Shared hosting or a VPS: which suits a small shop?

Most small company websites start on shared hosting. A VPS is useful when you need more control or more reserved resources, and you can look after a server — or pay someone who can.

By the Harer team · Updated 23 November 2026

> **QUICK ANSWER**
> Shared hosting is the usual start for a small company site: the provider manages the server, and Harer's plans start at $46.99 a year with a 30-day free trial. A VPS gives reserved resources and more control, from $16.99 a month, but you usually administer it yourself.

What each one is

Shared hosting puts your site on a server that also hosts other customers. The provider manages the machine, the operating system and, on most plans, the control panel you use to install a site. It is the usual starting point for a company brochure site, a portfolio, or a shop that runs on a standard tool such as WordPress.

A **VPS** (virtual private server) is a virtual machine with its own allocated CPU, memory and storage, running on a physical server that is still shared underneath. You usually get root access and you install and update the software yourself, unless you buy a managed plan. See also the product pages for website hosting and VPS hosting.

	Shared hosting	VPS
Who manages the server	The provider	You, unless the plan is managed
Resources	Shared with other sites on the same machine	A stated amount of CPU, memory and disk is allocated to you

	Shared hosting	VPS
Typical use	Company sites, blogs, standard shops	Growing sites, custom software, several projects, services you must configure yourself
Harer prices (USD)	From **$46.99** a year	From **$16.99** a month

Harer’s current plans

Shared hosting at Harer: Starter **$46.99**, Pro **$59.99**, Pro Plus **$120.00** and Expert **$170.00** a year. Each of those plans is listed with a 30-day free trial. Semi-dedicated Mini and Maxi are **$20.99** and **$35.99** a month if you want more than shared hosting without running a full server.

KVM VPS plans start at **$16.99** a month for the KVM 4 (2 CPU cores, 4 GB RAM, 80 GB disk, 4 TB bandwidth). KVM 8, 16 and 32 are **$33.99**, **$68.99** and **$139.00** a month. OpenVZ Box 4, 8 and 16 are **$16.99**, **$33.99** and **$68.99** a month. Specifications for plans other than KVM 4 are listed in the store. Dedicated servers, if you later need a whole machine, start at **$70.00** a month.

A way to decide

- **Stay on shared hosting** if you need a standard website, you do not want to administer a server, and a 30-day trial is a useful way to test the plan.
- **Consider a VPS** if you need software the shared plan does not allow, you want reserved resources, or you are running more than one project and can maintain updates and backups yourself (or hire someone who can).
- **Do not move only because a plan looks more “serious”.** An unmanaged VPS that is not updated can be a weaker setup than a maintained shared plan.

SSL certificates are separate products at Harer: a standard certificate is **$22.99** a year, and a wildcard certificate is **$140.00** a year. Read which SSL certificate you need before you add one.

Prices in USD, last updated 22 November 2026, checked again on 23 November 2026 against harer.io/pricing. Harer Hosting is a reseller store powered by ResellersPanel.

Compare hosting

Common questions

- **Is a VPS always faster than shared hosting?**
- **What does the 30-day trial cover?**

Written by the Harer team. Updated 23 November 2026. This is general information about how domains, email and hosting work, not advice for your specific setup. Read our editorial policy.