

## **SELECTING A WEB HOSTING COMPANY**

Since most companies are not interested in buying web servers, connecting them to the Internet 24/7 and, managing the software and other hardware peripherals such as firewalls and modems, the most practical approach is to use a professional web hosting company. The trick however is to know which company to pick and what level of service you should get. We at Stewart-Hay Associates understand web hosting well and we will work with you to get an optimum solution.

- 1. The first and most important item is to never ever use the same company that designed and built your website. If that company happened to go bankrupt, you would lose everything that you don't have a copy of. (That includes all of the HTML programming, pictures, scripts, passwords, e-mail passwords and so on.)**
- 2. It should be fairly large and profitable so that it will still be around next week, next month and next year.**
- 3. It should be using state-of-the-art servers, state-of-the-art hardware peripherals and the latest reliable software.**
- 4. It should be very secure from hackers and crackers.**
- 5. It should offer various software server configurations such as UNIX, Windows2000 Professional and Windows Server 2003.**
- 6. It should guarantee an uptime of at least 99.9%.**
- 7. All of the servers should be connected to a high speed Internet backbone.**
- 8. There should be many options and cost structures depending on the website size and complexity.**
- 9. It should offer other services such as scripting tools, SQL databases, credit card processing, etc.**
- 10. It should have 24/7 technical support with qualified and courteous employees, short waiting times and very fast response.**
- 11. It should be very cost competitive.**

**Stewart-Hay Associates deals with web hosting companies like this on a routine basis and we would be very pleased to work with you on your next web project.**