



Jet speed with 9 Best CDN providers comparison 2021. CDN Pricing & Features comparison



As a full time blogger or a business website owner, your primary aim for your website should be speed, security and content. User interface, user engagement, the latest updates and others are important but not crucial. In this article I will share my experience with these aspects of website performance, particularly in researching on the topic of top 10 CDN providers comparison. You will see an in-depth CDN Pricing & Features comparison in the next few pages. I hope you will be able to identify the fastest CDN for WordPress and/or the most reliable CDN after going through this post.

Compare top 9 CDN providers - pricing & features

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How is a CDN or content delivery network useful to me?

A CDN (Content Delivery Network) is a highly-distributed network of servers which helps to dramatically reduce the physical distance between the host server and website surfer (the user). This in effect minimizes the delay in loading a website. To keep it simple, a CDN caches all your website's pages at multiple locations in order to serve it from the location nearest to the website surfer. Actually, this is only partially true but for the sake of explanation to a 5-year-old, that's just fine.

A Content Delivery Network is like Domino's delivering pizza from the store closest to your delivery address. This ensures you receive pizza in less than 30 mins.

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There are also several other reasons such as keeping your web server fit and free from failure and ensuring your website serves fresh and secure content and so on.



Your WordPress website speed can be a boon or a bane to your business. Your website is like a face to your online business. Imagine if a shop's door is small, dense, tight or close-packed, will you be really interested in entering and buying anything from there? What if the shop next door has a really vibrant, huge, auto sliding door to welcome one and all? Won't you rather immediately move your eyes and thereafter your feet to the other store?

A slow and simple website is like that claustrophobic door while a fast website with a beautiful front page is like the shop with that vibrant door.

In fact, as per research, visitors generally don't wait more than 3 seconds before they click on some other link. If your website takes more than 3 seconds to load, visitors will leave and possibly never come back.

53% of visits are abandoned if a mobile site takes longer than 3 seconds to load – Think With Google

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Is CDN bad for SEO? CDN providers challenges!

There are hundreds of global and regional CDN (Content Delivery Network) providers along with several other popular free CDN plugin for WordPress, bundled with a theme or web-hosting. Picking the fastest CDN for WordPress out of a mix of global and regional CDN is a huge challenge for a new website creator. Why? If you do a comparison of best CDN providers, you will find that they all promise and deliver astounding performance, speedy loading times, top-notch security and best prevention from hackers and bot attacks.

Most popular names like MaxCDN, Cloudflare, Amazon CloudFront, Google Cloud CDN, Azure CDN, Akamai are all speedy, secure, and fault-tolerant. So, a CDN providers comparison between them is seriously a daunting task.

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As mentioned in the section above, **slower websites can affect your business really badly**. Google or for that matter any popular search engine pays due attention to how fast your site loads. There can be a



stark difference in rankings if your website loads just 0.5 seconds faster than competition. This can easily be a bump in your search engine rankings or if it's a load delay of 0.5 seconds, it can penalize you fairly.

So putting your website on a CDN network will improve the speed aspect of your SEO. It is a lot beneficial to implement a CDN strategy, unless your [web hosting provider](#) has its [data centers well spread](#) in all continents.

A brief note on Price

Before we go into details of Top 10 CDN providers comparison, I thought of the following being worth a mention. You should be aware that features of any kind of service depend on the plan you subscribe to. Generally in CDN business, the number and type of features that are provided depends on how much data from your website you want to put on CDN as well as the total bandwidth consumed by your website traffic.

In this article, I will not only compare CDN providers but also will give you details on the most popular global and regional CDNs as well as info on FREE CDN plugin for WordPress. This article contains rich information on CDN price and features comparison. CDN providers comparison criteria include price, features, data center locations, performance, service and support.

Best FREE CDN providers

Few CDN companies like Cloudflare have a FREE plan which can help you get **FREE CDN** without any restrictions. Other best Free CDN providers are actually the **free trial versions** of paid CDN services.

CDN companies like Google CDN, Microsoft Azure, Amazon CloudFront give you few hundreds of dollars and few months of trial to start.

The best CDN in terms of CDN pricing is Cloudflare CDN. It gives you access to 80% of all its CDN services and places your website on a high-performance content delivery network of servers. You will never go wrong when hosting your website on Cloudflare. Read more on my CloudFlare section below.

One by one now I will now take you through each CDN provider details. Later I will show you a detailed CDN pricing and features comparison between Top 10 CDN providers.



Cloudflare



Cloudflare in my view is the best amongst the **BEST FREE CDN** providers. It's a feature-packed CDN with a free plan and one of the best paid plans.

Cloudflare is an American company with office across America, Europe and Asia. They serve 20 million HTTP requests per second on average and manage data from 200 cities in over 100 countries around the world. Their ultra-fast static and dynamic content delivery, increased agility, control over caching, and built-in top-of-the-line FREE and unmetered DDoS protection are the most appealing power-points to Cloudflare's claim to fame.

It might not be the fastest CDN for WordPress but it is not far behind the other best Free CDN providers in speed and performance.

Setting up Cloudflare is pretty easy and can be done in minutes even by a beginner without any need to edit your code or install any software or hardware. Its is very well integrated with Content Management Systems (CMS) such as WordPress and Joomla.

Simply sign up with Cloudflare for free and all you have to do is [change DNS name servers of your domain](#) to use Cloudflare and the service kicks in automatically; caching content and serving it to visitors from their nearest location.

Few of the included offerings are as mentioned below.

- Speedy delivery of your website content to a user anywhere in the world
- security from hackers or Bot attacks
- detecting and mitigating DDoS attacks
- web filtering to block spam algorithms and bad bots while allowing good bots like search engine crawlers
- limiting content spam
- basic website cache & minify service (cache analytics and better cache in paid plans)
- SSL between Cloudflare to end client, and many more.
- The smart image optimization (on paid plans) further improves speed by helping reduce file sizes by as much as 40%



Their support for global recommendations and standards like IPv6, HTTP/2 and QUIC, customizable page rules to manage traffic, and a REST API for developers. All this on their free plan with no restrictions on bandwidth (unlimited allowed) makes them stand out in CDN providers comparison.

Cloudflare's free plan is the best Free CDN providers plan to evaluate a CDN. It's feature-packed and yet free. It's an appropriate CDN for a small website or a blogger just starting out

Cloudflare Pricing

Well, when the leader in CDN at least for mass market websites is offering a CDN plan with so many benefits at \$0 monthly, then who would object or restrain. After all the necessity of CDN is due to the fact that firstly, there is huge competition in every field. Secondly, networks globally are not able to keep up with the demands of fast growing new generation of hungry internet users who want all information at almost the speed of light. Okay, okay! If not light then at least at the speed of a click.

Cloudflare's most popular plan is the \$0 plan. The next best plan, the Cloudflare Pro plan is priced at \$20 per month, and adds the extra features of image optimization, detailed configuration and other certain benefits not available in the free plan.

Even if Cloudflare is not the fastest CDN for WordPress, the FREE version can qualify of being the fastest FREE CDN for WordPress. You may [read my complete Cloudflare review](#) and five-step-guide on how to get started with Cloudflare, the best amongst the best Free CDN providers.

60-second rule: Cloudflare CDN setup instructions for blogs & small websites. Cloudflare console explained.

by Jatin Grover

Cloudflare is a feature-packed Content Delivery Network (CDN) with a free plan and one of the best paid plans. It serves 20 million HTTP requests per second and from over 100 countries. Almost all budget WordPress hosting services give you access to FREE Cloudflare CDN for speed improvement. Cloudflare as ...





StackPath or MaxCDN



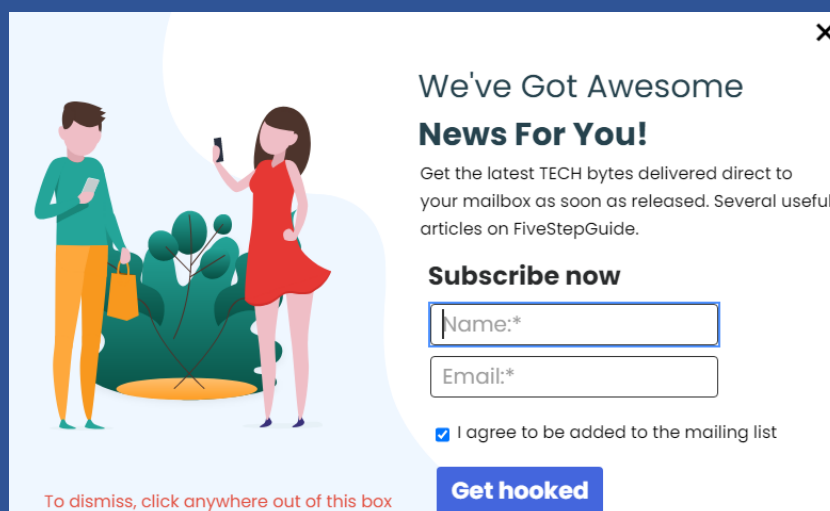
From a top 10 CDN providers comparison standpoint, MaxCDN is at the top of the ladder in terms of speed. The company is now taken over by StackPath, another user-friendly CDN with advanced security features. It is fairly easy to set up and has a web console to manage your settings and configuration. It is also very well integrated with W3 Total Cache and WP Super Cache—the popular WordPress caching plugins. It was once the fastest CDN for WordPress.

Like other CDNs, StackPath and MaxCDN both have the following features: DDoS attack protection, Website Application Firewall, SSL, global network of high performance servers and so forth.

StackPath has a very strong network of servers across the globe. However, it lacks certain locations outside the US and Europe. They also lack servers in few locations in Asia and Australia.

MaxCDN Pricing

Their basic offering comes at \$10 for up to 1TB of bandwidth per month and provide detailed Analytics & Reporting services with even a 5-minute refresh.



A newsletter subscription popup with a blue background. On the left, there is an illustration of a man in a green shirt and orange pants holding a yellow bag, and a woman in a red dress holding a smartphone. They are standing next to a large green plant. On the right, the text reads: "We've Got Awesome News For You!" followed by "Get the latest TECH bytes delivered direct to your mailbox as soon as released. Several useful articles on FiveStepGuide." Below this is a "Subscribe now" section with input fields for "Name: *" and "Email: *". A checkbox is checked with the text "I agree to be added to the mailing list". At the bottom right is a blue button that says "Get hooked". At the bottom left, in small red text, it says "To dismiss, click anywhere out of this box". A close button (X) is in the top right corner.

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Fastly



The fastest growing newbie to CDN industry provides a highly configurable CDN.

- Fastly has a vast network of high speed SSD based servers hosted in well-connected locations around the world
- Fastly CDN preserves more content in cache for longer periods resulting in fewer back-and-forth trips from your hosting service.
- *Instant Purge* and batch purging lets you cache or delete dynamic content with an average purge time of 150 milliseconds. Best for news and instant updates like weather forecasts
- The service *Granular visibility into website* with Real-time logs allows you to make prompt data-driven business decisions.

Another good point especially for developers is that Fastly has programmable CDN services providing different styles of video caching and hundreds of low-level controls e.g. manipulate HTTP headers.

Where fastly is lacking is the setup. Setting up is a bit tricky though – there are certain configurations needed to be made before your website is completely on-boarded.

Fastly Pricing

The pricing is tiered or slab-based depending on bandwidth and user locations. Following is the screenshot from Fastly's website taken on Nov-2020.

Bandwidth & requests

Region	Bandwidth (per GB per region)		Requests (per 10,000 requests)
	First 10 TB	Next 10 TB	
North America	\$0.12	\$0.08	\$0.0075
Europe	\$0.12	\$0.08	\$0.0075
Asia	\$0.19	\$0.14	\$0.0090
South America	\$0.19	\$0.14	\$0.0090
Australia & New Zealand	\$0.19	\$0.14	\$0.0090
Brazil	\$0.28	\$0.24	\$0.0160
India	\$0.28	\$0.24	\$0.0160
South Africa	\$0.28	\$0.24	\$0.0160



There is a minimum charge of \$50 per month. Moreover, they currently offer **first \$50 worth of traffic for free.**

Rackspace



Rackspace is a well-known CDN that helps accelerate delivery of your website. It has 200 edge locations around the world and primarily rides on Akamai's network.

It requires more technical resources and patience to set up Rackspace than other CDN providers on our list. However, it very well integrates with WordPress and can be easily used with the best WordPress plugins.

Rackspace however lacks on few core items: it doesn't provide DDoS attacks protection, is devoid of SSL, and has limited CDN analytics and reporting options.

Rackspace Pricing

It follows a tiered Pricing model based on location and bandwidth with requests to Edge billed separately again based on location and usage. The cheapest plan is around \$100 for 10 TB bandwidth at EMEA and US website users

World's top 3 cloud computing companies – CDN providers' comparison

Now let's briefly do a CDN providers comparison of the CDN services from Amazon Web Services, Microsoft Azure and Google Cloud Platform

The primary benefits of availing of CDN service from any of the top three cloud computing and the wealth of advanced features they offer are as follows:

- Seamless integration with all other services of the cloud provider e.g Google Cloud GCP, Amazon Web services, MS Azure.



- SSL, advanced security capabilities, field level encryption and HTTPS support
- HTTP/2 and HTTP/3 QUIC support
- protection against network and application layer bot and hacker attacks e.g. DDoS attacks,
- advanced Caching, multi-tiered caching architecture, GZIP compression

However, there are also certain downsides for CDNs with cloud computing companies. The CDN service from these providers:

- is not very user-friendly to configure compared to Cloudflare or other stand-alone CDNs
- pricing is slightly confusing to work out
- set up is a bit complicated – not completed in a few clicks, unlike Cloudflare or other stand-alone CDNs

Amazon CloudFront CDN

A powerful yet reasonably priced CDN with several advanced features, except the common ones mentioned above. Few Amazon-specific features are as follows:

- Seamless integration with AWS Shield, AWS Web Application Firewall and Route 53
- In-depth analytics and reporting capabilities with even minute details e.g. visitors' device type, operating system etc.
- Programmable CDN computing capabilities at the edge, especially for computationally intensive operations such as dynamic origin load-balancing, custom bot-management, thereby allowing custom applications to run closer to website surfers for improved responsiveness.
- integration with AWS services such as Amazon S3, Amazon EC2, Elastic Load Balancing

Amazon CloudFront CDN detects network conditions and intelligently routes your website user's requests to the nearest and fastest AWS edge location to serve up cached or dynamic content.

Amazon CloudFront CDN services co-reside at edge networking locations and are globally scaled and connected via the AWS network backbone – a massively scaled and globally distributed network with 225+ servers (points of presence or PoPs)

When we talk about CDN pricing and features comparison, the Performance of Amazon CloudFront is above average. However, the power and configurability that Amazon offers is beyond comparison.

Tech support is not free. Amazon promotes self-dependence using their extensive knowledge-base. If you need assistance, it will effectively cost you extra.



CloudFront Pricing

Amazon follows a pay-as-you-go pricing model with no upfront fees or required long-term contracts. Pricing is generally at the lower side for small business websites and bloggers but calculating the price requires prowess at excel or at least basic calculus 😊 ... just kidding. It is complicated but not that much. Actually all 3 top cloud computing providers have similar pricing structure.

Prices depend on bandwidth and region served, but Amazon provides a FREE tier. AWS Free Tier includes 50GB data transfer out, 2,000,000 HTTP and HTTPS Requests with Amazon CloudFront.

Microsoft Azure CDN

In the CDN providers comparison battle, Microsoft wins on the point that it has a customizable and familiar interface and integration with Microsoft services. Just like the other two cloud computing providers, it has plethora of features along with global coverage and massive scalability thereby serving your website content from the POP nearest to the requestor.

Apart from having most of the features that the other 2 cloud computing providers also provide, some of additional special features of Azure CDN are as following:

- It's really fast! According to CDNPerf, Azure CDN falls under top 5 fastest content delivery network worldwide.
- Full integration with Azure services and other Microsoft technologies and services
- Advanced security capabilities, field level encryption and HTTPS support
- Advanced Caching, multi-tiered caching architecture, GZIP compression resulting in ultra-low latency performance and high availability.
- In-depth analytics and reporting capabilities with real-time and granular analytics. how customers are receiving and caching assets

Instead of just using Microsoft's own edge servers, Azure CDN integrates with services from Akamai and Verizon primarily for load balancing across content delivery networks.

Pricing is as complicated as that of Amazon and Google cloud. The minimum starts at \$81 per 1 TB of bandwidth for content served to Americas. You can however get started with \$200 of free credits and 12 months of free services.



Google Cloud CDN

Google Cloud CDN is another powerful and appealing offering from the omnipresent Google cloud. It provides an inexpensive but really high quality, high performance, high throughput, and low latency CDN service using Google's core technologies, infrastructure and global network. Undoubtedly in the CDNPerf's global CDN providers comparison, it stands as the fastest CDN for WordPress or websites based on other technologies.

Google CDN is also on the top of the list of the best free CDN providers at least for the first year, when it's free 😊

Some unmatched features of Google Cloud CDN are as follows:

- #1 ranked fastest CDN as per CDNPerf global rankings.
- Google Cloud operates on one of the best connected and fastest networks by transmitting data over actual fiber under land and sea.
- Direct network connections with the vast majority of user-facing networks allow Cloud CDN to choose the optimal cache regardless of the location of the origin.
- Google's proprietary fiber optic backbone carries network traffic uninterrupted by extra hops.
- Global Anycast IP distributes inbound requests giving more resilience to volumetric attacks.
- SSL, encryption in-transit, HTTPS support, and other expansive security features
- QUIC, HTTP/2, and support for advanced congestion control protocols.

With data centers at 90+ locations and edge locations at 130+ around the world, Google Cloud CDN is one of the best in class to serve images, online game, and other digital distributions, Cloud CDN caches content in locations all over the world

Once you sign up, you will get \$300 worth of free credits and 12 months of free services.





Sucuri



We all know of Sucuri as one of the most popular WordPress addin for Security. It provides protection from bot attacks, SDoS attacks, hackers, and malware. However, that they also have CDN service which can easily be ranked high in a CDN providers comparison. Website speed optimization using CDN or other methods is crucial for SEO and for tens of other reasons. Sucuri, one of the fastest CDN for WordPress, has dozens of features to help speed up your website.

Sucuri packs one of the best technologies required to improve the performance of your site. Like other stand-alone CDN providers, the following benefits along with their highly optimized default configuration help speed up your website by 70% on average.

- high performance servers – multi-layered, inter-connected, globally spread
- Global Anycast IP Network for fast response times
- HTTP/2, HTTP/3 Support
- HTTPS support, website application firewall, DNS Monitoring, several other security features
- smart caching options, multiple site Caching

They have server presence in almost all continents: North & South America, Europe, Australia & New Zealand, Asia-Pacific.

Sucuri Pricing

Even though they are a bit costlier (around \$199 per website) than other popular CDN, they offer Unlimited bandwidth limit for every plan in their CDN service. Their support and similar things ensure reliable website uptime for your site.



Akamai



Akamai has around 275,000 servers in 135+ countries. Serving 30% of all Internet traffic and with the broadest service portfolio in the industry, Akamai Managed CDN is a highly scalable content delivery network by Akamai with infrastructure managed by Akamai itself.

Akamai is possibly the oldest, fastest, most extensive and most highly distributed CDN network of servers (PoP) in the entire world. It is rightly called "the most powerful CDN built for professionals".

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Set up is not a piece of cake though. However, this doesn't mean it's troublesome. Anyone can do it after going through the extensive documentation and hand-holding guides.

Akamai offers certain benefits not found with other CDN providers. Few of the common and exclusive benefits are listed below.

- Top five worldwide according to [CDNPerf CDN Providers comparison](#)
- Advanced web performance optimization capabilities that improve mobile, web and CDN performance.
- High-quality and fast video delivery solutions to handle the explosion in online video
- Security solutions that protect websites, web applications, and infrastructure
- Highly distributed architecture that puts 85% of the world's Internet users within a single "network hop" of an Akamai server.

Akamai Pricing

Akamai is actually the most expensive one as well. Pricing is a bit tricky. There is no specified pricing mentioned on the official website. They work on request for quote system – you need to contact them directly for the quote. However, their prices generally start from \$350 for 1 TB.

For the top 10 CDN providers comparison exercise, I therefore consider Akamai as not an appropriate one for a small blog or website.



However, if you really care about speed and global availability of your website, then Akamai is the best unmatched fastest CDN for WordPress and other websites.

Other resources - www.fivestepguide.com

Thank you for downloading this article.

You may visit the [Website metrics section](#) where I discuss nuances of WordPress websites, how to make websites faster, how to COPY my formula to speed up your website. You may click below to visit any of the best articles.



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January 17, 2021 · 0

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Before starting this blog, I searched for the cheapest wordpress shared hosting provider. I found hundreds of options. Not all of them can be called



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Cloudflare is a feature-packed Content Delivery Network (CDN) with a free plan and one of the best paid plans. It serves 20 million HTTP requests per



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