

# WordPress Hosting Image/Storage questions - Survey Results

## Overview

To help assess the potential impact of adding WebP image output, the Performance Team is trying to understand how adding additional mime type subsize image generation might impact hosts and hosting customers. To do this, we shared a survey with hosting providers that requested more details about their hosting infrastructure, storage, and more. This document outlines the survey results.

## Response Summary

- Sites are somewhat likely to incur increased costs if image storage requirements are doubled.
- The number of files stored is not generally an issue, though total storage requirements are.
- Some hosts already short circuit and customize WordPress media generation.
- Direct support for Image CDNs is not widespread.

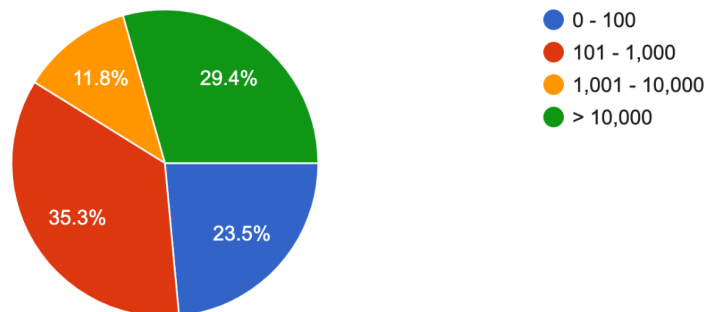
## Responses

How many sites does your company host?

The survey received a total of 17 responses. Around half of the responses came from large hosting companies with over 1,000 hosted domains.

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17 responses

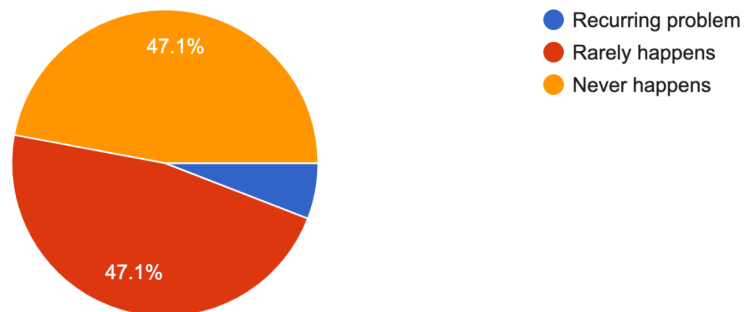


How common is “limited inodes” (number of files) an issue for hosting and/or backups?

Most respondents rated the “too many linodes” issue as something that rarely or never happens.

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17 responses



**What’s the size in disk space for your least expensive hosting plan (in megabytes)?**

Results showed an even distribution of limits from 5 MB to 500GB or Unlimited, with 75% of hosts offering 1GB of storage or more. The largest hosts offered an average of 5GB of storage.

## What's the size in disk space for your most popular hosting plan?

Again, results showed an even distribution of limits from 10 MB to unlimited, with 75% of hosts offering 5GB or more. Largest hosts offered over 7GB on average.

## What percentage of sites are using over 50% of their storage capacity?

Responses indicated that 58% of users would be unaffected by a doubling of their storage requirements. For hosts with 1,000 or more sites, 86% of sites would be unaffected. This answer indicates a risk that approximately 14% of sites in top plans would be at or near capacity.

## What happens when sites hit the storage limit (for example, errors, overage charge, cost increase)

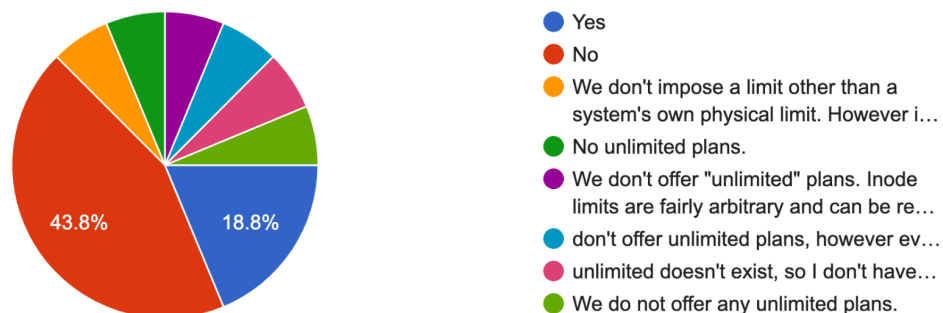
Answers here varied, but in most cases the overage will result in a price increase (or warning, then increase), although several responses indicate that users may receive errors (inability to write).

## Do your "unlimited" plans have an actual limit in the number of inodes/files that users might hit?

The overwhelming majority of responses indicate that files are not limited in any way (although several responses indicate that unlimited plans are not offered).

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16 responses

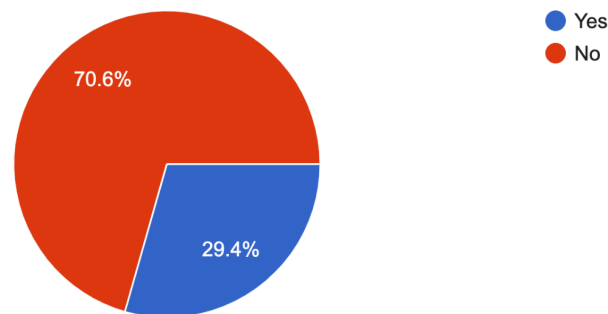


## Do you offer your customers an image CDN that automatically converts/optimize images?

Most responses indicate that image CDNs are not offered directly as part of hosting.

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17 responses



## Additional Feedback

Some interesting responses from surveyed hosts:

- *For sites with millions of thumbnail sizes, we just use a plugin to override WP's thumbnail handling, postponing generation if/until a specific size is actually requested.*
- *We have recently used the new performance plugin on a busy site, generating WebP for all images. We've had to double the disk space from 240GiB to 480GiB to deal with the increased number of files generated, and this will clearly have an impact on speed at which disk space will grow. We now have an improved performance metric from CWV (which is why we did this in the first place), however we clearly increased our energy usage doing the conversion. One benefit we would should see is our bandwidth usage go down by around 33% and perhaps improvements to lower bandwidth mobile subscribers.*

## Data

Full data is available in this [spreadsheet](#).