

Hosting Performance Contest – March 2021 Roundup (#62)



Here's the 62nd Monthly [Hosting Performance Contest](#) Roundup for March 2021!

I installed a default WordPress site with no plugins used (“**Lite**” installation) on four hosts (A2, GeekStorage, HawkHost and GlowHost). And on three hosts (A2, GeekStorage and HawkHost) I installed a heavy-loaded WordPress site with a free caching plugin, lots of plugins and the tested page flooded with content that I built using [Elementor](#) plugin (“**Heavy**” installation).

- *Lite* installation is good for monitoring a shared server performance as is without using any caching solutions.
- *Heavy* installation is great to see how a real-world website with a caching plugin performs on a particular hosting.

By the way, you can find the comparison tables and charts on the hosts' performance for previous months [here](#).

Let's see how the hosts performed in this month!

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Common Information

As you may already know, I've been monitoring the performance of some of the best hosting providers I know as well as some other well-known hosts for years.

In short, since 2013 I've been picking out great hosts judging by real users reviews, professional hosting community opinion, long honorable business experience and other factors which make a great hosting. In the beginning of 2021 I decreased the number of the tested hosts to focus on the most popular ones among my readers.

As before, I buy anonymously hosting accounts with different hosts in order to *closely monitor their performance* (basically, **uptime** checked *every minute* and **full page load time** checked *every 30 minutes*) using a professional monitoring service *pingdom.com*. I use **the most basic and the cheapest plans** of A2, GeekStorage and HawkHost which allow to host at least two websites. With Glowhost I use the plan what allows to host just one site. You can read more about my **monitoring methodology** [here](#).

By the way, here's a disclosure: There are some 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.)

Please note that I recommend not all of the hosts mentioned on this page. My recommended hosts are [here](#).

Hosting Performance Contest – Results

Here are the four hosts that you can compare this month:

- [A2Hosting](#) (I recommend it, here's my [review](#))
- [GeekStorage](#) (I recommend it, here's my [review](#))
- [HawkHost](#) (I recommend it, here's my [review](#))
- [GlowHost](#) (This host is believed to be a well-established host, I use it for comparison purposes with other hosts)

The tables to compare the Hosting Performance Contest results

Lite installations (default WP installations, no plugins used except [Bulletproof Security](#), no caching plugins):

Host	Tested site	Load Time	Uptime	Downtime
A2Hosting	Lite	0.56 sec	99.97%	0h 13m
GeekStorage	Lite	0.68 sec	99.98%	0h 08m
HawkHost	Lite	0.88 sec	100%	0h 02m
GlowHost	Lite	3.28 sec	97.41%	21h 44m

Heavy installations (WP installation with lots of plugins; the tested page is built with [Elementor](#) and full of content; the security plugin is [Bulletproof Security](#); caching plugin is a free [W3 Total Cache](#) with automatic settings):

Host	Tested site	Load Time	Uptime	Downtime
A2Hosting	Heavy	1.42 sec	99.99%	0h 06m
GeekStorage	Heavy	1.46 sec	99.99%	0h 06m
HawkHost	Heavy	1.52 sec	99.99%	0h 03m

Table column notes:

Place: The place a hosting has won in this Contest (*the less the better*).

Load Time: Average Full Page Load Time (*the less the better*). Checked every 30 minutes.

Uptime: Uptime (*the more the better*). Checked every minute. The value is rounded so that there are two figures left after the period.

Downtime: Time during the tested period when the tested website on a particular host was not responsive for more than 10 seconds (*the less the better*). Checked every minute.

Color areas: *Green* is superb and above the highest standards. The *greener*, the better. *Yellow* is good, but below the highest standards. *Orange* is so-so; worse than yellow. *Red* is comparatively bad.

The table with hosting prices

Host	1 year	2 years	3 years	Min price	Worthy	My review
A2Hosting	\$8.99/mo	\$8.99/mo	\$8.99/mo	\$2.99/mo	Yes	Read
GeekStorage	\$3.20/mo	\$3.20/mo	\$3.20/mo	\$3.20/mo	Yes	Read
HawkHost	\$3.99/mo	\$2.99/mo	-	\$2.24/mo	Yes	Read
GlowHost	\$6.95/mo	\$4.95/mo	-	\$3.47/mo	-	-

1 year: Regular prices (after the first invoice) for 1-year plan.

2 years: Regular prices (after the first invoice) for 2-year plan.

3 years: Regular prices (after the first invoice) for 3-year plan.

Min Price: The minimum price officially available for the first invoice (can be for 1-year, 2-year or 3-year plan).

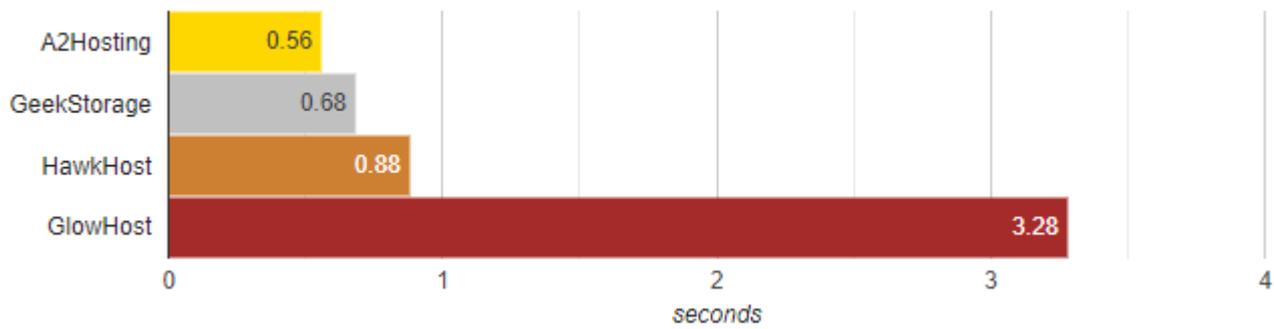
Limited-time offers with more discounts are not included in these prices. Check out if there are special offers currently available by visiting the hosting websites.

Worthy: This column indicates my recommended hosts.

The charts with the Hosting Performance Contest results

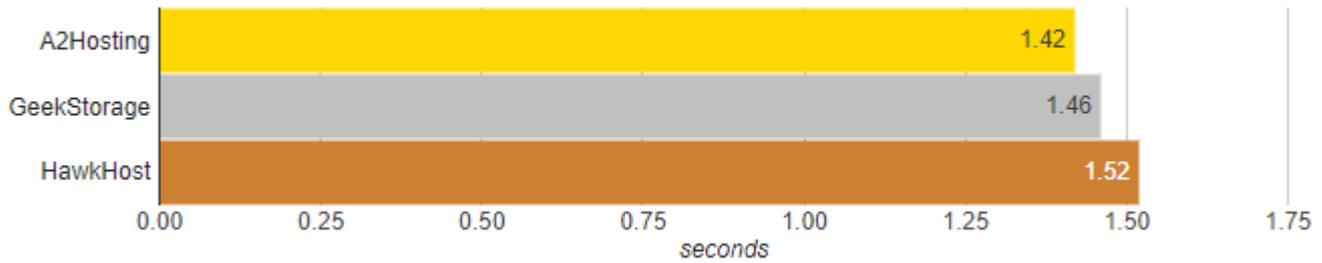
Hosting speed tested on **Lite** installations:

Average Full Page Load Time, seconds (the less the better). Checked every 30 minutes.



Hosting speed tested on **Heavy** installations:

Average Full Page Load Time, seconds (the less the better). Checked every 30 minutes.



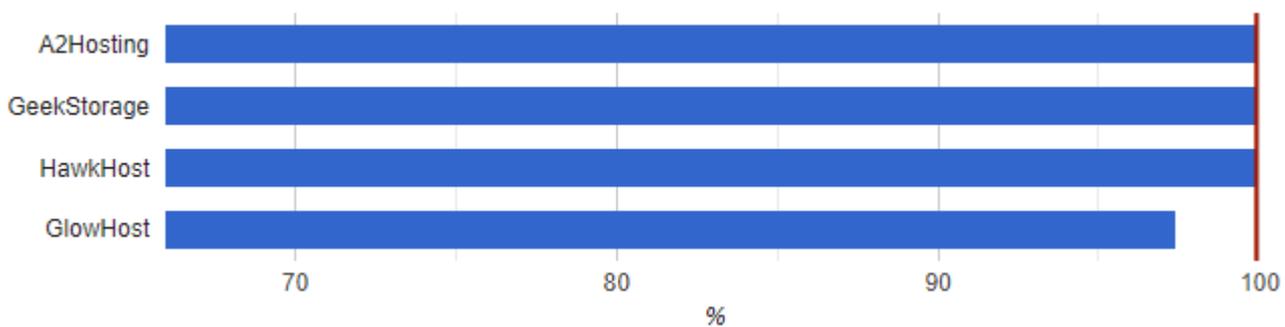
By the way, if you want to make your website faster, I suggest looking at [this long read](#) which contains a lot of practical tips (upper-intermediate level). This is the tutorial prepared by [Kinsta](#), one of the fully managed WordPress hosting which I recommend.

Also, [here](#) you can read the analysis of other fully managed WP hosts which I recommend. Kinsta is the option that I recommend for hosting and managing a big number of WP sites (read my [short notes here](#)).

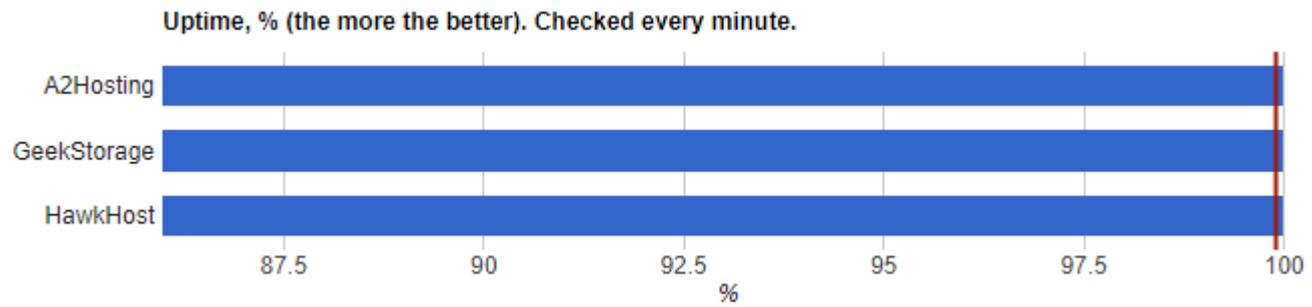
Besides, [here's the collection](#) of my own articles which will help you make your website faster.

Uptime tested on **Lite** installations:

Uptime, % (the more the better). Checked every minute.



Uptime tested on **Heavy** installations:



The *red vertical line* indicates the 99.9% uptime which is considered to be top-notch for shared hosting.

Hosting Performance Contest Results – Source data

I use *pingdom.com* services for hosting uptime and full page load (speed) monitoring. The uptime is performed from two locations in order to decrease chances of false alerts and make monitoring results more objective. Speed is tested from US location.

For the ease of reporting I use *weekly* data, not monthly. In other words, I take 4 or 5 weeks that make up the current month, and report using this data. Next month I will report from the next week. No weeks will be missing. Each week will be counted only once.

You can read more about my methodology of monitoring [here](#).

Here are the screenshot of the reports (I used this data for the charts and tables above):

Uptime reports:



Uptime report

Report dates: 2021-03-01 to 2021-04-04 (CET)

ResearchAsaHobby.com tests: A2Hosting (Heavy) Type: HTTP

Response time

Downtime

6m

Outages

3

Uptime

99.99%



Uptime report

Report dates: 2021-03-01 to 2021-04-04 (CET)

ResearchAsaHobby.com tests: A2Hosting (Lite) Type: HTTP

Response time

Downtime

13m

Outages

4

Uptime

99.97%



Uptime report

Report dates: 2021-03-01 to 2021-04-04 (CET)

ResearchAsaHobby.com tests: GeekStorage (Heavy) Type: HTTP

Response time

Downtime

6m

Outages

4

Uptime

99.99%



Uptime report

Report dates: 2021-03-01 to 2021-04-04 (CET)

ResearchAsaHobby.com tests: GeekStorage (Lite) Type: HTTP

Response time

Downtime

8m15s

Outages

8

Uptime

99.98%



Uptime report

Report dates: 2021-03-01 to 2021-04-04 (CET)

ResearchAsaHobby.com tests: GlowHost (Lite) Type: HTTP

Response time

Downtime

21h44m

Outages

126

Uptime

97.41%



Uptime report

Report dates: 2021-03-01 to 2021-04-04 (CET)

ResearchAsaHobby.com tests: HawkHost (Heavy) Type: HTTP

Response time

Downtime

3m

Outages

2

Uptime

99.99%



Uptime report

Report dates: 2021-03-01 to 2021-04-04 (CET)

ResearchAsaHobby.com tests: HawkHost (Lite) Type: HTTP

Response time

Downtime

2m

Outages

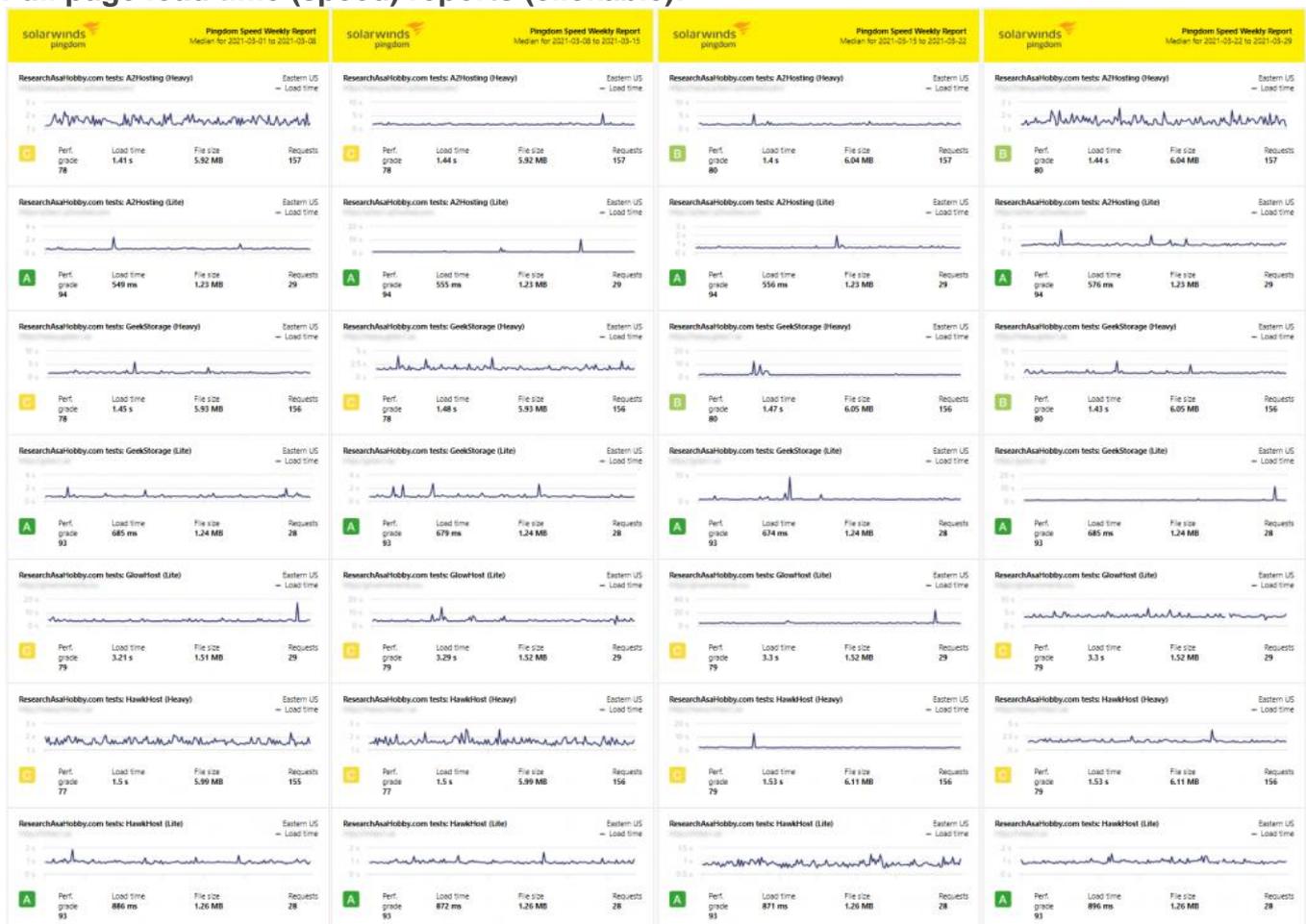
1

Uptime

>99.99%

These monitor checks are performed with 1-minute interval, which makes it great for detecting website uptime and downtime.

Full page load time (speed) reports (clickable):



Conclusion

The fastest host in March 2021 was [A2Hosting](#) for both *Lite* and *Heavy* installations. Also, it had brilliant uptime.

[GeekStorage](#) and [HawkHost](#) were also very fast. There were no significant difference in speed with the leader. Uptime values of these hosts were also very high, especially HawkHost had simply perfect (100%) uptime.

[GlowHost](#) was both very slow and had severely bad uptime this month.

P.S.: Speed and uptime are important metrics, but they are not everything that determine the best hostings for clients. See my **recommended hosts** and my reviews of the hosts [here](#). You can see **historical data since 2016** on the hosting performance on [this page](#). **Hosting Performance Contest methodology** is [here](#). **Other monthly roundups** of this Hosting Performance Contest are available [here](#).



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...](#)

