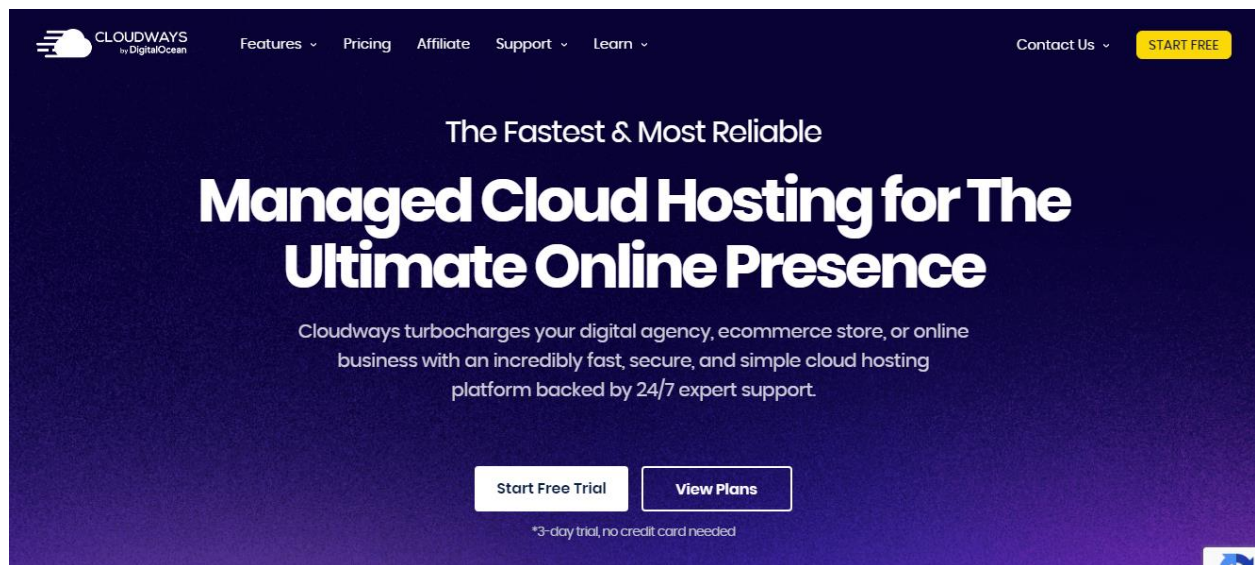


Cloudways Review 2023: Plans, Features, Pros & Cons



Cloudways is a leading managed cloud hosting platform that simplifies the process of deploying and managing websites and applications on popular cloud infrastructure providers like AWS, Google Cloud, DigitalOcean, Vultr, and Linode. Through their robust and user-friendly interface, users can easily launch, scale, and manage their servers without the need for complex technical knowledge.

One of the key highlights of Cloudways is its flexibility. Users have the freedom to choose from multiple cloud providers and plans. They get to customize their hosting environment based on what they specifically require and how much their budget can cover.

The platform offers features like 1-click installations, automated backups, staging environments, server cloning, and team collaboration tools. All these help in speeding up the development and deployment process, saving valuable time and effort. Cloudways also offers advanced caching technologies, CDN integration, dedicated firewalls, regular security patches, free Let's Encrypt SSL certificates, and the option to purchase premium SSL certificates as well.

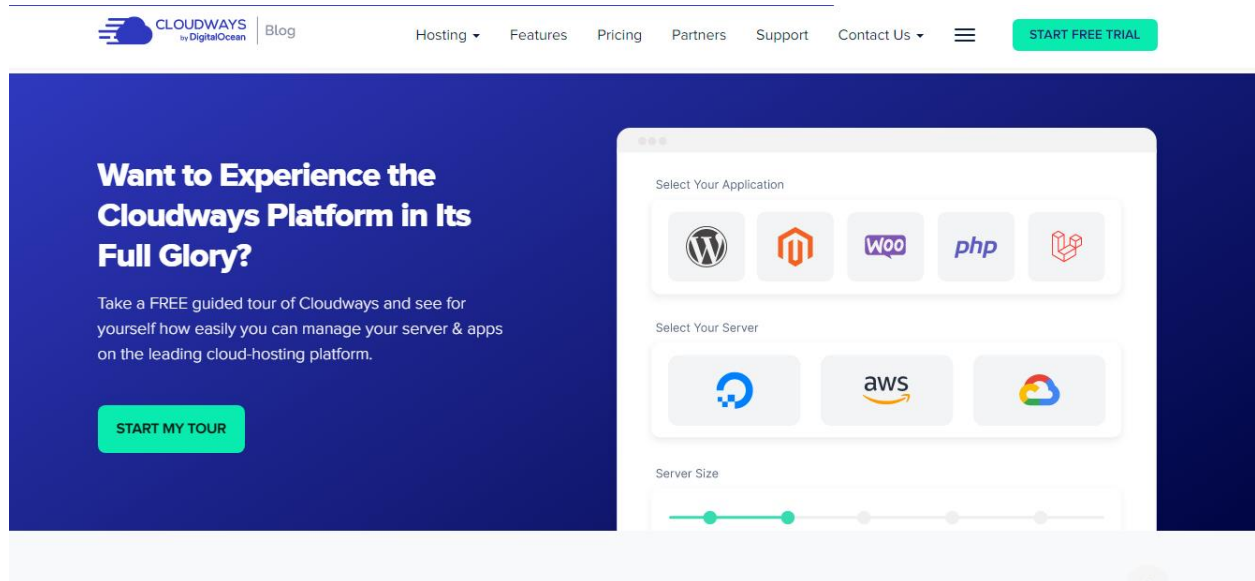
They cater to a diverse range of industries, including eCommerce, agencies, developers, SaaS providers, and more. To determine if Cloudways is indeed a trusted solution for those seeking hassle-free cloud hosting, we will be looking closely at its features, pros & cons, hosting plans and customer support in this review.

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Hosting Plans Offered by Cloudways



Cloudways offers a good number of hosting plans for different CMS, applications and e-commerce platforms, including WordPress and WooCommerce. Each plan is designed to provide good, if not exceptional performance, scalability, security, and ease of management for the specific platform.

WordPress Hosting:

Cloudways offers flexible and cost-effective pricing plans for their WordPress hosting. The pricing is based on the resources you need, such as the amount of RAM, storage, and bandwidth.

In terms of features, Cloudways provides a variety of tools to enhance your WordPress website's performance. These include built-in caching, secure SSH and SFTP access, automated backups, staging environments, and easy scaling options. Cloudways also offers a

user-friendly control panel for easy management and 24/7 technical support to assist you with any issues or queries.

WooCommerce Hosting:

There are specialized WooCommerce hosting plans designed to meet the specific needs of e-commerce websites powered by WooCommerce.

With Cloudways' WooCommerce hosting, you benefit from advanced caching mechanisms, and integrated CDN (Content Delivery Network) for faster load times. They also provide dedicated resources to handle high traffic and spikes in demand effectively. Cloudways also offers features like automatic backups, easy scaling to accommodate growing businesses, and a user-friendly control panel for the seamless management of your WooCommerce store.

Drupal Hosting:

For those who use Drupal as their preferred CMS, Cloudways also has hosting plans that are tailored to the specific needs of these Drupal websites. Their plans include features such as advanced caching mechanisms, dedicated resources, and scalable infrastructure.

They also provide a user-friendly control panel along with 24/7 customer support to assist you with any technical issues or queries you may have. All you need to do is focus on building and managing your Drupal website while Cloudways takes care of the server management and security.

Magento Hosting:

Cloudways' Magento hosting provides a reliable and scalable solution with enhanced security, performance and convenient management tools. It is a good choice for anyone looking for a high-quality hosting environment for their Magento-based e-commerce store.

These hosting plans offer powerful features to handle the resource-intensive nature of Magento websites. Such features include built-in caches, auto-scaling, server stacks, advanced caching mechanisms, and integrated CDN (Content Delivery Network).

PHP Hosting:

The hosting plans for PHP applications allows developers to deploy and manage PHP-based websites and applications easily. It includes features like server stacks, developer-friendly tools, Git integration, and easy server management.

Cost of Managed Cloud Hosting Plans

Cloudways does not offer traditional shared hosting but rather specialize in managed cloud hosting that will allow its customers to host their websites and applications on cloud infrastructure from providers such as AWS, Google Cloud, DigitalOcean, Linode, and Vultr. These managed hosting services offer better performance, scalability, and flexibility compared to shared hosting.

Cloud Provider	Basic Plan	Pricing (Per Month)	Pricing (Per Hour)	Server RAM	Server Storage	Server Bandwidth
Digital Ocean (Standard)	DO1GB	\$11/mo	\$0.0153/hr	1 GB	25 GB	1 TB
Digital Ocean (Premium)	DO1GB	\$14/mo	\$0.0194/hr	1 GB	25 GB	1 TB
AWS	AWS Small	\$38.56/mo	\$0.0536/hr	2 GB	20 GB	2 TB
Google Cloud	GCE Small	\$37.45/mo	\$0.0520/hr	1.75 GB	20 GB	2 TB

1. DigitalOcean Managed Cloud Hosting:

Cloudways offers managed cloud hosting on DigitalOcean, one of the most popular and cost-effective cloud providers. Customers are allowed to choose their hosting plans from two options: The Standard and Premium plans.

The basic plan on the Standard option starts at \$11/month, with hourly usage available as an additional billing option. It includes 1GB RAM, 1 core CPU, 25GB SSD storage, and 1TB bandwidth. The basic Premium plan costs around \$14/month and also comes with the same features as the basic Standard plan. However, there are more hosting plans on the Standard option than there are on the Premium.

2. AWS Managed Cloud Hosting:

Cloudways' managed cloud hosting on AWS provides high-performance with scalable hosting solutions for various website needs. Their basic plan, AWS small, is a bit pricier than the one found on DigitalOcean as it begins at \$38.56/month. However, it includes 2GB RAM, 20GB SSD storage, and 2TB bandwidth which are features that can provide small businesses with the necessary resources to manage their websites.

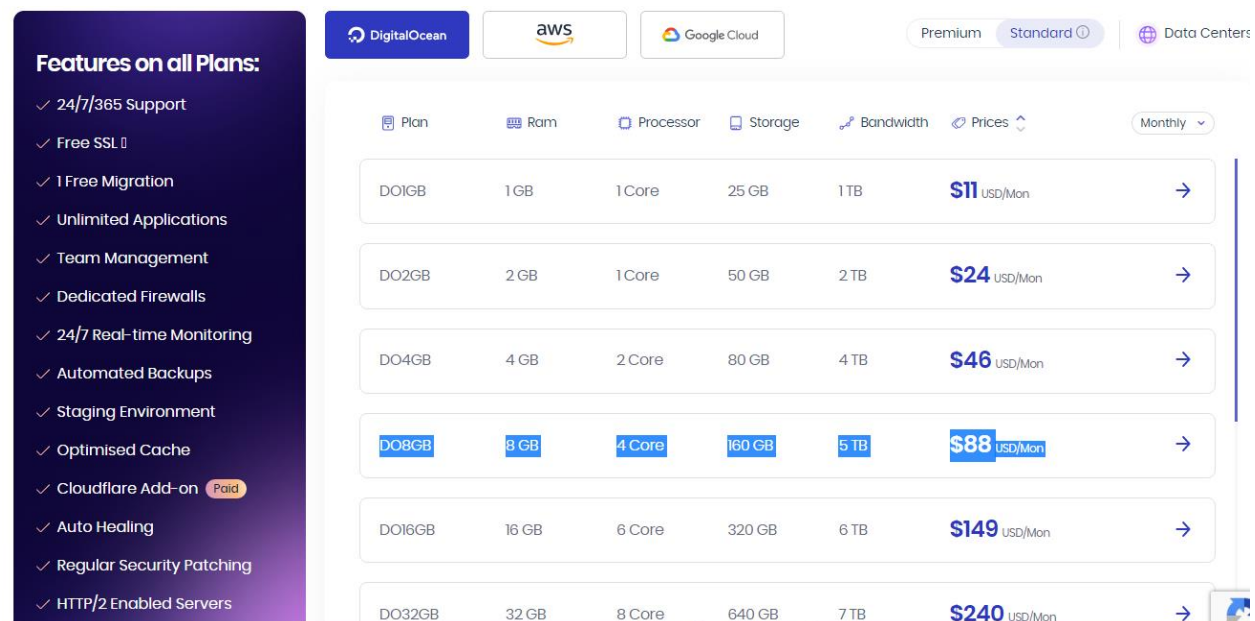
3. Google Cloud Managed Cloud Hosting:

Cloudways' managed cloud hosting on Google Cloud provides flexible and scalable hosting solutions that come with a range of advanced features. Like the other two cloud providers, clients can choose between hourly or monthly billing. The basic plan starts at \$37.45 per month and \$0.0520 per hour. With this plan, users get to enjoy certain features including 1.75GB RAM, 20GB SSD storage, and 2TB bandwidth when they subscribe.

Note that an additional fee of \$0.033/GB per server is applied for offsite backup storage. This means that if you choose to enable offsite backup storage for your server, you will be charged an extra \$0.033 for every gigabyte (GB) of data that is stored in the offsite backup location.

To learn more about the Managed cloud hosting pricing structure, visit [here](#).

Managed Cloud Hosting Features



Features on all Plans:

- ✓ 24/7/365 Support
- ✓ Free SSL
- ✓ 1 Free Migration
- ✓ Unlimited Applications
- ✓ Team Management
- ✓ Dedicated Firewalls
- ✓ 24/7 Real-time Monitoring
- ✓ Automated Backups
- ✓ Staging Environment
- ✓ Optimised Cache
- ✓ Cloudflare Add-on (Paid)
- ✓ Auto Healing
- ✓ Regular Security Patching
- ✓ HTTP/2 Enabled Servers

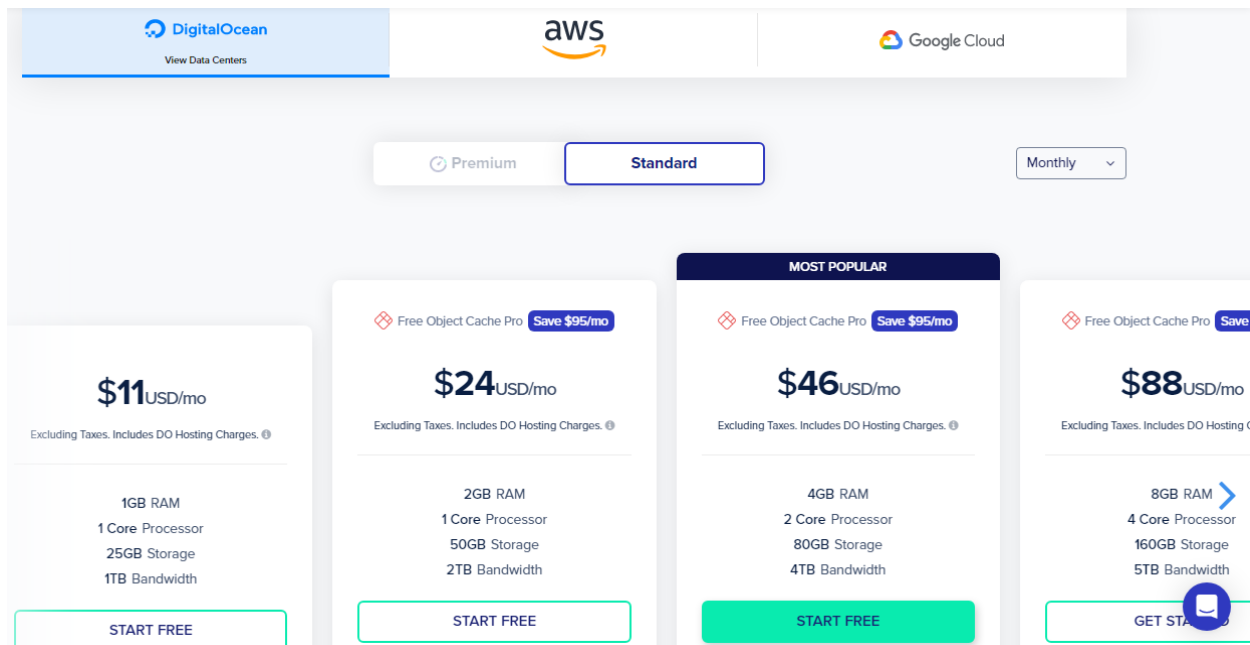
Plan	Ram	Processor	Storage	Bandwidth	Prices	Monthly
DO1GB	1 GB	1 Core	25 GB	1 TB	\$11 USD/Mon	→
DO2GB	2 GB	1 Core	50 GB	2 TB	\$24 USD/Mon	→
DO4GB	4 GB	2 Core	80 GB	4 TB	\$46 USD/Mon	→
DO8GB	8 GB	4 Core	160 GB	5 TB	\$88 USD/Mon	→
DO16GB	16 GB	6 Core	320 GB	6 TB	\$149 USD/Mon	→
DO32GB	32 GB	8 Core	640 GB	7 TB	\$240 USD/Mon	→

The managed cloud hosting plans come with a lot of features that can provide customers with a fast, reliable, and secure hosting environment for their websites and applications. Some of them are:

1. Customers have the flexibility to select the cloud provider that best fits their requirements in terms of cost, performance, and even geographic location. These cloud providers include AWS, Google Cloud, DigitalOcean, Linode, and Vultr.
2. They provide a user-friendly platform that makes it simple to launch and manage servers. Customers can easily set up their servers with just a few clicks and manage all aspects of their hosting environment from the intuitive Cloudways dashboard.
3. The cloud hosting plans are easily scalable so customers can move their server resources up or down as needed. They can add more RAM, CPU, storage, or bandwidth to handle increased traffic and enhance their website's performance.

4. They utilize advanced caching technologies like Varnish, Redis, and Memcached to speed up page load times. Additionally, Cloudways uses SSD storage and offers advanced features like CloudwaysCDN and HTTP/2 to further enhance website performance.
5. They have multiple layers of security measures like dedicated firewalls, regular OS patching, regular security audits, IP whitelisting, two-factor authentication, and free SSL certificates. They also offer options for advanced security measures such as dedicated IP addresses and vulnerability detection.
6. There is also a staging environment where customers can create a copy of their website for testing and development purposes. They can make changes to their websites without affecting the live version. Once the changes are tested and approved, they can be easily pushed to the live website.
7. They offer real-time monitoring and analytics for server performance. Customers can monitor server resources, application performance, and website traffic through the Cloudways dashboard.
8. A dedicated support team is available 24/7 via live chat and ticketing system to assist customers with any technical issues or inquiries they may have.
9. There is also a range of developer-friendly features such as SSH and SFTP access, Git integration, staging URLs, and easy collaboration tools. These features make it convenient for developers to work on their projects effectively.

Cost and Features of Cloudways WordPress Multisite Hosting



With Cloudways, you can easily set up and manage multiple WordPress sites under one hosting account. This would be a convenient solution for webmasters and businesses looking to manage multiple websites efficiently.

The cost of hosting a WordPress multisite with Cloudways on DigitalOcean starts as low as \$11.00 per month on a standard plan. The pricing is usually determined by the specific resources you require, such as RAM, storage, and bandwidth. You also have the option of easily scaling up or down your resources whenever you require.

To enhance the performance and management of WordPress multisite hosting, Cloudways offers the following features:

- **Easy Setup:** They simplify the setup process to create and manage multiple websites from a single platform.
- **Uptime Guarantee:** Cloudways offers a 99.99% uptime guarantee for its hosting services. This means that they guarantee that your WordPress Multisite network will be accessible and operational for at least 99.99% of the time.
- **Scalability:** This allows you to easily scale up your WordPress multisite as your traffic and resource requirements increase. You can vertically scale server resources or add more servers to handle increased traffic.
- **Global Data Centers:** You can choose from multiple data center locations for your WordPress multisite hosting, ensuring low latency and faster website loading times for visitors from different regions.

- **Optimized ServerStack:** They come with an optimized server stack with advanced technologies like NGINX, Apache, Varnish, and PHP 8 to ensure that your WordPress multisite is fast, reliable, and scalable.
- **Built-In Cache:** Cloudways provides built-in cache plugins such as Breeze and Nginx-based Redis to enhance the speed of your WordPress multisite, resulting in an excellent user experience for your visitors.
- **Advanced Security:**
Cloudways' Managed WordPress Multisite hosting is secured with advanced firewalls, two-factor authentication, and regular security patches to ensure that your multisite is protected from malicious attacks.
- **User-Friendly Control Panel:**
Cloudways offers an intuitive, user-friendly control panel that allows you to manage your WordPress multisite, including plugins, themes, and adding new sites, with ease.
- **Customer Support:** They provide 24/7 customer support via live chat and ticketing. They also assist users with any technical difficulties through their knowledge base.

To learn more about their WordPress Multisite hosting plans, visit [here](#).

Cloudways Security Features


Features ▾ Pricing Affiliate Support ▾ Learn ▾
Contact Us ▾
START FREE

Every Cloudways Account Comes With



Firewalls

Every Cloudways managed server comes with a firewall that allows access only to specific ports that are required for applications to function.



Login Security

For our users, rate-limiting for SSH and SFTP logins is a simple yet effective method to dealing with brute-force login attacks.



Bot Protection

Protect your WordPress websites from traffic congestion caused by malicious bots, brute force login attacks and Denial-of-Service (DoS) attacks with the help of our technology partner, Malcare.



Database Security

By default, the database cannot be accessed remotely. However, users can whitelist IP addresses to set up secure database remote access.



Application Isolation

While the users can launch multiple applications on a single server, each application is isolated from the rest, thus preventing application level issues to compromise the entire server.



SSL Certificates

We provide all users with FREE Let's Encrypt SSL certificates to ensure security of application's data in transit.

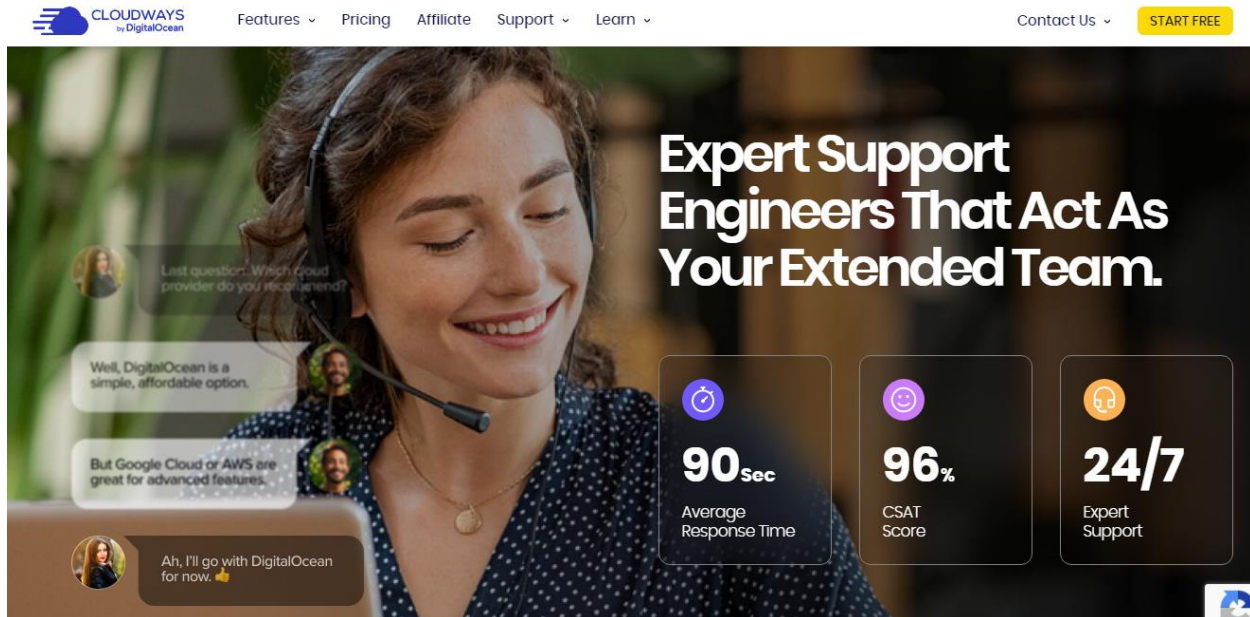
To help protect websites against online attacks and malware, Cloudways keeps the servers and applications used to host a user's website up to date with the latest security patches. They provide distributed denial of service (DDoS) protection to prevent your website from being overwhelmed by an excessive amount of traffic.

Cloudways has an inbuilt firewall that is pre-configured to block potential threats and can be customized to suit the needs of various websites. They also offer free SSL certificates from Let's Encrypt, ensuring that all data transmitted between a website and its visitors are encrypted and secure. If they require it, users can install custom SSL certificates as well.

Additionally, Cloudways supports two-factor authentication (2FA) for added security when logging into your account. This feature requires a second form of authentication in addition to your username and password, such as a security token or verification code. Another important security feature that they implement is application isolation. Each website hosted on a server is stored in a separate container to prevent any potential security breaches from affecting other websites on the same server.

Finally, Cloudways also offers a dedicated security team that is available 24/7 to monitor your website and respond to any potential security threats. You can also monitor your website's security status through Cloudways' dashboard, which shows you real-time data on your website's security events.

Customer Support

A promotional banner for Cloudways' customer support. It features a smiling woman wearing a headset, representing a support agent. On the left, there is a chat conversation snippet. On the right, three key performance indicators are highlighted in dark boxes with icons: a clock for '90 Sec Average Response Time', a smiley face for '96% CSAT Score', and a headset for '24/7 Expert Support'. The top navigation bar includes links for Features, Pricing, Affiliate, Support, and Learn, along with a 'Contact Us' link and a 'START FREE' button.

CLOUDWAYS by DigitalOcean

Features Pricing Affiliate Support Learn

Contact Us START FREE

Expert Support Engineers That Act As Your Extended Team.

Last question: Which cloud provider do you recommend?

Well, DigitalOcean is a simple, affordable option.

But Google Cloud or AWS are great for advanced features.

Ah, I'll go with DigitalOcean for now. 🙌

90 Sec
Average Response Time

96%
CSAT Score

24/7
Expert Support

Cloudways provides 24/7 live chat support for users to quickly get in touch with a support representative. They also have a ticketing system where people can submit their questions/problems and get solutions or guidance to them.

They maintain a community forum as well as a comprehensive knowledge base that serves as a self-help resource for users. It contains articles, tutorials, and FAQs covering various topics related to the platform. Here, users can find answers to common questions or learn how to navigate and utilize Cloudways' features easily.

Cloudways also offers managed services, meaning that their support team can assist users with tasks beyond standard server management. This includes assistance with website migration, application optimization, security, performance optimization, and more. However, it is worth noting that the higher-tier plans often come with additional, prioritized support options.

What are the Pros and Cons of Cloudways?

What is good about Cloudways?

- Cloudways provides a user-friendly interface that makes it easy for users to manage their websites, servers, and applications without needing technical expertise or advanced knowledge.
- Cloudways improves server performance for websites by offering server-level caching, CDN integration, and other performance-enhancing features.
- They allow users to scale their server resources as their website needs grow. This scalability ensures that websites can handle increasing traffic and resource demands without experiencing performance issues.
- Cloudways integrates with multiple cloud providers like DigitalOcean, AWS, Google Cloud, and more, giving users flexibility and options to choose the infrastructure that best suits their needs.
- For developers who require more control and customization options, they offer advanced features like SSH and SFTP access, Git integration, and staging environments.
- Cloudways implements various security measures to protect websites, including firewalls, regular security patches, free SSL certificates, two-factor authentication, and automated backups.
- Cloudways offers 24/7 customer support through live chat, ticketing system, and a knowledge base. Their support team is known for being responsive, knowledgeable, and helpful.

What are the Cons?

- While Cloudways offers flexibility in choosing cloud providers and server configurations, their pricing structure can be a bit complex. Users may need to carefully review and understand the pricing details to avoid unexpected costs.
- Cloudways does not provide email hosting, so users need to rely on third-party email hosting solutions or separate email service providers.

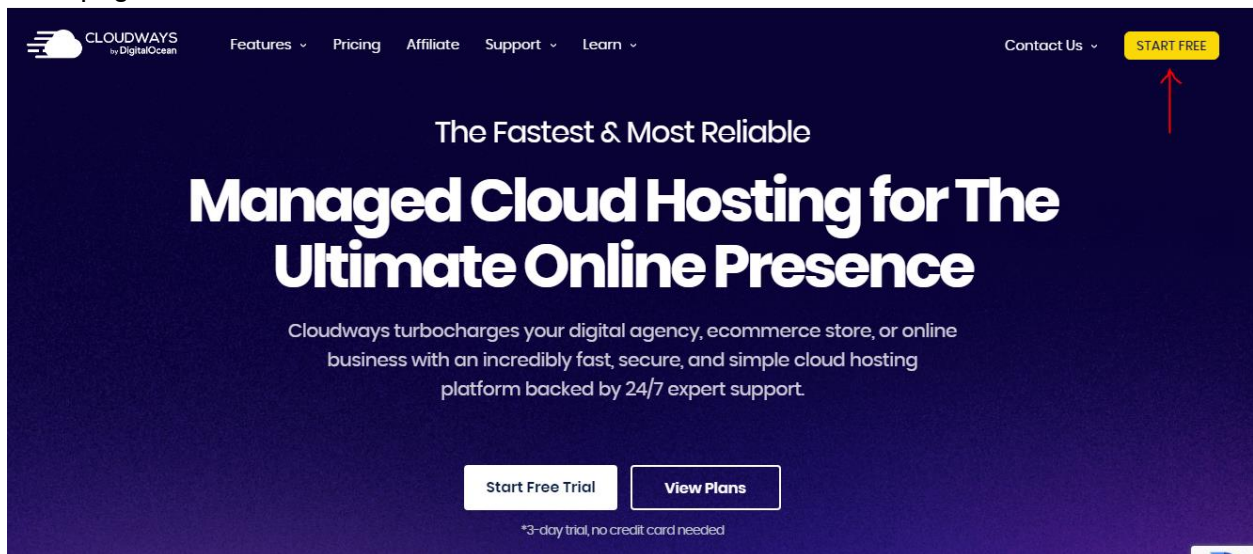
- While Cloudways aims to simplify the hosting experience, there can still be a learning curve for beginners who are new to server management and web hosting concepts.
- Cloudways restricts root access to servers for security purposes. While this ensures enhanced security, it may limit some advanced customization options for users who need full administrative control.

It's important that you carefully consider these pros and cons in relation to your specific needs and requirements before choosing Cloudways as your hosting provider.

How to Buy Hosting on Cloudways

Here is a step-by-step guide on how to purchase hosting on Cloudways:

Step 1: Go to the [Cloudways website](#) and click on the 'Start Free' button on the top panel of the homepage.



You can also follow another route and click on the option labeled 'Pricing' on the top panel to explore various hosting plans offered by Cloudways. Select the plan you find most suitable and click on it.

Start your free trial without a credit card, and upgrade when you're ready with plans that grow with your business.

The screenshot displays the Cloudways pricing interface. On the left, a dark purple sidebar lists 'Features on all Plans:' including 24/7/365 Support, Free SSL, 1 Free Migration, Unlimited Applications, Team Management, Dedicated Firewalls, 24/7 Real-time Monitoring, Automated Backups, Staging Environment, Optimised Cache, and Cloudflare Add-on (Paid). The main area shows a table of plans with columns for Plan, Ram, Processor, Storage, Bandwidth, and Prices. A red arrow points to the 'DO1GB' plan, which is highlighted. The table lists four plans: DO1GB (\$14 USD/Mon), DO2GB (\$28 USD/Mon), DO4GB (\$54 USD/Mon), and DO8GB (\$99 USD/Mon). Each plan has a right-pointing arrow. Above the table, there are tabs for DigitalOcean, AWS, and Google Cloud, and a dropdown menu for 'Monthly'.

Plan	Ram	Processor	Storage	Bandwidth	Prices
DO1GB	1 GB	1 Core	25 GB	1 TB	\$14 USD/Mon
DO2GB	2 GB	1 Core	50 GB	2 TB	\$28 USD/Mon
DO4GB	4 GB	2 Core	80 GB	4 TB	\$54 USD/Mon
DO8GB	8 GB	4 Core	160 GB	5 TB	\$99 USD/Mon

Step 2: The next thing to do is to create an account with the required information (name, email, password etc) or sign up with Google, LinkedIn, or GitHub. You will also be asked to describe your role as well as your monthly hosting spending. Tick the 'I agree' box and click "START FREE" when you are done

The screenshot shows the Cloudways sign-up page. The header includes the Cloudways logo and the text 'Get Started Absolutely Free'. Below this, there are options to 'Signup Using' Google, LinkedIn, GitHub, or a generic 'OR' button. The form fields include First Name, Last Name, Email, Password, a dropdown for 'I would best describe myself as', and another dropdown for 'My monthly hosting spending is'. There is a 'Got a Promo Code?' section with an 'Enter Promo Code' field. A checkbox for 'I agree to the Cloudways Terms of Service & Privacy Policy' is present. A large green 'START FREE' button is at the bottom. Below the button, it says 'Already have an account? Login here'.

Step 3: Check your email inbox for an activation email from Cloudways. It usually takes 1 to 2 working days to get confirmed. Next, click on the activation link provided in the email to activate your account.

Step 4: After confirming your account, you'll be directed to the server creation page. If you are not automatically redirected, you can navigate to the server launch page from the top menu by clicking on 'Servers' and then 'Launch Now'. Use the CloudWays Help to launch a new server if needed.

Step 5: If you didn't choose a cloud provider earlier on, you will be provided with an opportunity to do so. Cloudways supports various cloud infrastructure providers like Amazon Web Services (AWS), Google Cloud Platform (GCP), DigitalOcean, Vultr, Linode, and more. Choose the provider that suits your requirements and budget.

Step 6: Configure the server details such as the name of your application, project, server size, server location, and other related settings.

Step 7: Cloudways offers various additional services like managed backups, advanced caching, SSL certificates, and more. Choose any additional services you require for your hosting.

Step 8: Review all the selected options, pricing details, and server configuration settings. Once you are satisfied, click on the 'Launch Now' button to deploy your server and enjoy 3 days free.

Step 9: Keep track of the remaining free usage period, which will be displayed in the top menu. If you want to continue using the free trial, wait until the period expires before upgrading your account. To upgrade your account, click on 'UPGRADE MY ACCOUNT' and complete the billing details to authorize payment.

Step 10: Once the payment is complete, you can access the server from the Cloudways dashboard. You can deploy applications, manage settings, and control various aspects of your hosting.

What Available Payment Methods Are There?

Cloudways offers various payment methods to make it convenient for users to pay for their services. These methods include credit and debit cards such as Visa, Mastercard, and American Express. Users can also pay via PayPal manually but only if they have upgraded their account.

Is Cloudways Good?

Cloudways is a suitable hosting platform for small businesses, developers, or enterprises. While there may be limitations such as the lack of email hosting and root access restrictions, it offers scalability, reliable performance, and a user-friendly interface.

The platform's scalability allows businesses to easily adjust their server resources as their needs grow so that their website or application can handle increased traffic without any issues.

Also, its user-friendly interface makes it easy for even non-technical users to navigate and manage their hosting environment.

Cloudways provides reliable performance through its partnership with top cloud providers like Amazon AWS, Google Cloud and DigitalOcean. By leveraging the infrastructure of these providers, Cloudways is able to employ advanced caching techniques, including built-in Full Page Caching (FPC) and Redis, to enhance website performance and deliver a faster browsing experience.

FAQs

Does Cloudways offer a free hosting service?

Cloudways does not offer a completely free hosting service. However, they do provide a free trial period that allows users to test their services before making a commitment. The duration of the free trial period may vary, so you can check their website for the most up-to-date information.

What plans are available, and what are the payment options?

Cloudways offers various plans such as WordPress, Reseller and Magento hosting. Each of these plans are priced differently and are based on cloud providers like AWS, Google Cloud, DigitalOcean, Vultr, and Linode. As for payment options, Cloudways accepts major credit cards, including Visa, Mastercard, and American Express. They also support PayPal payments.

Does Cloudways provide dedicated IP?

Yes, they do. Cloudways provide dedicated IP addresses that can offer greater control and security for your website.

Are name servers (DNS resolution) offered by Cloudways?

Yes, name servers (DNS resolution) are part of their hosting services and you can manage your domain's DNS settings conveniently in the Cloudways platform.

Can SSL certificates be purchased through Cloudways?

Yes, Cloudways offers the ability to purchase and install SSL certificates for your websites. They provide options for both free and paid SSL certificates so that your website data is encrypted and secure.