time to see how responsive their team is and how detailed their website is. Check out their reviews, testimonials, response to live chat / social, knowledge base, and review their website.

We've created a list of questions to ask your server provider when requesting a quote. This will help you ensure the company you are working with checks all the boxes you need.

### **WHAT WILL THE ACTUAL EXPERIENCE BE LIKE?**

Companies can make promises and offer testimonial but you don't know what your experience will be like until you actually test them out. That's why it's important to ask lots of questions and take the plunge once you are satisfied after reviewing all aspects of the company.

Look for things like:

- Did you get cookie cutter solution or did the company find a more suitable custom server?
- Do you understand the quote and did the sales team accurately explain it to you?
- Does it appropriately use your budget?
- Does it include everything you need without unneeded expenses?

### **PRICE ISN'T EVERYTHING**

As the old adage goes - buy cheap, buy twice. Don't go with the cheapest quote you come across. Low prices often come with low quality support, so review all the aspects we have discussed and you won't be disappointed.

# CONCLUSION

You now have a great foundation for choosing the perfect server for your project. Remember that we're always here to help you along the way. You can reach us at: [sales@servermania.com](mailto:sales@servermania.com) and we'd be happy to help you find the perfect server.



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