

SiteGround And A2 Hosting Speed Compared with 52 K Tests During 6 Months



This kind of research on A2 and SiteGround speed is not only unique, but also really helpful in the details. It gives you both the overview of the hosts' speed in comparison during 6 months and individual hosting speed test results.

There were totally more than 52 K speed tests performed from **January to June 2020** and analyzed in this article.

It's the 2nd report of in which I compare the speed performance of SiteGround and A2 using tons of data and presenting the most detailed charts with real-time speed tests. You can find the first report [here](#). It contains the methodology and all the introductory things you may want to know. In the current article I will focus on presenting the speed monitoring results and analysis for the outlined time period.

From this research **you will know**:

- Realistic overview of SiteGround's and A2 Hosting's speed can be (including short-time speed peaks and typical speed fluctuations of these hosts).
- The most detailed presentation of speed performance of SiteGround and A2 Hosting for 6 consecutive months (tests run continuously with 20-min intervals from two US locations).

- Analysis of these hosts' performance.

Do not be afraid of numerous charts in this article. They are to help to understand more than 52,000 hosting speed tests results

Keep in mind that the data presented in this post are **the real speed tests** (Full Page Load Time). Sometimes people use Server Response Time or Time To First Byte tests which to estimate hosting speed, which is wrong.

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By the way, here's a disclosure: I'm affiliate of the both hosts – SiteGround and A2 Hosting. And there are affiliate links on this page. In other words, I get paid if you click on the links and make a purchase. All such links open in new window/tab; no software/program will be installed to your computer. (This is a standard notice required by hosting companies.)

If you choose a hosting between SiteGround and A2, I suggest reading my reviews of the hosts there: [SiteGround review](#) and [A2 Hosting review](#)).

How I tested SiteGround and A2 Hosting speed and analyzed the data

Why I made this research

I will put it briefly now. For more details please read [this section](#) of my initial article.

In addition to my [monthly reports](#) on hosting performance I decided to analyze in-depth the speed performance of the two well-known hosts – A2 and SiteGround. Running **speed tests every 20 minutes from two locations** gives me a lot of data that I put into detailed charts for you.

Having lots of data allows me to grasp nuances which stay under radar if you run a little number of tests. The conclusions from single speed tests can be [very unreliable and can be greatly misleading](#).

Some bloggers evaluating hosting speed run a very limited number of tests . This is an unreliable approach. I want more solid data to draw my conclusions.

The methodology

More details on how I run the tests and how I processed the results are in [this section](#) of my other article. And now I will put it very briefly here:

1. I anonymously bought cheapest hosting packages at [A2Hosting](#) and [SiteGround](#). And installed WordPress with a dozen of articles with images on the front page.
2. I'm using monitis.com service to monitor the speed (Full Page load Time). The tests run every 20 minutes from two locations. More details on how I monitor the websites' performance is [here](#).
3. I put together the monitoring data into a spreadsheet to built the chart.

By the way, if you want to see the charts displaying original individual real-time and historic speed test values yourself, you can do it at the charts which are located below my reviews [for SiteGround](#) and [for A2 Hosting](#)).

Charts to analyze which host is faster

Now let's compare and analyze the speed of A2 and SiteGround.

The most detailed 20-min hosting speed charts

In this chapter I put the charts with the raw speed monitoring data. The data includes all the registered peaks from both test locations. These are the most detailed hosting speed charts (for 6 months at once and for each of the months separately) for each host.

SiteGround and A2 Hosting from January to June from two testing locations

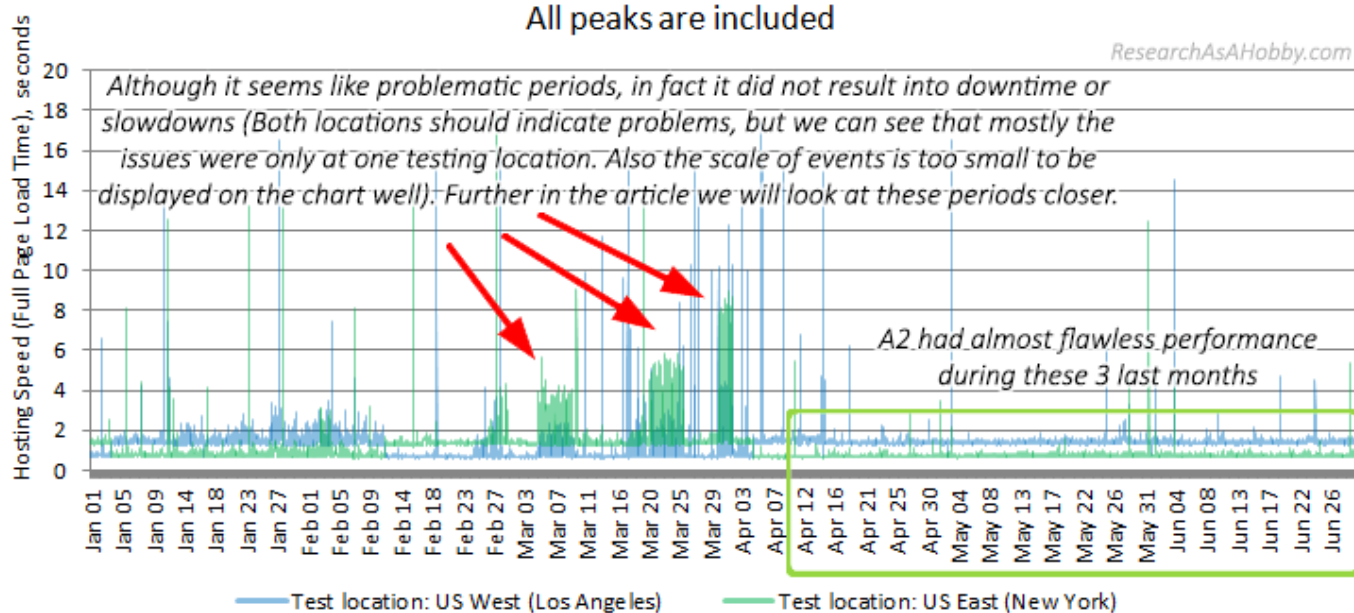
On the two combined charts below you can see all the speed data I got for this research. The limitations of the charts are obvious – there are too many data (52+K speed values in total) to display on the charts for detailed analysis. Single speed values are impossible to see. But it allows to reveal the speed peaks and overall performance.

So, here's a bird-eye overview of the speed of A2 Hosting and SiteGround:

A2Hosting speed. Detailed. From January to June.

WordPress site is tested every 20 minutes from two locations

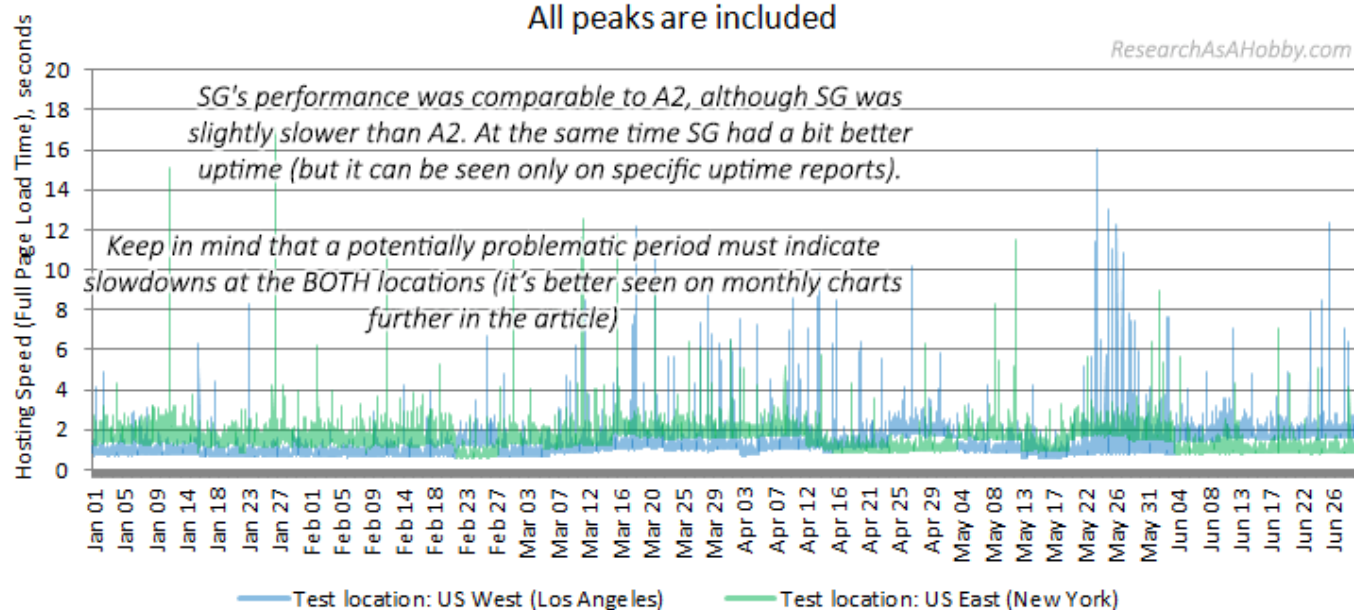
All peaks are included



SiteGround speed. Detailed. From January to June.

WordPress site is tested every 20 minutes from two locations

All peaks are included



I've put a note on the chart above with the main insights that this chart comes up with:

- Although it seems like the hosts had problematic periods (particularly it regards A2), in fact “the colored columns” did not result into downtime or slowdowns. The reason behind it is that both locations should indicate problems, not just one of the locations. And since we can see that mostly the issues were only at one testing location, it was a testing location issue, not the hosting performance problem.
- Also, the scale of events is too small to be displayed on the chart well). Further in the article we will look at these periods closer.
- [A2Hosting](#) had almost flawless performance during the three last months.
- SiteGround’s performance was comparable to A2’s, although SiteGround was slightly slower than A2. At the same time SiteGround had a bit better uptime (you can see the monthly uptime of the hosts in the table [here](#)).
- Keep in mind that the potentially problematic period must indicate slowdowns at the BOTH locations at the same time (you can see it clearer on monthly charts further in the article).

In general, both hosts have stellar speed performance. The charts display a number of short-term peaks. But when taking into account the Satisfactory Apdex data (see [this section](#)), we can see that by and large the slowdowns took place too rarely in terms of statistics.

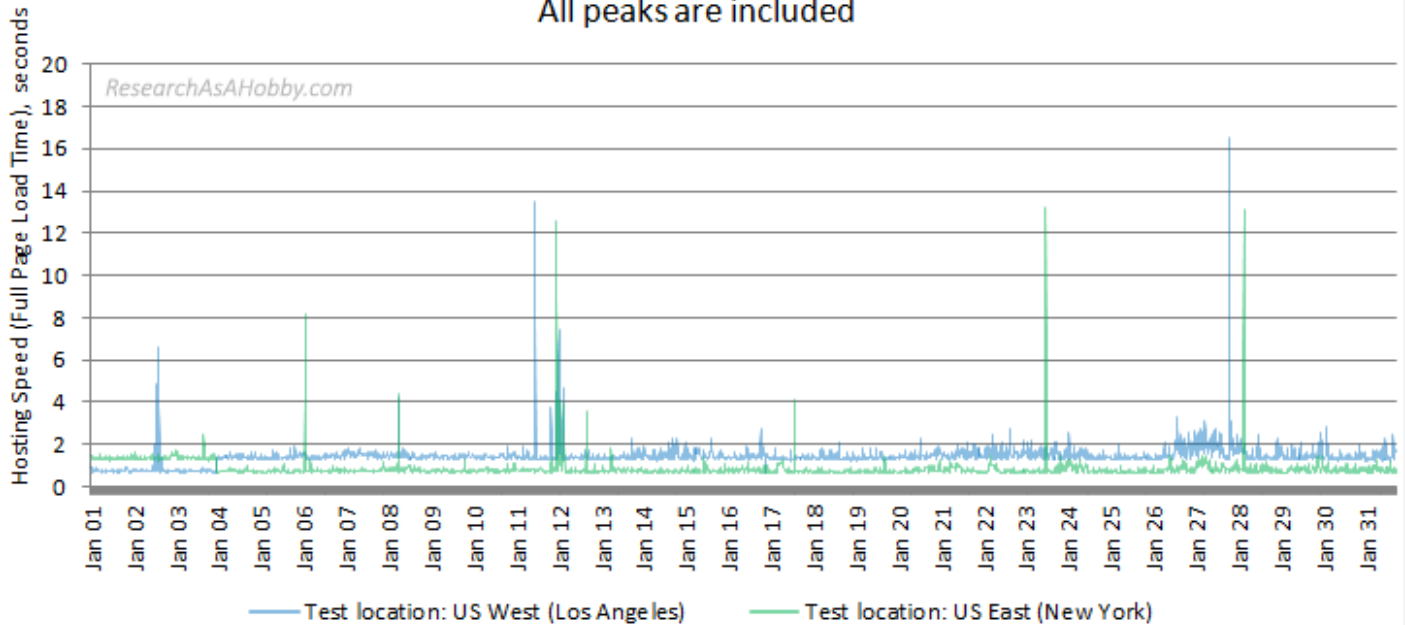
Also, the performance of the hosts is not permanent, although does not change significantly. Anyway, judging by the charts, [A2Hosting](#) looks better than [SiteGround](#) from April to June.

The hosting speed in January from two locations

Here’s the combined charts with speed of SiteGround and A2 Hosting in January:

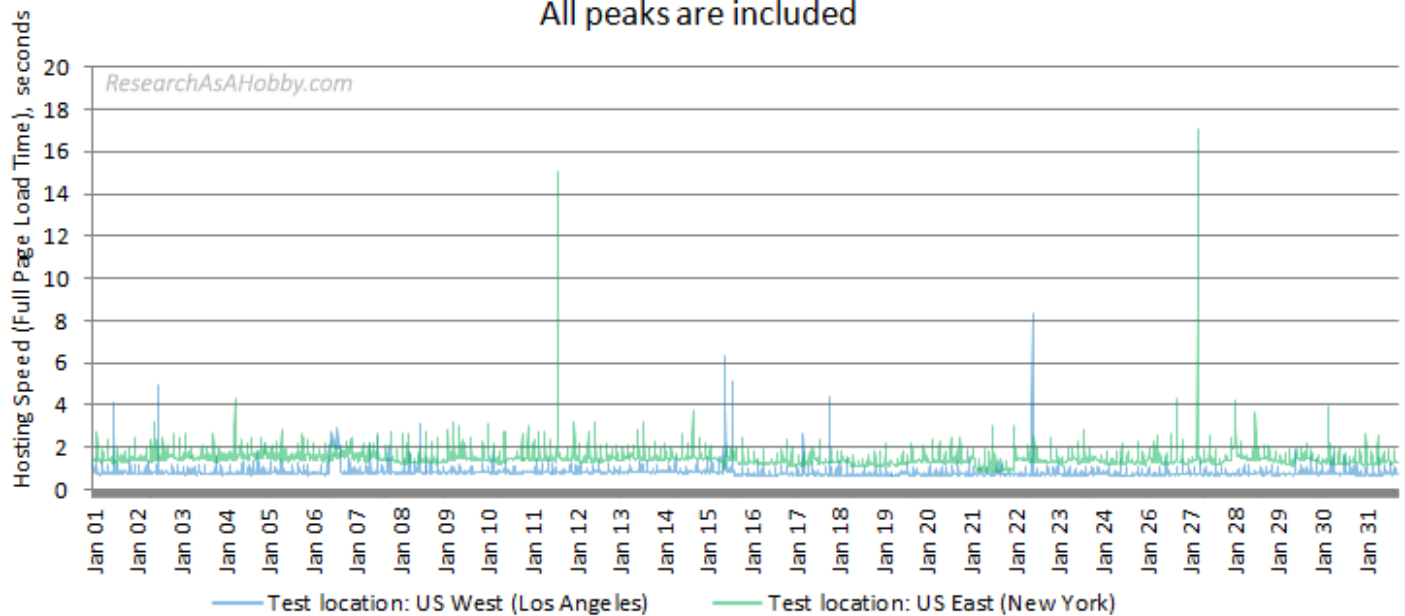
A2Hosting speed. Detailed. January.

WordPress site is tested every 20 minutes from two locations
All peaks are included



SiteGround speed. Detailed. January.

WordPress site is tested every 20 minutes from two locations
All peaks are included



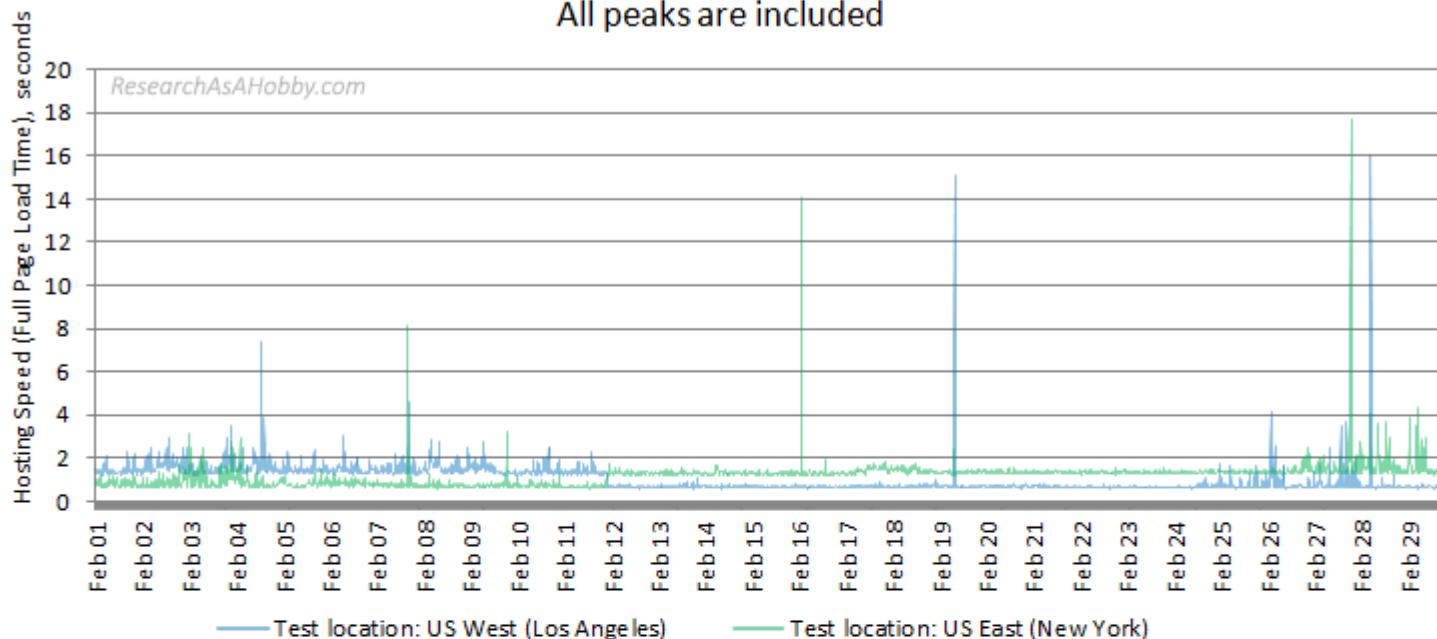
This month was pretty flawless for both hosts. A2 shows a little bit faster performance. But the difference is almost intangible.

The hosting speed in February from two locations

Here's the chart to compare the 20-min speed checks of SiteGround and A2 Hosting in February:

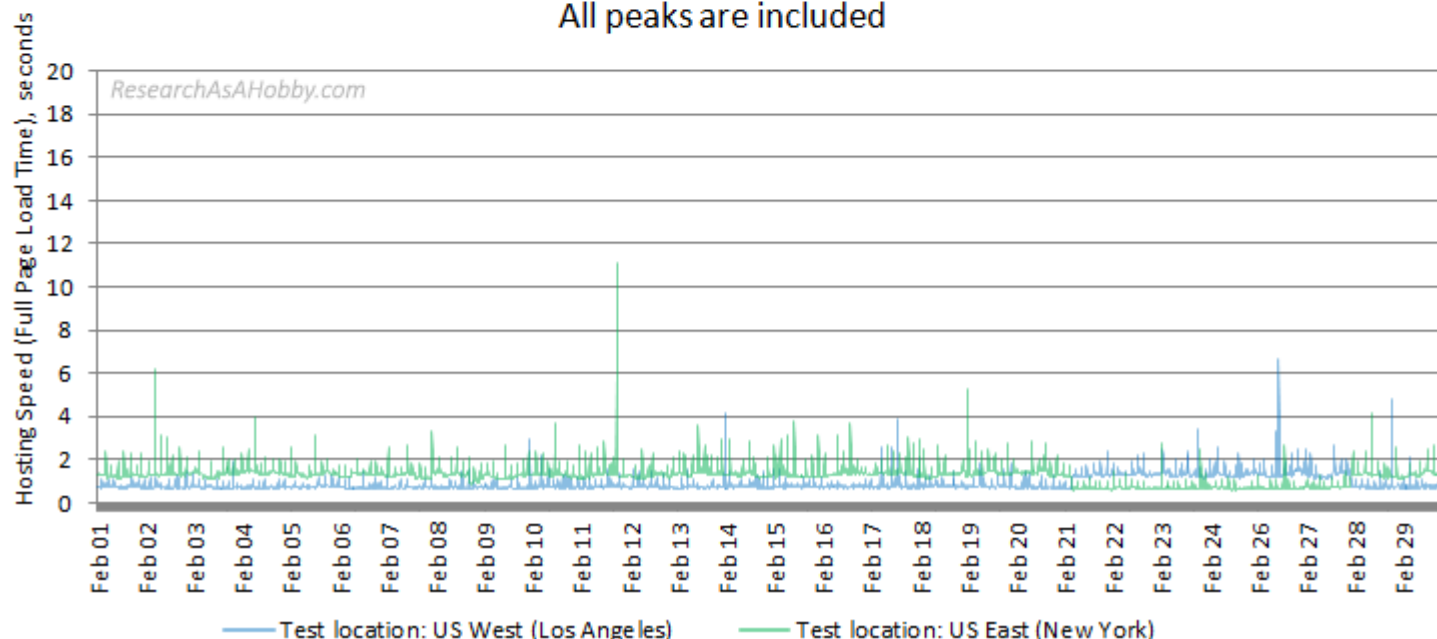
A2Hosting speed. Detailed. February.

WordPress site is tested every 20 minutes from two locations
All peaks are included



SiteGround speed. Detailed. February.

WordPress site is tested every 20 minutes from two locations
All peaks are included



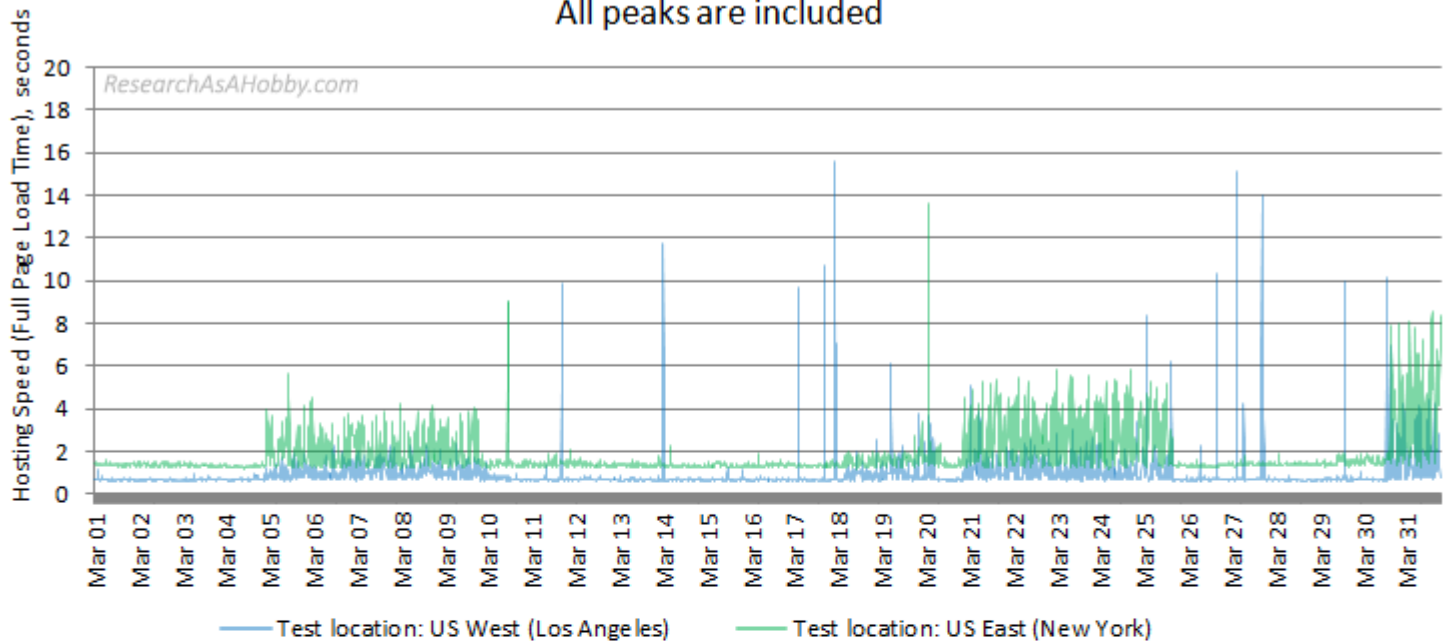
In February [SiteGround](#) was a bit more stable than A2. But this is an example of these analysis limitations – we can't see downtimes on the charts unless there were speed issues too. In February A2 did not have speed issues, but its uptime was worse than SiteGround's (see [this report](#) for more details).

The hosting speed in March from two locations

The charts with A2 Hosting and SiteGround speed:

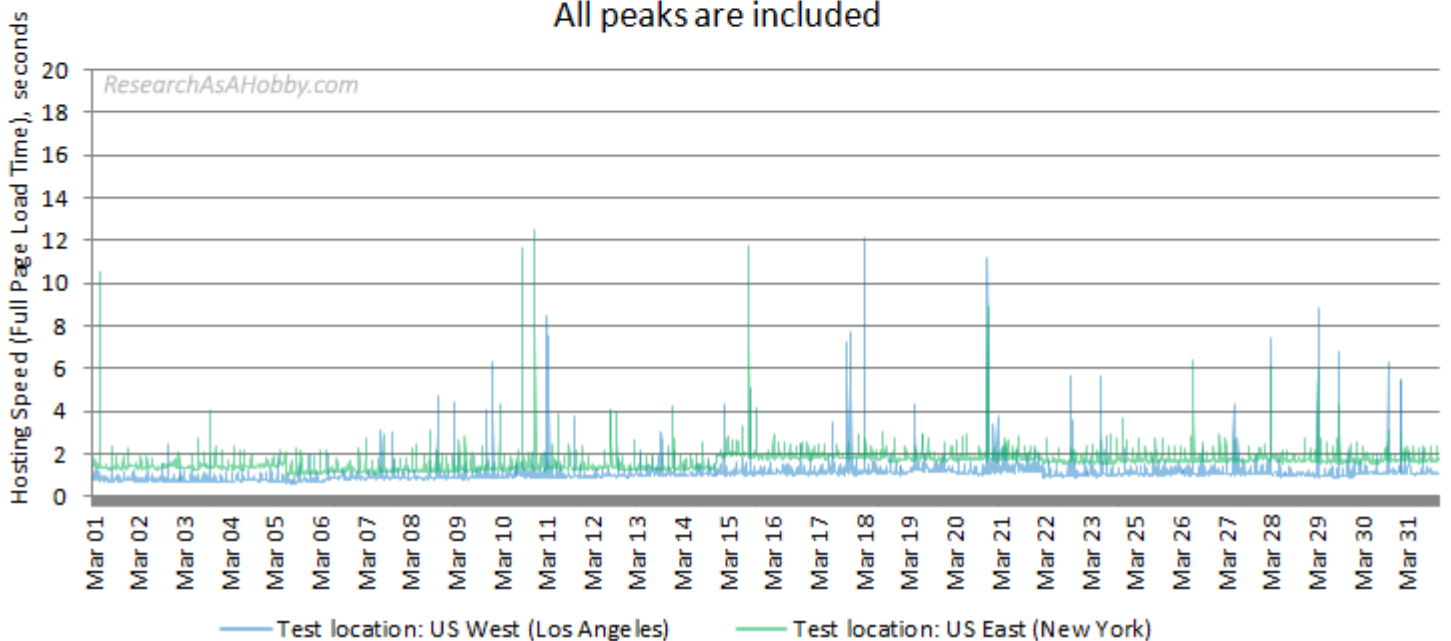
A2Hosting speed. Detailed. March.

WordPress site is tested every 20 minutes from two locations
All peaks are included



SiteGround speed. Detailed. March.

WordPress site is tested every 20 minutes from two locations
All peaks are included



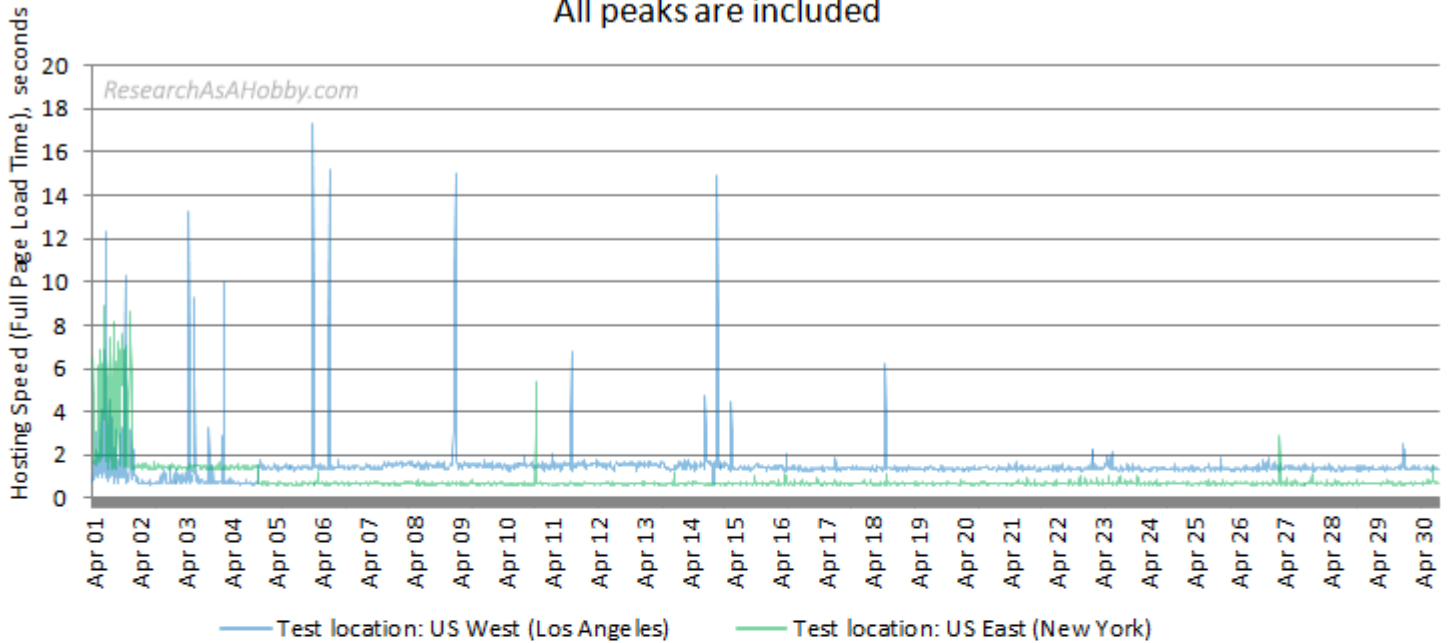
This is an interesting month to analyze. Although on the A2's chart we can see sort of slight instability, it did not really affect the average speed of A2 Hosting (more details are in [this report](#)). This is where detailed speed charts add up to monthly averages values. There was some speed instability at A2 hosting detected during this month (see the spiky areas on the A2's chart), but on average it was not significant.

The hosting speed in April from two locations

Here is the chart with the displayed speed of A2 Hosting and SiteGround in April:

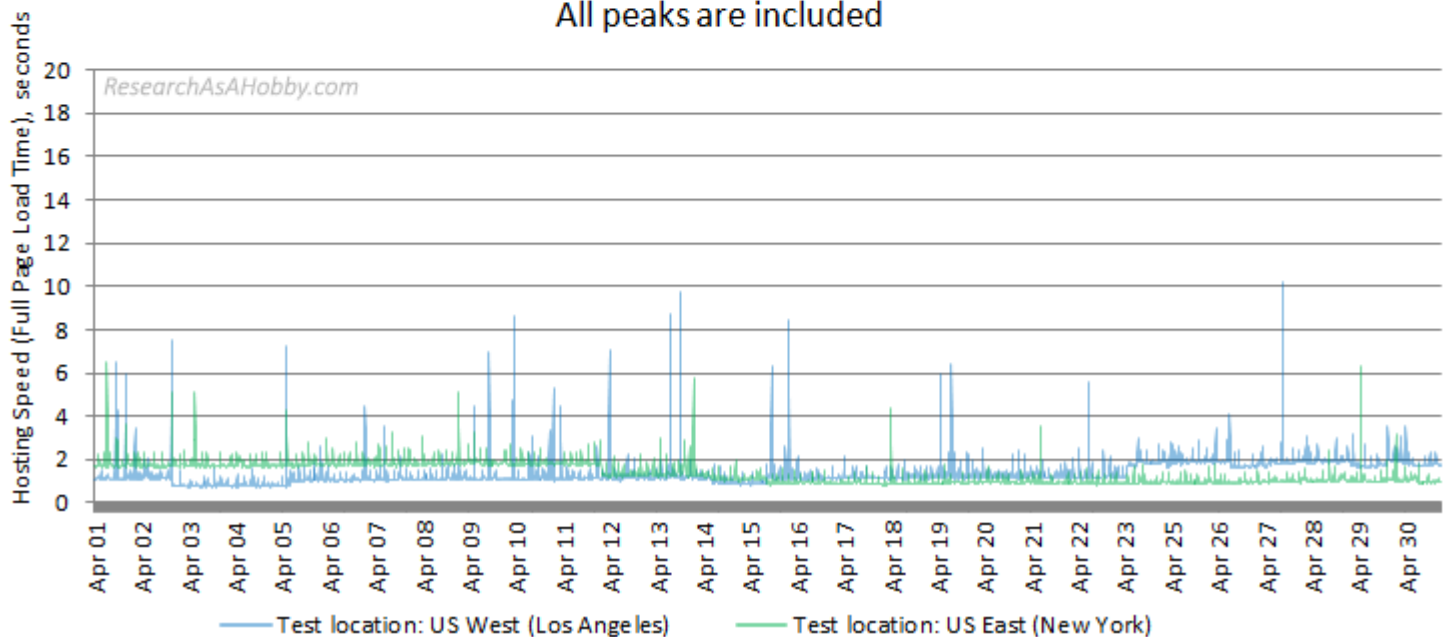
A2Hosting speed. Detailed. April.

WordPress site is tested every 20 minutes from two locations
All peaks are included



SiteGround speed. Detailed. April.

WordPress site is tested every 20 minutes from two locations
All peaks are included



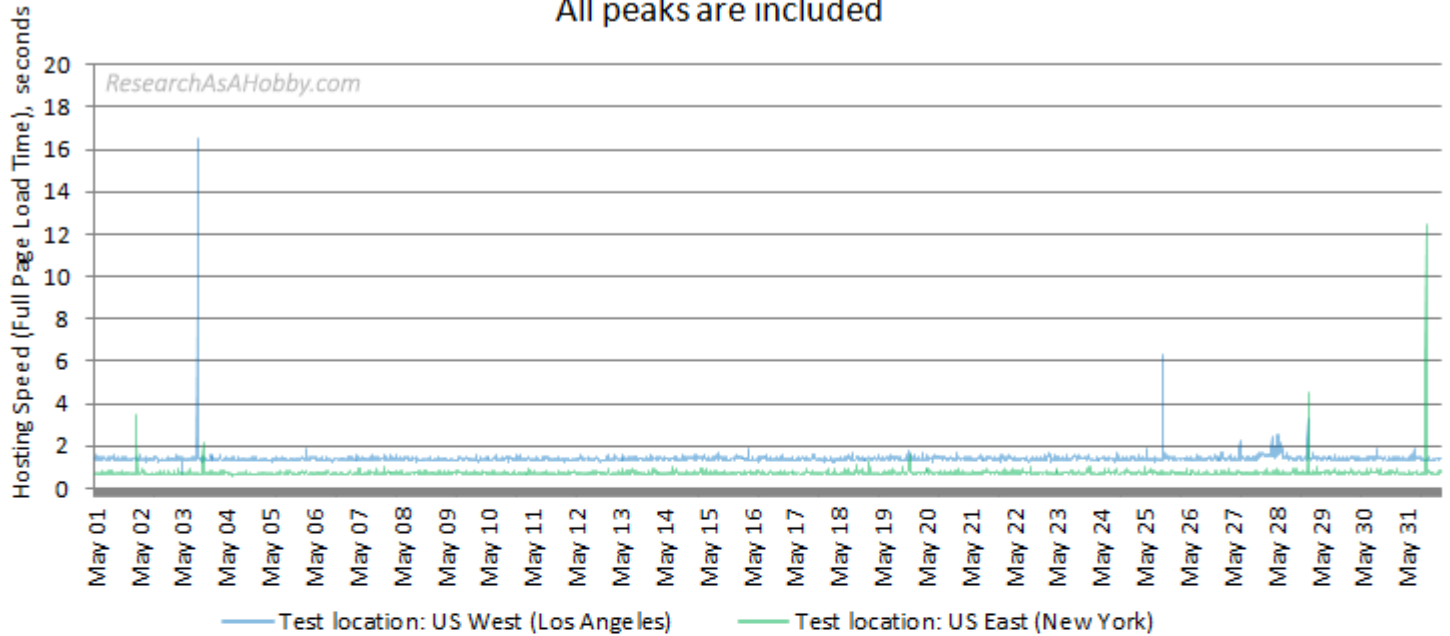
Both hosts look pretty fine. [A2Hosting](#) was a bit faster though. Slight speed instability in the beginning of the month did not result into average speed decreasing.

The hosting speed in May from two locations

Here is the chart with the displayed speed of A2 Hosting and SiteGround in May:

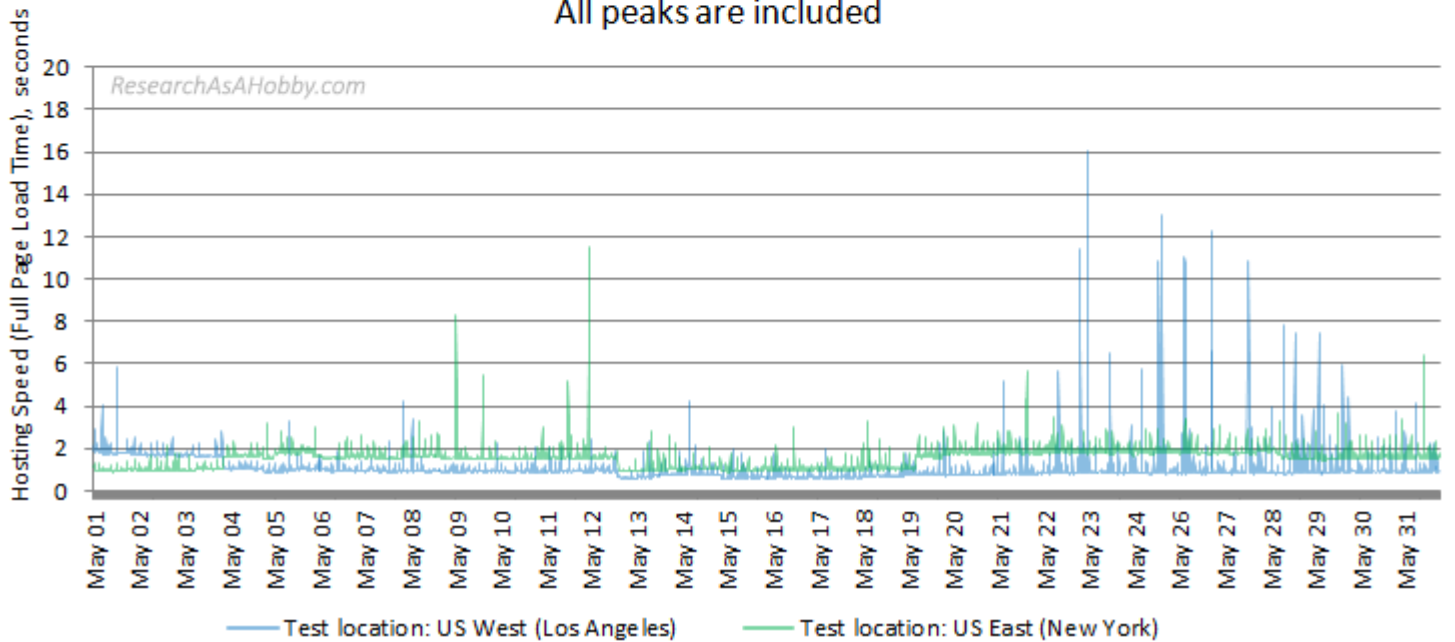
A2Hosting speed. Detailed. May.

WordPress site is tested every 20 minutes from two locations
All peaks are included



SiteGround speed. Detailed. May.

WordPress site is tested every 20 minutes from two locations
All peaks are included



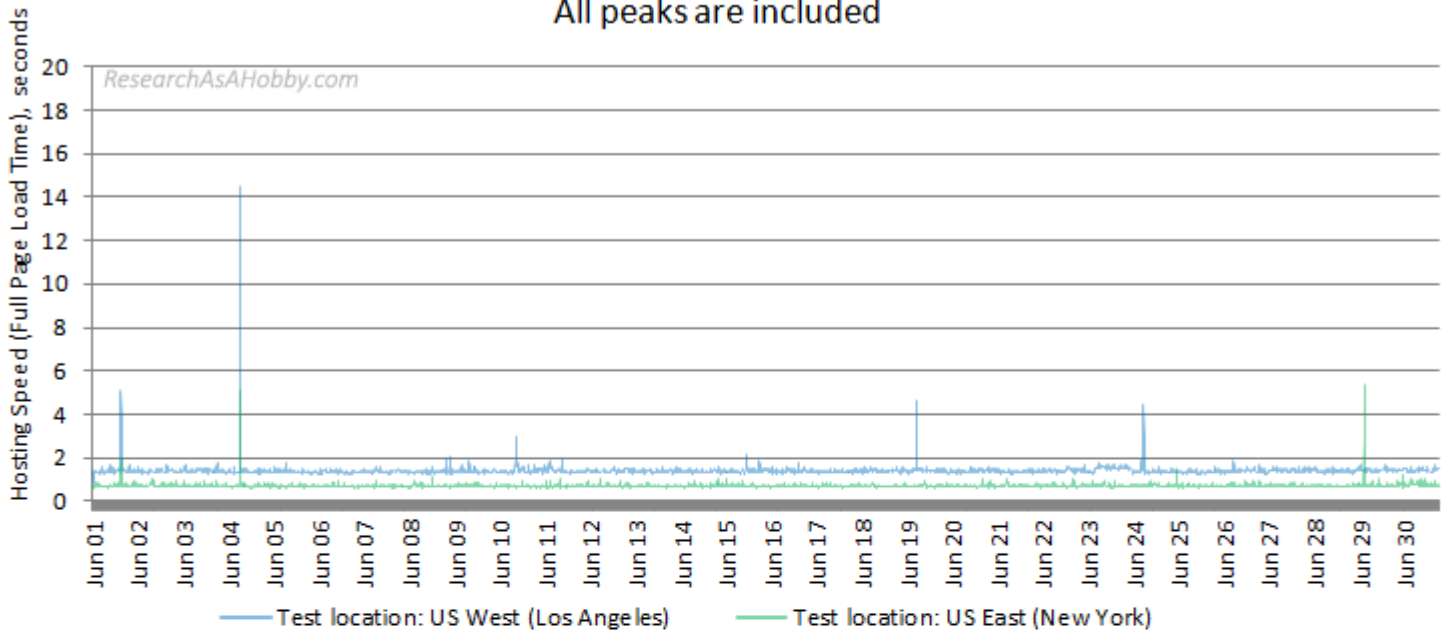
Performance of the both hosts was quite similar in this month. But [A2Hosting](#) was a bit faster.

The hosting speed in June from two locations

And here goes the chart with the speed of A2 Hosting and SiteGround in June:

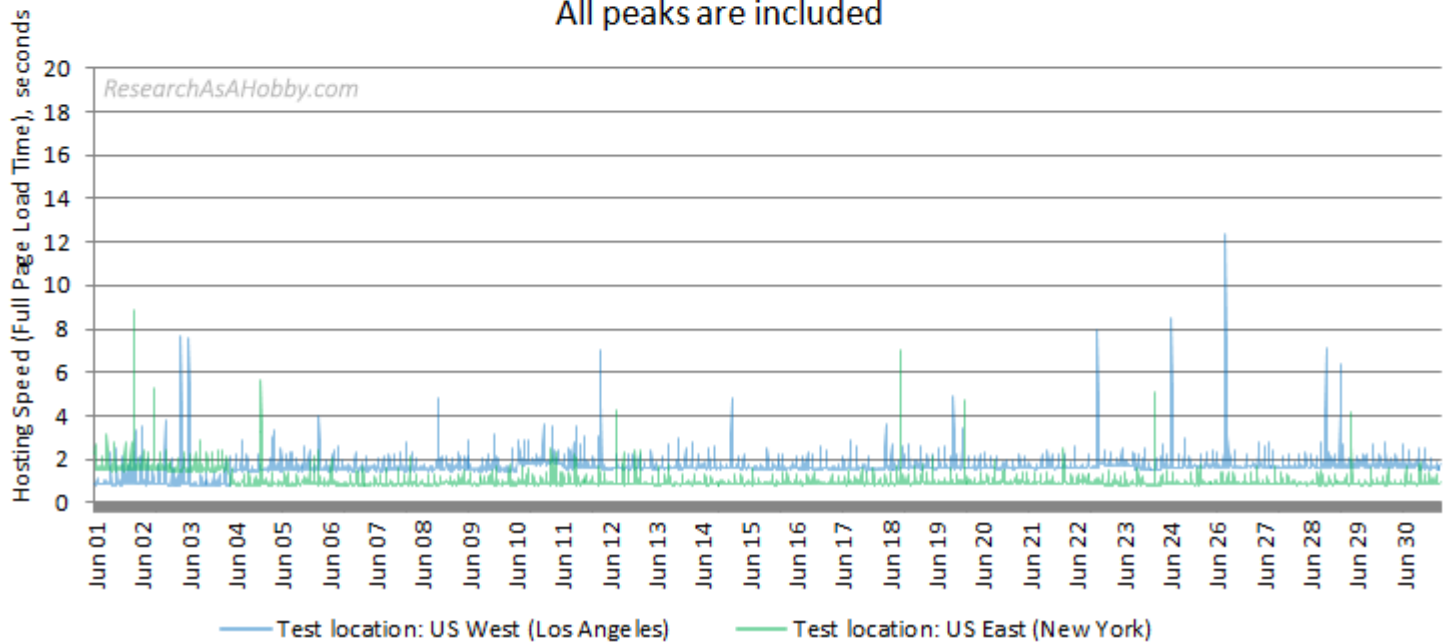
A2Hosting speed. Detailed. June.

WordPress site is tested every 20 minutes from two locations
All peaks are included



SiteGround speed. Detailed. June.

WordPress site is tested every 20 minutes from two locations
All peaks are included



Speed of the both hosts was stellar this month. Not much to add.

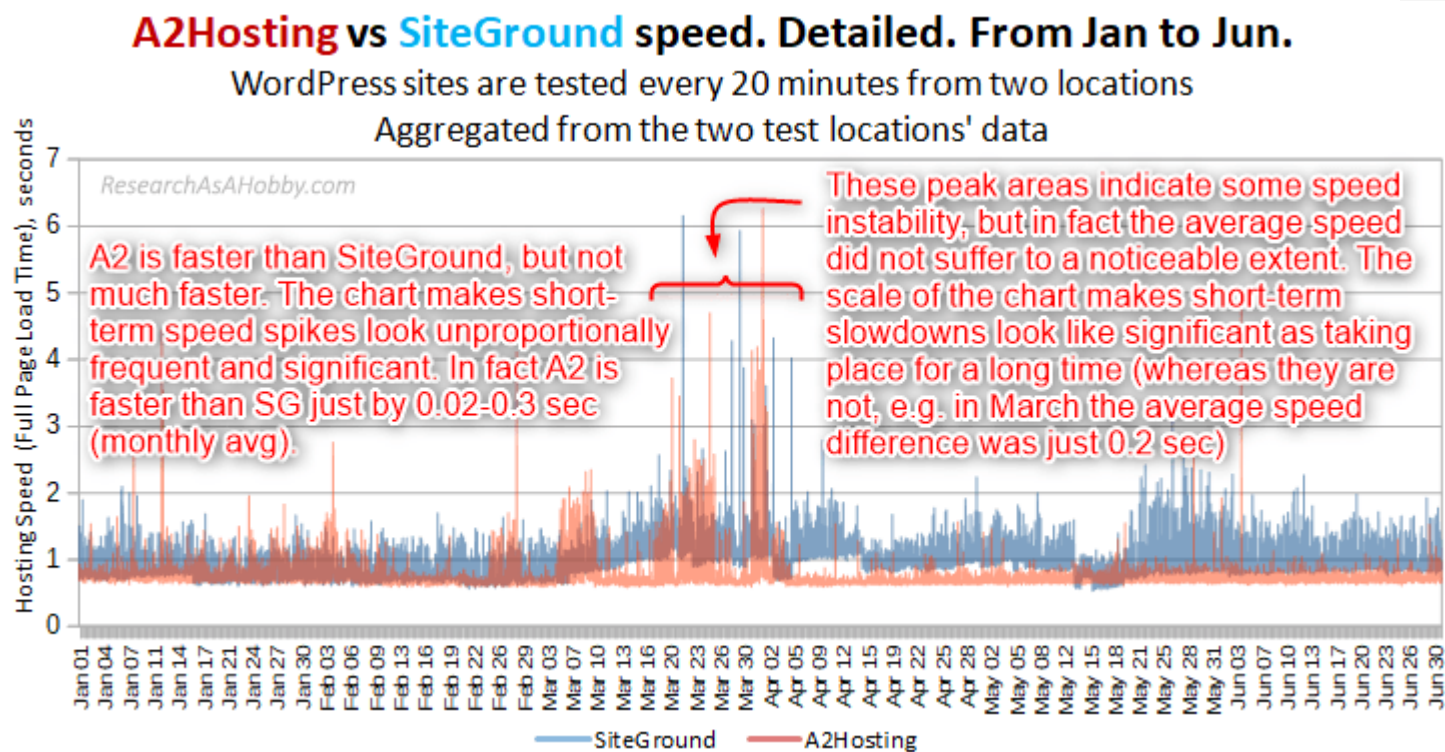
A2 Hosting and SiteGround 20-min speed charts with aggregated locations' values

You can compare speed of SiteGround and A2 Hosting using the charts above. It is the most precise way. But multiple test locations may confuse some people. That's why in this chapter I also display the speed comparison in a classic way – two hosts on one chart.

In the methodology [above](#) I explained how I got the aggregated speed for each hosting using the data from multiple test locations. Although this is a bit simplified way of comparing the hosts, it still makes a lot of sense as it gives side-by-side hosting speed comparison.

SiteGround or A2 Hosting speed from January to June, aggregated location

Here's the 20-min chart with A2 Hosting and SiteGround speed for 6 months.



In general the notes on the chart above say it all. The chart allows seeing some speed instability, but it does not let us know how really small or big was the effect on the average speed. But combined with the monthly charts, as well as with the average speed data by months, it all becomes the useful source of information.

In general, A2 was a bit faster than SiteGround. At the same time, due to the chart displaying limitations, SiteGround's speed looks worse on the charts than it really is.

In other words, both hosts have very good speed performance.

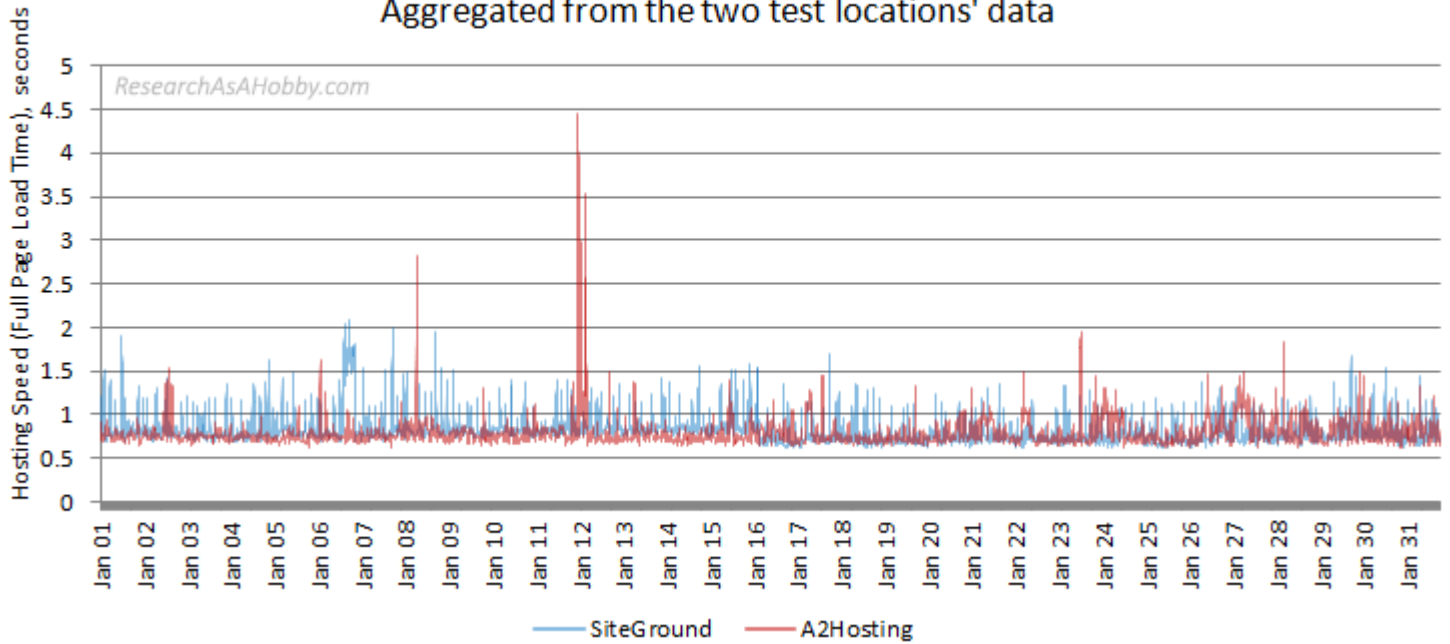
Hosting speed in January, aggregated location

The speed of the hosts in January:

A2Hosting vs SiteGround speed. Detailed. January.

WordPress sites are tested every 20 minutes from two locations

Aggregated from the two test locations' data



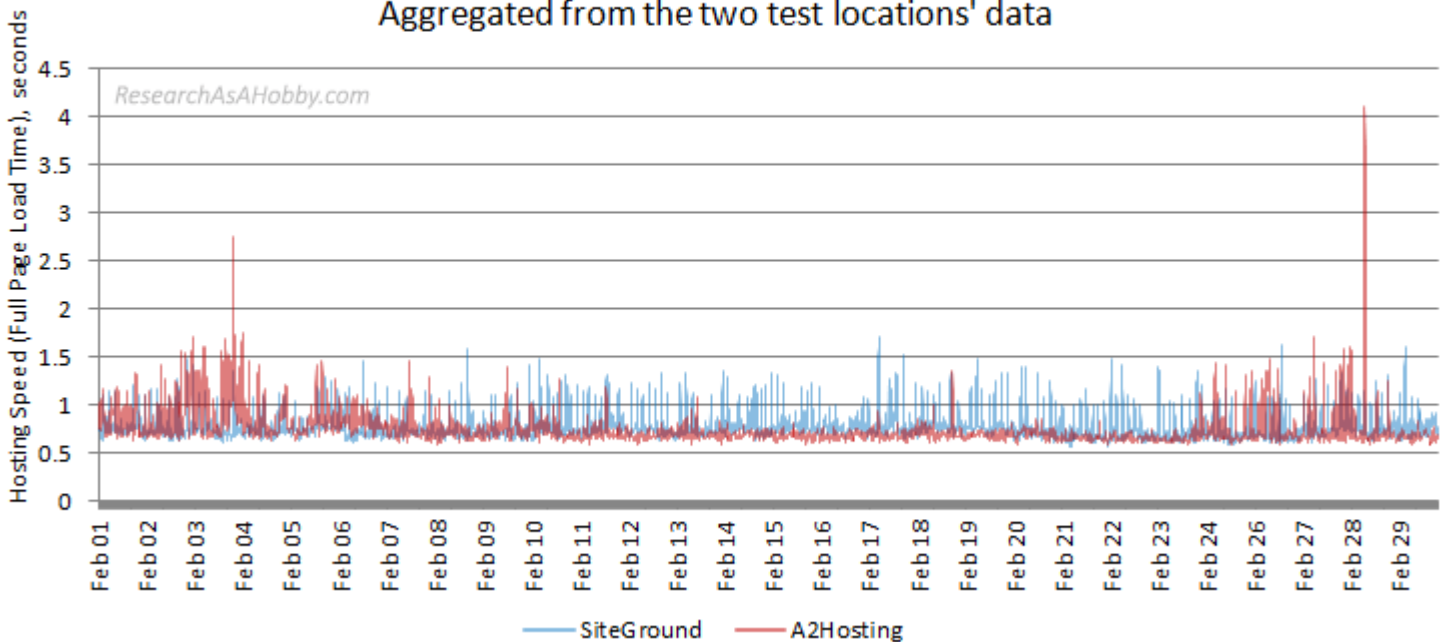
This month both hosts performed very well. Short little slowdown of A2 took place on the 12th of January or so. But it was not critical at all.

Hosting speed in February, aggregated location

A2Hosting vs SiteGround speed. Detailed. February.

WordPress sites are tested every 20 minutes from two locations

Aggregated from the two test locations' data



Both hosts had nearly equal average speed in February. There were no considerable and long-term slowdowns. It was a great speed performance of both A2 and SiteGround.

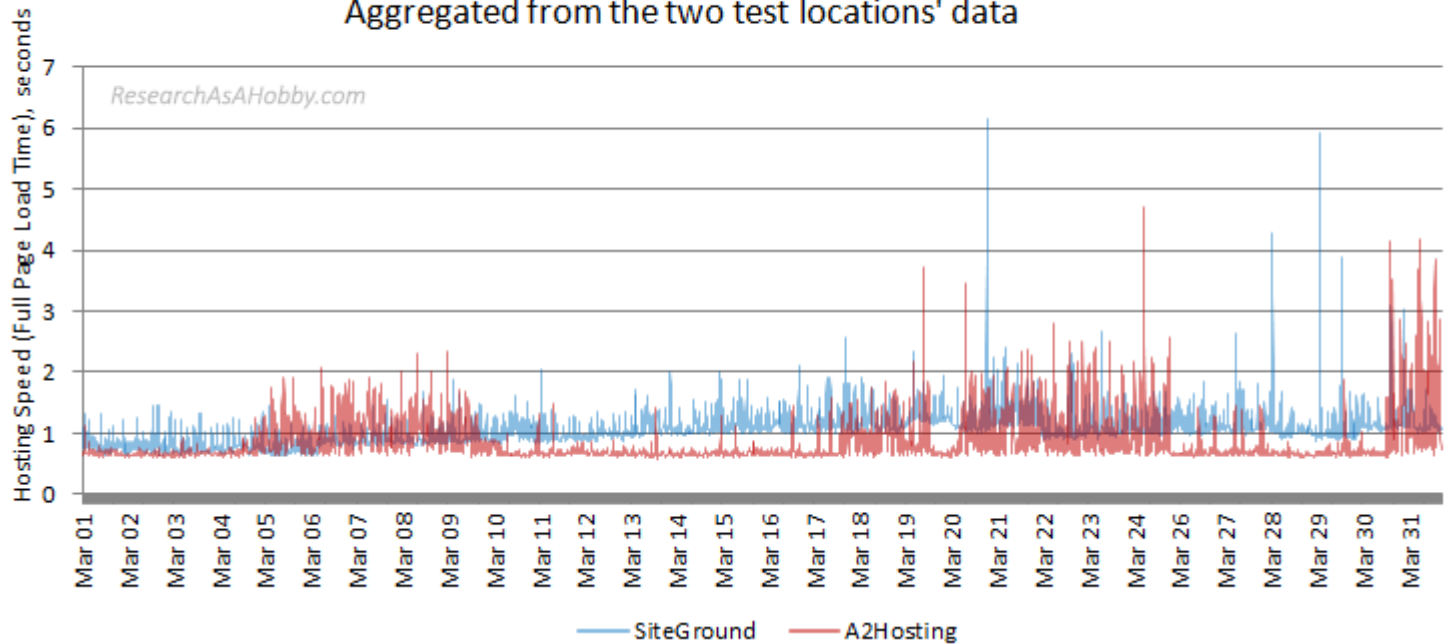
Hosting speed in March, aggregated location

The speed of the hosts in March:

A2Hosting vs SiteGround speed. Detailed. March.

WordPress sites are tested every 20 minutes from two locations

Aggregated from the two test locations' data



There were some minor speed instability of A2, but anyway A2 was not slower even during these periods. And in general you can see that [A2Hosting](#) was noticeably faster than SiteGround. At the same time [SiteGround](#) was really fast. The competition between two great hosts goes on ☐

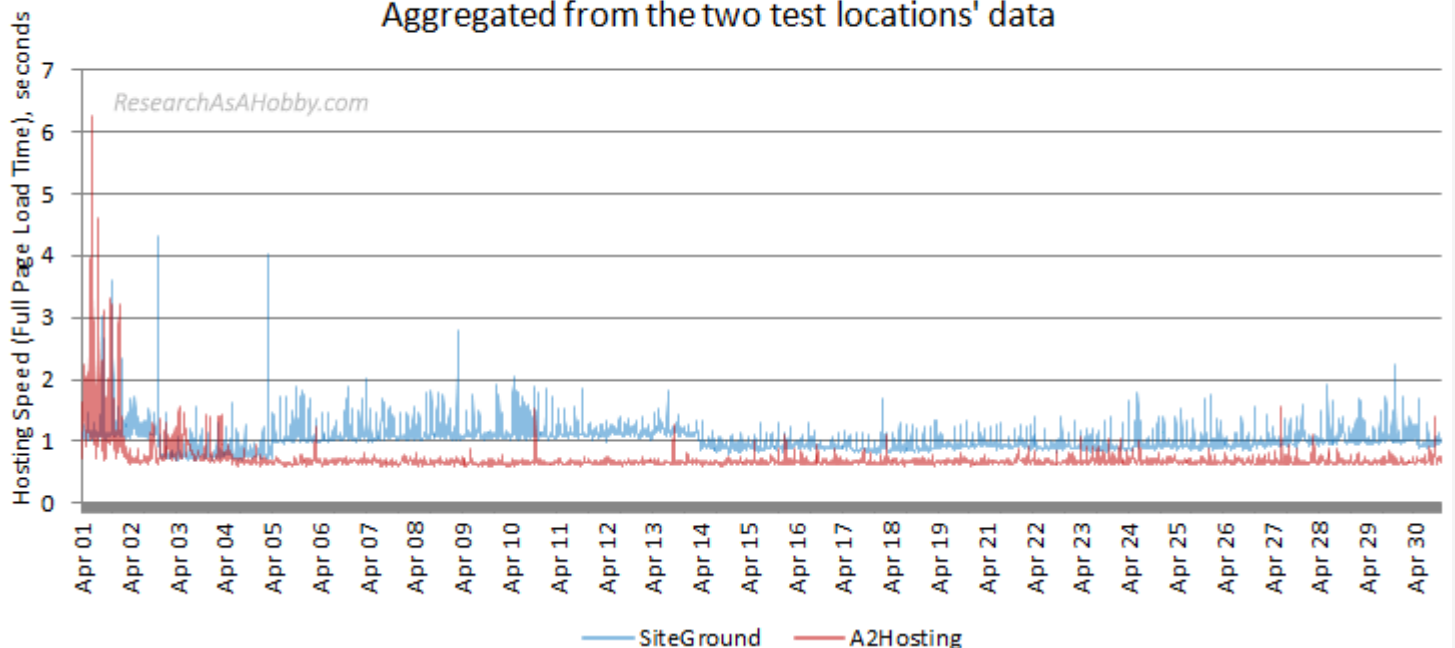
Hosting speed in April, aggregated location

The speed of the hosts in April:

A2Hosting vs SiteGround speed. Detailed. April.

WordPress sites are tested every 20 minutes from two locations

Aggregated from the two test locations' data

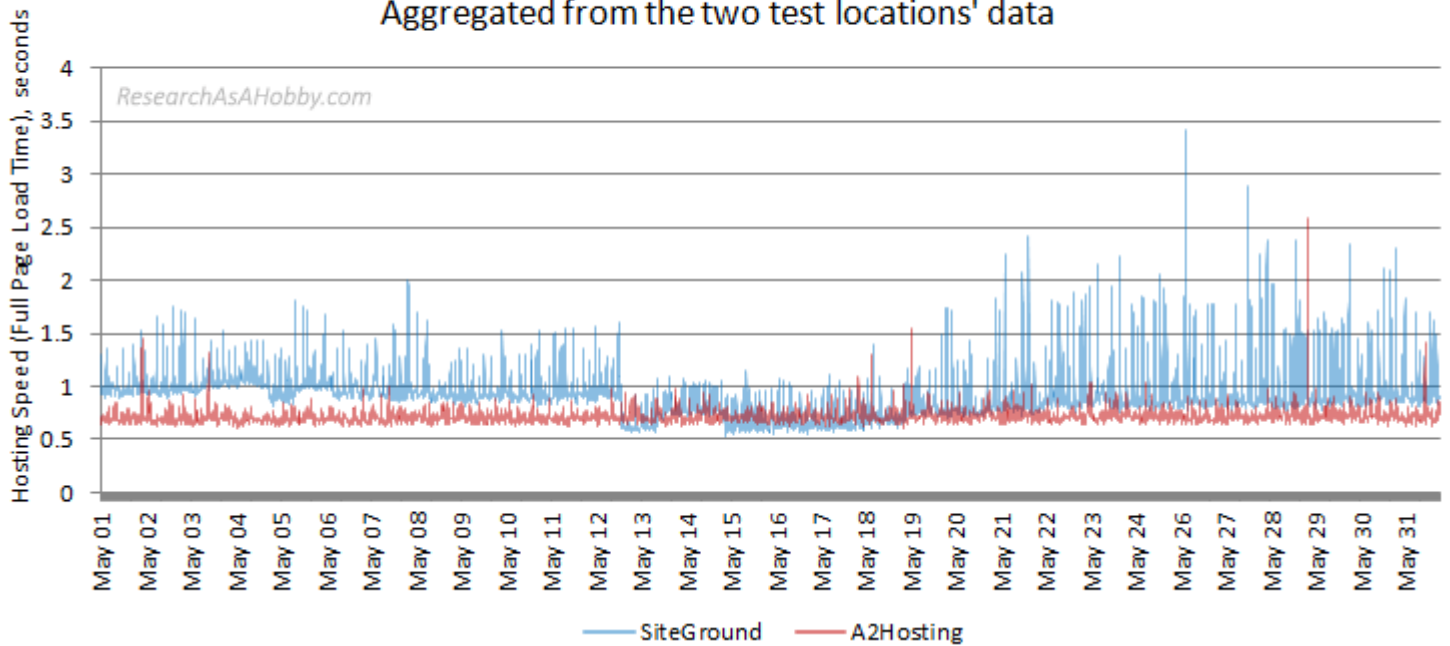


[A2Hosting](#) performed comparatively better than SiteGround in this month. The slight speed instability on the 1st of April did not affect the average speed values.

Hosting speed in May, aggregated location

The speed of the hosts in May:

A2Hosting vs SiteGround speed. Detailed. May.
WordPress sites are tested every 20 minutes from two locations
Aggregated from the two test locations' data



Again, [A2Hosting](#) was faster than SiteGround a little bit. At the same time don't be misled by short term speed spikes of [SiteGround](#), since they are too short-term and insignificant to affect the average hosting speed.

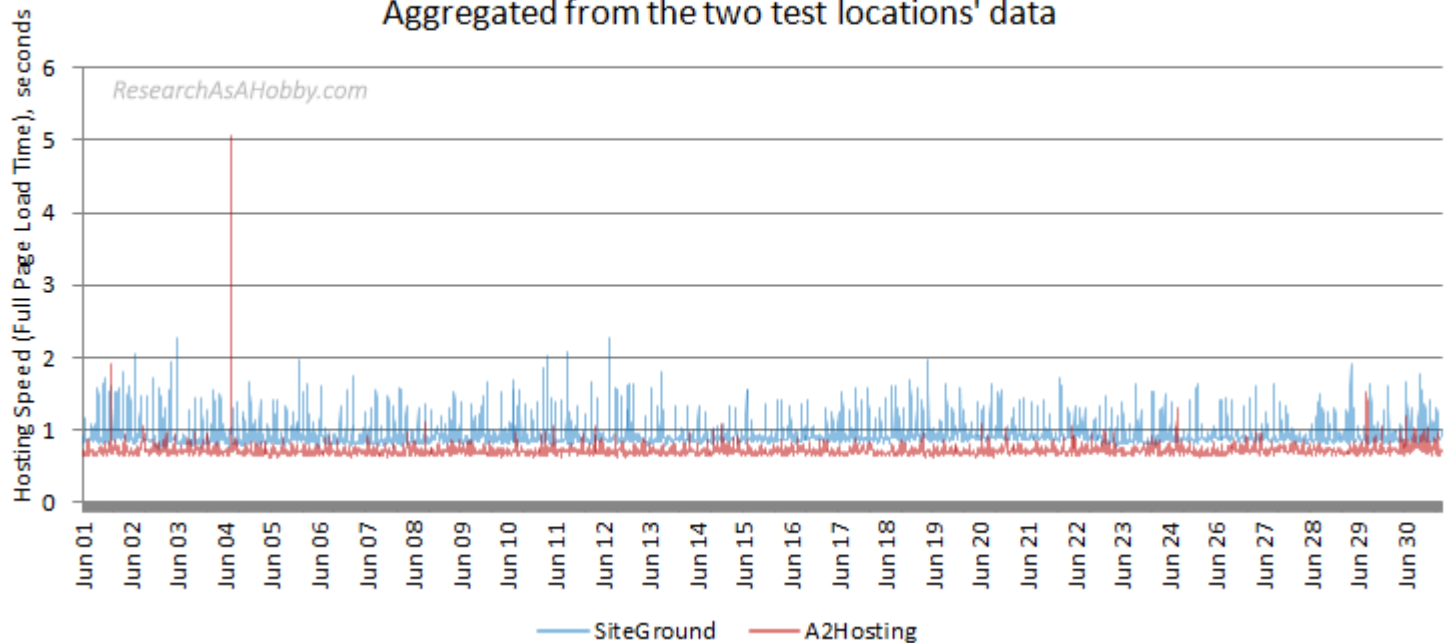
Hosting speed in June, aggregated location

The speed of the hosts in June:

A2Hosting vs SiteGround speed. Detailed. June.

WordPress sites are tested every 20 minutes from two locations

Aggregated from the two test locations' data



Well, both hosts are great. [A2Hosting](#) looks more attractive, but just slightly ☐

Histograms for A2 Hosting and SiteGround based on 20-min aggregated speed data

The charts with data ordered in a chronological order are naturally easy-to-understand. However, chronological data is very natural. I mean it good for analysis mostly using a common sense. In many ways it's enough. But histograms can give you additional insights, especially when comparing the hosts.

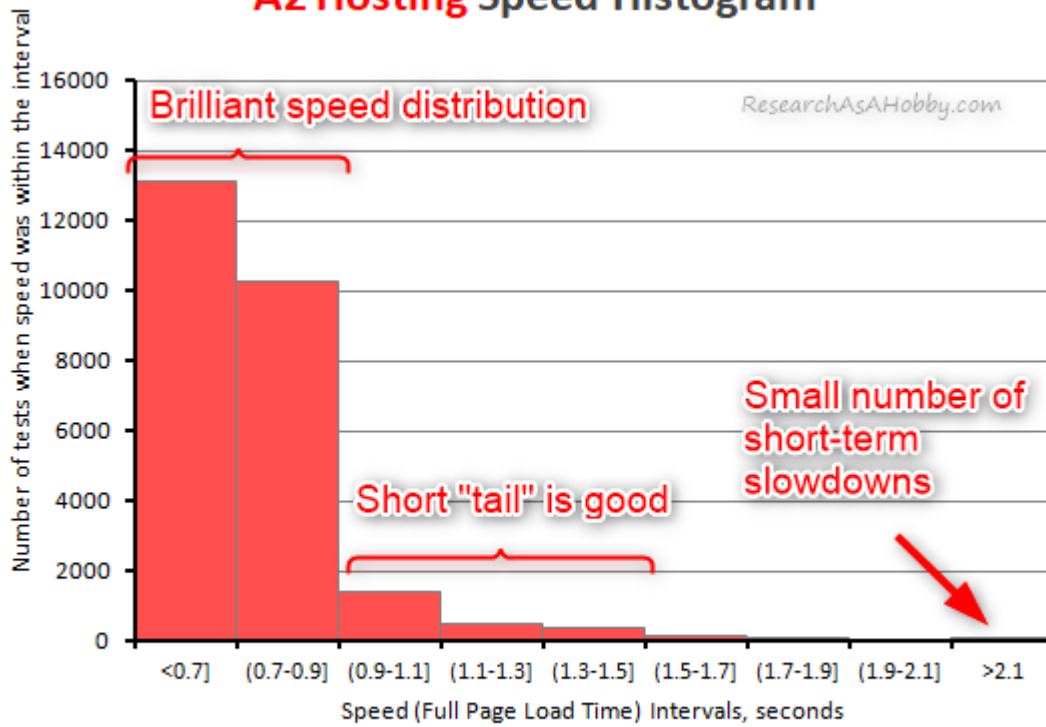
If you don't know what a histograms is, let me explain it in a few very simple words. Histogram is a chart which shows how many values get into specific intervals. In this case, a histogram for each host shows how many tests showed this or that speed.

Histograms are great because they allow accumulating and sorting all the initial data in a specific way. Hosting speed histograms can let you look at the core of the hosting speed performance.

A2 Hosting speed general histogram

Let's have a look at A2 Hosting speed histogram with my notes:

A2 Hosting Speed Histogram



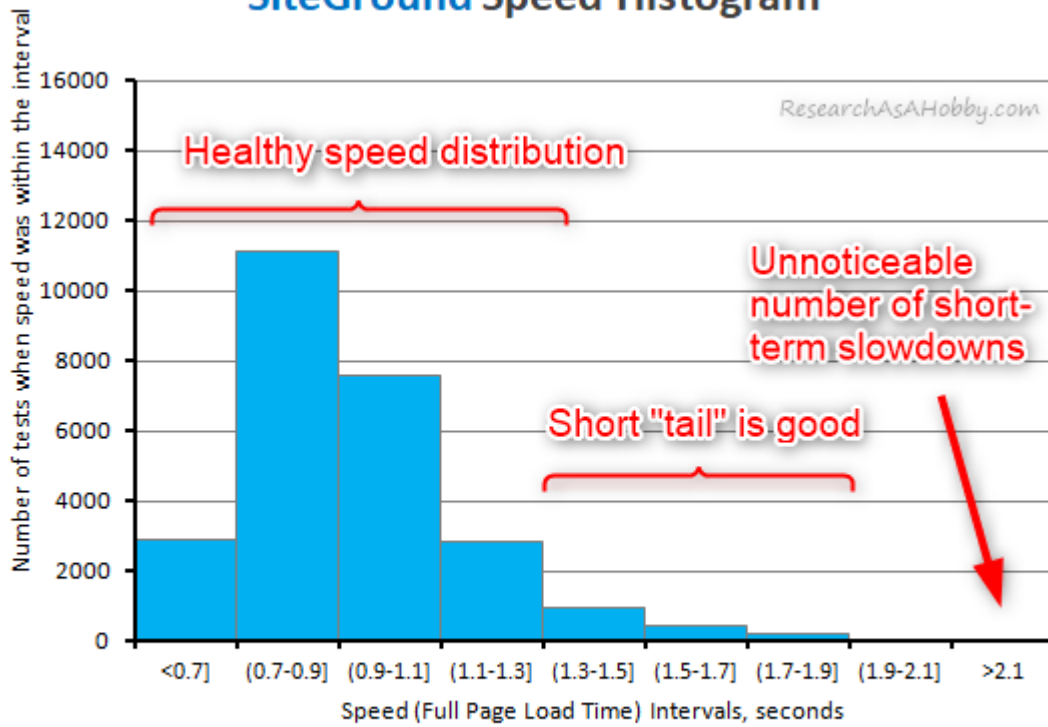
*The hosting speed is calculated as the combination of the two test locations.
Data: from January to June*

A2 Hosting was amazingly fast (see the first two columns on the histogram which greatly outstand from the others). It looks really awesome. The "tail" (columns indicating slower values) is short with a small number of slow values (the last column).

SiteGround speed general histogram

Let's look at SiteGround speed histogram:

SiteGround Speed Histogram



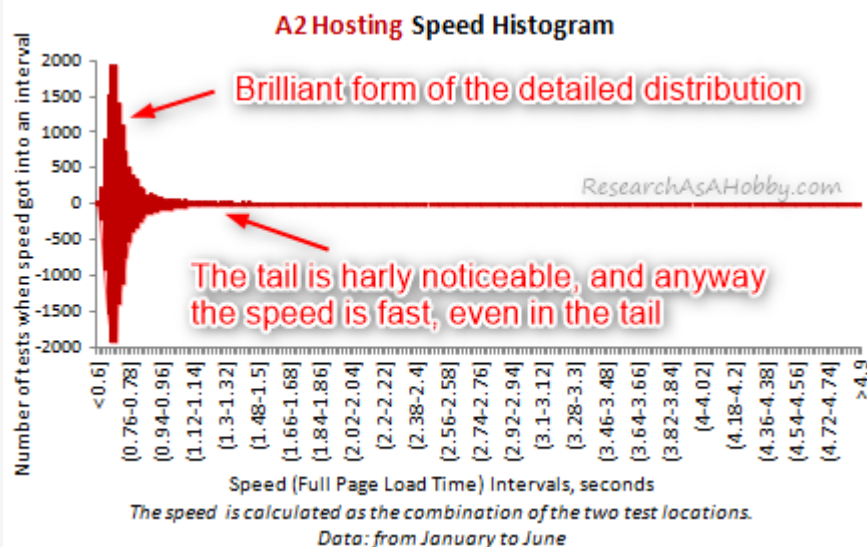
The hosting speed is calculated as the combination of the two test locations.
Data: from January to June

SiteGround's speed histogram looks very healthy and quite classic for a very well-performing host. A2 was faster, but at the same time SiteGround has less slow-speed values (SiteGround does not have visible last column at all).

A2 Hosting detailed histogram

Now I'd like to show you the histograms which consist of smaller intervals. I called these detailed histograms "condensed" as you could see where the condensed distribution areas are. This kind of a histogram is great for visual analysis.

Let's see at the A2 Hosting speed histogram with my notes:

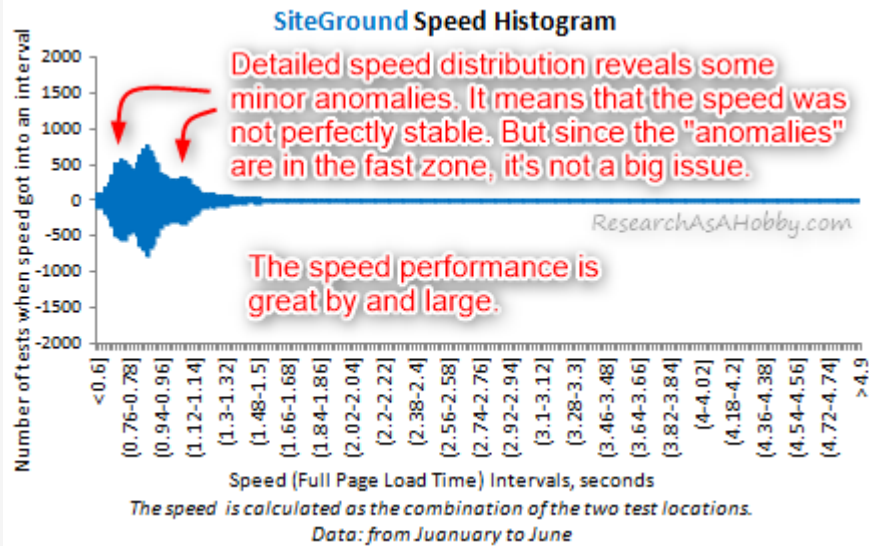


The histogram of [A2Hosting](#)'s speed is just a pleasure to look at ☐

The main “cloud” of values is tall and pretty short, i.e. it has a great form. No roughness on the slopes (it means stable speed performance in general). A bit extended tail on the right hand side indicates that the host slowdowns from time to time, but quite rarely and far-far from extremes. Superb!

SiteGround detailed histogram

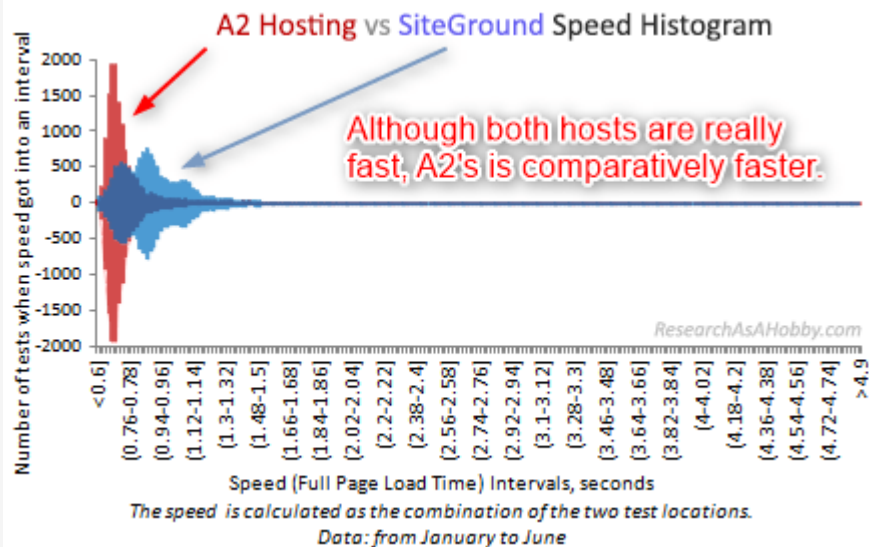
And this is how SiteGround's speed on the detailed histogram looks like:



[SiteGround](#), unlike A2 Hosting, has a bit deformed “cloud” of speed values. It still holds its form in general. But the the minor “anomalies” (hills on the chart) indicate that the hosting speed changed from one stable level to another. Anyway, all the speed values are concentrated in a fast zone. And this is the most important for users – they get fast hosting.

SiteGround vs A2 Hosting detailed histogram

Now let's just see both histograms combined for easier comparison:



When comparing two hosts on the same speed histogram, A2 looks more appealing, no doubt. But do not forget that SiteGround is very fast. We just are comparing two great hosts. And [A2Hosting](#) has been a bit faster.

All SiteGround vs A2 Hosting speed charts in one place

This chapter simply contains all the charts used in this research for easy access. The charts do not contain my notes on them, just pure charts.

Click [here](#) to open the image with all the charts.

Links to other resources to compare SiteGround and A2 Hosting speed

Here are other articles that can deepen and widen the speed comparison of SiteGround and A2 Hosting:

- [Previous report on A2 vs Siteground speed performance research \(previous 6 months analyzed\)](#)
- [Summary tables of hosting performance including SiteGround and A2 by months](#)
- [Monthly reports on hosting performance \(A2, SiteGround and 13 other hosts\)](#)
- [Real-time speed monitoring of SiteGround and A2 \(and other hosts\) on the charts](#)

Conclusion

This research is unique because it contains a big set (52,000+) of actual speed testing data (not Server Response Time tests, read [here](#) to know why it's important). Unlike single speed tests, load tests or Time To First Byte (server response time) tests, it lets you look very close at the continuous speed changes of SiteGround and A2 during multiple months in a row.

Answering the question which hosting is better from speed point of view, well, both hosts are on-par actually. The slight but noticeable difference is that A2's performance has been a bit faster than SiteGround. Monitoring the performance of the hosts goes on [for years now](#) and it will bring even more data to analyze in future.

The more real-life data, the better! ☐

P.S.: Speed (and even uptime) is important, but not the only factors to consider when choosing a host. My reviews of [SiteGround](#) and [A2Hosting](#) can help you decide.



I hope you enjoyed the article!

You can read my free researches on resources and tools for bloggers and small business owners on this website. By the way, if we haven't met before - my name is Michael Bely.

If you have any questions, visit my website and ask any questions in the comments or privately via the Contact Form. Don't be shy!

Do you know that...

[More expensive hosts do NOT always mean better hosts?](#)

My Best Materials:

- [As full as possible list of EIG companies and brands with details \(beware EIG hosting!\)](#)
- [Non-stop hosting monitoring reports](#)
- [One best security plugin or combination of plugins?](#)
- [Protect your website from hacking step-by-step - easy, free and very effective](#)
- [How to migrate WordPress website to HTTPS the right way for free](#)
- [How to copy, clone, migrate big WordPress site easily and for free](#)
- [The best email opt-in plugin I could find for my use](#)
- [Other useful articles...](#)

