

Mukurtu CMS Frequently Asked Questions - Hosting

Mukurtu CMS Hosting FAQ

What are our options for hosting a Mukurtu CMS site?

There are two main options for hosting a Mukurtu CMS site: relying on your own IT department resources for the installation and management of the site (self-hosting); or paying a vendor or contactor for installation and management (third-party hosting). Both options are viable and choosing one will depend on your resources, personnel, funds, data management needs, etc.

What is self-hosting?

Self-hosting a site means that your IT department runs the servers and hosts the data themselves. This means you have more control of the location of your data, but requires that your IT support has the skills, experience, and resources (eg: servers, infrastructure, and staff) necessary. Self-hosting is a good option if you have access to the necessary resources and local data management is important to you.

What are the system requirements for a Mukurtu site that I can send to my IT department or a hosting company?

The full, most current, requirements are available here:

<https://github.com/MukurtuCMS/mukurtucms#self-hosted>

PLEASE NOTE: when this document was created, Mukurtu CMS 3.0.5 was the most current version.

- A web server that supports PHP, such as Apache
- PHP version 7.4 or higher recommended
- A database server such as MySQL 5.0.15 (or higher) or MariaDb 5.1.44 (or higher)

You can use the following questions to help determine if your IT department will be able to host a Mukurtu site for you:

- 1) Do you understand [these requirements](#)?
 - a) If not, then self-hosting will likely require substantial investment in staff and infrastructure.
- 2) Do you have the resources necessary to provide this? If not, what would be required to do so?
- 3) Are you willing to provide these resources and hosting? If not, what would be required to do so?

If yes to all the above, have your IT department try the install and contact us if they need help resolving any unique hosting environment requirements.

What is third-party hosting?

Third-party hosting means using a trusted web hosting vendor or contractor who is responsible for installing Mukurtu CMS and the other required technical components on their web servers, ensure that the site remains active and functional, and manage ongoing updates and maintenance.

What is Reclaim Hosting?

Reclaim Hosting is a third-party hosting service (your data is stored on their servers). They offer affordable hosting (starting at \$100 year/100GB), good customer support, and easy account and site management. They also provide domain registration and management services. Reclaim is a good option if you have limited (or no) IT support for managing a site, can pay an outside contractor, and are willing to host your data on their servers.

We want to use a hosting company of our choice, but we don't know if they can support Mukurtu.

Mukurtu CMS is built on the Drupal platform. If a hosting service has experience hosting Drupal sites, they will likely be able to host a Mukurtu site. To be sure though, you should contact the company's support/customer service for more information. Some useful questions are:

- Can I use your service to host my (Drupal-based) Mukurtu CMS site?
- [These are the system requirements](#). Can you provide that?
- How would updates to my website work when new versions of Mukurtu come out?
- What support do you provide for hosting, installing, and maintaining sites?
- What do your levels of support cost and include?
- Is there any additional cost associated with hosting a Drupal website?
- How much storage space is provided? And how much does additional storage cost?

Other common questions

How much space do I need for my Mukurtu site?

The “Mukurtu” portion of the site is actually very small. The vast majority of the storage will be taken up by the media assets that you upload. Video and audio will generally take more space than images and documents, and higher resolution copies will take more space. We can help you estimate your storage space based on your current files. You should also look ahead to how much content will be added in coming years as you continue to collect and digitize more materials.

Before adding any content, a basic site installation is approximately 250MB.

The [Sustainable Heritage Network](#), which is mostly PDF documents and externally hosted video files, totalling ~1300 digital heritage items, currently uses ~6GB of storage altogether.

[Wiwkwébtshégen](#), from the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians contains ~450 items across all formats (video, audio, image, and document) and ~550 dictionary words that include audio recordings, and uses ~9.4GB of storage all together.

How much bandwidth do I need?

The question about bandwidth is even harder for us to estimate. That is tied to how many users will be accessing your site which is information we won't have.

Here are two blog posts with more information about bandwidth:

- <https://www.whoishostingthis.com/blog/2010/04/14/bandwidth-needed/>
- <https://www.webhostingsecretrevealed.net/blog/web-hosting-guides/how-much-bandwidth-does-your-site-really-need/>

Is Mukurtu secure?

Mukurtu is built on the Drupal CMS framework, and we regularly push out Drupal-provided security updates. Maintaining the most current version of Mukurtu will ensure that your site has up to date Drupal security updates, and is the best way to ensure security and stability. If you have specific concerns about system or infrastructure security, please reach out to your hosting provider.

Read more at drupal.com/feature/security: “Drupal is a proven, secure CMS and application framework that stands up to the most critical internet vulnerabilities in the world to prevent the worst from happening. Drupal is mature, stable and designed with robust security in mind. Organizations around the world --including leading corporations, brands, and governments-- rely on Drupal for mission-critical sites and applications, testing its security against the most stringent standards.”

It is also important to consider how your users will make use of the content they can access. We have not built specific tools into Mukurtu to prevent users from downloading, saving, or copying content they have permission to see. We encourage dialogue, training, and educating your users about appropriate usage of uploaded content, as well as any repercussions for misuse.

Who owns our data/files?

Use of Mukurtu CMS does not affect the legal ownership or copyright of any content uploaded to the platform. Our recommended third party hosting provider, Reclaim Hosting, does not include any additional clauses in their contracts, or assert transfer of ownership or rights to content or sites on their hosting space.

If you have additional concerns about data sovereignty, contact your hosting provider directly.

We want to have a standalone workstation in our reading room (or somewhere similar) that is the only place people can use our Mukurtu site.

The on-site access only option is really just the self-hosted option that is restricted somehow, and would require a non-trivial amount of additional IT work. These restrictions could include:

- Software (IT puts up a firewall and only allows access to the Mukurtu site through IP addresses on the inside).
- Network based solutions like installing on a computer and then broadcasting locally with a directly attached wireless router for local access (this is akin to the library in a box project <http://librarybox.us/whatis.php>) or setting up Mukurtu on a LAN and connect to it via a private IP address.

If you would like more information on this, we would need to talk directly with your IT team that would be implementing your Mukurtu site and the standalone workstation.

We want to have an *offline* Mukurtu site. For example on a computer in a reading room, or other off-site locations.

Mukurtu is designed to be hosted and access online. While it may be possible to run a site on a local, offline machine, it is not recommended due to the additional challenges of managing updates, synchronizing content if multiple instances are being used.

If you have other questions about hosting or using Mukurtu CMS, contact our Mukurtu Support team at support@mukurtu.org.