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Will a hosted server be as fast as my local server?

Whether a hosted server will be as fast as your local server depends on several factors.

Let's explore the key considerations:

	Local Server	**Hosted Sever**
Hardware Specifications	If you have a high-end local server with powerful CPUs, ample RAM, and fast SSDs, it might outperform many basic hosted servers.	Premium hosting providers offer high-performance servers with top-tier hardware, which can be faster than many local servers.
Network Speed	Accessing a local server, especially within an intranet, is usually very fast because there's no internet latency. This is especially noticeable when transferring large files.	The speed can be influenced by the hosting provider's bandwidth, the quality of their data centre connections, and your own internet connection speed. However, for users accessing from various global locations, a well-hosted server might provide better average speeds.
Latency	For local network users, latency is minimal.	Latency can vary based on the physical distance between the server and the end-user, the routing of data, and the quality of the network connections in between.
Scalability	Upgrading might require manual hardware changes, which can be time-consuming and costly.	Many hosting providers, especially cloud providers, allow for quick scalability. If you suddenly need more resources, you can often scale up almost instantly.
Maintenance and Uptime	You're responsible for power, hardware maintenance, and dealing with hardware failures. Any of these issues can lead to downtime.	Reputable hosting providers have redundancies in place, ensuring high uptime. They handle hardware maintenance and failures, often without any noticeable downtime for users.
Internet Connection	You'll rely on your local internet connection's upload speed, which is often much slower than download speed. This can be a bottleneck for performance.	Data centres have high-speed internet connections, ensuring fast data delivery.
Optimisation and Configuration	Both local and hosted servers' performance can be significantly influenced by how they're configured and optimised for the specific tasks they're handling.	Both local and hosted servers' performance can be significantly influenced by how they're configured and optimised for the specific tasks they're handling.

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Conclusion

While local servers offer the advantage of quick access within a local network, hosted servers provide benefits in terms of scalability, maintenance, and global accessibility. The "speed" or performance of either option will depend on the specific use-case, the hardware and network specifications, and the demands placed on the server. For some businesses, a hybrid approach, using both local and hosted servers, offers the best balance of speed and functionality.

At Missing Link we take every case individually, it is most common to have a local server to perform the active directory / security tasks and local processes like print services.

If you would like to discuss this or any other related topic then please contact myself or one of the Missing Link team on info@mlinkuk.com or call 01257 473445 and we will happily guide you through all the pros and cons associated to your server requirements.

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