

Title:

Free European & Open-Source CMS Options: Complete GDPR-Compliant Guide for 2026**

Keywords:

free website hosting GDPR compliance European CMS open-source CMS website builders data sovereignty static vs CMS headless CMS WPinEU Hyvor Blogs WordPress Strapi DINA0 Ionos Infomaniak Umbraco Drupal Contao Odoo ActivityPub WriteFreely

Figure:



Figure 1

European data sovereignty across verified hosting jurisdictions. Node markers indicate countries where GDPR-aligned providers were identified during research for this present article— Germany (Hyvor Blogs, blitz.cloud, Jimdo, AwardSpace), France (Overblog, DINA0), the Netherlands (Webador, WPinEU), Switzerland (Infomaniak) and Latvia (Mozello). The central padlocked shield represents the shared compliance objective: keeping personal data within EU or Swiss jurisdiction. The absence of any transatlantic connector is intentional, illustrating avoidance of third-country transfers.

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Section 1: Executive Summary

Purpose

Learning website building with static HTML is crucial in Europe due to its benefits for national interests while ensuring user security and compliance with GDPR requirements. By embracing this approach, developers can create websites that are not only visually appealing but also secure, accessible, and respectful of users' rights. This strategic decision-making process enables businesses to stay ahead of regulatory requirements, build trust with their audience, and establish a strong online presence in the European market.

This article investigates how to create a free website using open-source or European-built CMS software that complies with GDPR regulations, structured across two approaches: (1) one-click setup with built-in CMS + hosting, and (2) manual CMS upload to free hosting providers.

Core Findings

Finding	Status
Free custom domains	 Impossible — no provider offers true top-level domains (<code>.com</code> , <code>.org</code> , <code>.eu</code>) free on genuinely free tiers
Free hosting exists	 Yes — but with trade-offs: subdomains only, resource limits, or ads
No ads on free tier	 Limited options: Hyvor Blogs, WPinEU, AwardSpace, InfinityFree, WriteFreely
GDPR compliance	 Variable — most free tiers lack Article 28 DPA (processor agreements)
European data sovereignty	 Achievable — Hyvor (Germany), WPinEU (Netherlands), Infomaniak (Switzerland)
Honorable Mentions: If you can pay a little, Site.EU (Neatherlands, EU) and OVH Cloud (France, EU) are recommended for beginners and moderately experienced users, respectively. These deliver materially better compliance posture than any free tier — which is the structural trade-off at the heart of privacy and security requirement.	

Top Recommendations

Priority	Section 1 (One-Click)	Section 2 (Manual Upload)
Zero tracking + GDPR	Hyvor Blogs	WPinEU or AwardSpace
Traditional CMS (WordPress)	blitz.cloud	WPinEU (cPanel + Softaculous)
Best European paid (low cost)	IONOS (\$1–6/month first year)	Infomaniak (CHF 10.91/month, Swiss datacentres)
Business/ERP integrated	N/A	Odoo Community (free, LGPL-3)
Fediverse publishing	WriteFreely (native federation)	WordPress + ActivityPub plugin
Honorable Mentions: If you can pay a little, Site.EU (Neatherlands, EU) and OVH Cloud (France, EU) are recommended for beginners and moderately experienced users, respectively. These deliver materially better compliance posture than any free tier — which is the structural trade-off at the heart of privacy and security requirement.		

Conclusion

No free tier delivers all four elements simultaneously: **zero-cost + GDPR-perfect + custom-domain + zero-ads**. Trade-offs are structurally inevitable in the free hosting market. For privacy and security concerns, avoid Wix, a web development software from Israel.

Section 2: Outline

1. Introduction & Brief

- 1.1 Requirement: Free website with open-source/European CMS + GDPR compliance
- 1.2 Two-part structure: One-click vs manual upload
- 1.3 Critical constraint: "Free domain name included"

2. Methods

- 2.1 Initial web searches (10+ platforms)
- 2.2 Iterative verification rounds in search engines <https://www.startpage.com>, <https://www.qwant.com>, <https://www.ecosia.org>, <https://duckduckgo.com>, <https://search.brave.com>, <https://www.wikipedia.org>, <https://www.britannica.com> and <https://lumo.proton.me>
- 2.3 Platforms verified: Hyvor, blitz.cloud, Jimdo, Overblog, Webador, Mozello, Framer, Infomaniak, IONOS, Site.EU, OVH Cloud, WriteFreely, DINA0, WPinEU, AwardSpace, InfinityFree, Umbraco, Kirby, Strapi, Directus, Odoo, ActivityPub plugin, Drupal, TYPO3, Contao
- 2.4 Conflicting data resolved through multiple sources

3. Section 1 Results — One-Click Setup with Built-in CMS

Platform	Country	Free Tier?	Ads on Free?	Domain on Free?	Data Jurisdiction
Hyvor Blogs	 Germany	 Yes	 No	 Subdomain	 Germany-only
blitz.cloud	 Germany	 Yes	 No	 Subdomain	 EU
Jimdo	 Germany	 Yes	 Yes	 Subdomain	 Europe
Overblog	 France	 Yes	 Yes	 Subdomain	 Likely
Webador	 Netherlands	 Yes	 Yes	 No domain	 Yes
Mozello	 Latvia	 Yes	 Opt-in	 Paid only	 EU
Infomaniak	 Switzerland	 Yes	 Yes	 Paid only	 Switzerland
Framer	 NL /  US	 Yes	 Branding	 Subdomain	 AWS US
WriteFreely	 US	 Yes	 No	 Subdomain	 US

Platform	Country	Free Tier?	Ads on Free?	Domain on Free?	Data Jurisdiction
IONOS	 Germany	 Paid only	 No (paid)	 Paid (1yr)	 EU/US mix
DINAO	 France	 €9.90/mo min	 No	 Subdomain	 France
Honorable mentions: If you can pay a little Site.EU (Netherlands, EU) and OVH Cloud (France, EU) are recommended for beginners and moderately experienced users, respectively. These deliver materially better compliance posture than any free tier — which is the structural trade-off at the heart of privacy and security requirement.					
For privacy and security concerns, avoid Wix, a web development software from Israel.					

4. Section 2 Results — Manual Upload to Free Hosting

Provider	URL	Country	cPanel?	Ads on Site?	Data Collection
WPinEU	wpineu.com	 Netherlands	 Yes	 No	Standard (IP, logs)
AwardSpace	awardspace.com	 Germany	 Custom	 No	IP, browser, ISP, clickstream
InfinityFree	infinityfree.com	 UK-linked	 VistaPanel	 No	Name, email, IP, identifiers
freehostingeu.com	freehostingeu.com	 Europe	 Custom	 No	Unknown

5. CMS Software Options (Self-Hosted)

CMS	Origin	Licence	Production-Free?	Notes
WordPress	 Foundation	GPL v2+	 Yes	Most common, needs PHP/MySQL
Drupal	 Belgium	GPL v2+	 Yes	Heavy resource requirements
TYPO3	 	GPL	 Yes	Multi-site, multi-language
Contao	 Germany	GPL/LGPL	 Yes	SME websites
Umbraco	 Denmark	MIT	 Yes	.NET/ASP.NET only
Kirby	 Germany	Proprietary	 No	Free only for dev/testing
Strapi	 France	MIT	 Yes	Node.js runtime required
Directus	 Netherlands	GPL	 Yes	SQL database wrapper
Odoo	 Belgium	LGPL-3	 Yes (Community)	ERP + website builder
WriteFreely	 US	AGPL-3	 Yes	Markdown-only, federation
ActivityPub Plugin	 Automattic	MIT	 Yes	WordPress fediverse bridge
For privacy and security concerns, avoid Wix, a web development software from Israel.				

6. Website Architecture Education

6.1 What Is a Website?

- Domain = Address
- Hosting = Land
- Website = House
- Browser = Visitor

6.2 Three Main Building Methods

Method	Best For	Complexity	Updates
Static HTML	Brochure sites	Low	Edit code
Traditional CMS	Blogs/business sites	Medium	Dashboard editing
Site Builder	Quick personal sites	Very Low	Drag-and-drop

6.3 Headless CMS Explained

- **Traditional CMS:** Backend + Frontend tightly coupled (restaurant with fixed menu)
- **Headless CMS:** Backend only, API-delivered to any frontend (food delivery service)

Feature	WordPress (Traditional)	Headless CMS (Strapi)
Frontend	Locked to PHP templates	Any (React, Vue, etc.)
Multi-channel	Difficult	Built-in
Performance	Moderate	Fast
Security	More vulnerable	Better
Editing	Excellent for writers	Technical

7. CMS Type Landscape

1. **Monolithic CMS** — WordPress, Drupal, Joomla, TYPO3, Contao, Umbraco
2. **Headless CMS** — Strapi, Directus, Sanity, Contentful
3. **Hybrid/Decentralized** — Sanity, Payload CMS, TinaCMS
4. **Static Site Generators** — Hugo, Jekyll, Gatsby, Next.js
5. **Markdown-Focused** — WriteFreely, Ghost (can be static)
6. **E-commerce CMS** — WooCommerce, Shopify, Magento

8. Technology Stack Examples

Use Case	Stack	Cost
Simple Personal Blog	WordPress + WPInEU (free)	€0/month
Professional Business	WordPress + WPInEU (€10)	€10/month
Multi-Channel Startup	Strapi + Vercel + Hetzner	€5-30/month
Ultra-Fast Static	Hugo + Netlify (free)	€0/month

9. Critical Compliance Warnings

1. **Article 28 DPA Gap:** Most free consumer tiers don't provide processor agreements
2. **Data Sovereignty:** Framer/WriteFreely use US infrastructure (Schrems II concerns)
3. **Domain Reality:** No true top-level domains free; only subdomains or paid bundles
4. **Resource Limits:** Free tiers throttle performance and have caps

10. Decision Matrix

Need free domain? → Accept subdomain OR pay €10-15/year

Need zero ads? → Hyvor Blogs / WPinEU / AwardSpace / WriteFreely

Need GDPR perfection? → Pay for paid tier (Infomaniak Lite). If you can pay a little, ****Site.EU**** (Neatherlands, EU) and ****OVH Cloud**** (France, EU) are recommended for beginners and moderately experienced users, respectively. These deliver materially better compliance posture than any free tier — which is the structural trade-off at the heart of privacy and security requirement.

Need multi-channel? → Headless CMS (Strapi, Directus)

Need easiest? → Site Builder (Jimdo, Webador)

Need blog? → WordPress on WPinEU or WriteFreely

Need to avoid? → For privacy and security concerns, avoid Wix, a web development software from Israel.

11. Final Recommendations

Goal	Section 1 Recommendation	Section 2 Recommendation
Privacy + GDPR	Hyvor Blogs	WPinEU
WordPress	blitz.cloud	WPinEU
Multi-language	DINAO (€9.90/mo)	Manual install (WPinEU)
Business/ERP	N/A	Odoo Community
Federated publishing	WriteFreely	WordPress + ActivityPub
Low-cost paid	IONOS (\$1–6/month)	Infomaniak (CHF 10.91/month)
Honorable Mentions: If you can pay a little, Site.EU (Neatherlands, EU) and OVH Cloud (France, EU) are recommended for beginners and moderately experienced users, respectively. These deliver materially better compliance posture than any free tier — which is the structural trade-off at the heart of privacy and security requirement.		
For privacy and security concerns, avoid Wix, a web development software from Israel.		

Key Takeaways

1. **"Free domain included" is impossible** on genuinely free tiers — subdomains only or paid bundles
2. **No single platform satisfies all requirements** — trade-offs are mandatory
3. **Hyvor Blogs** is the strongest Section 1 match (no ads, no tracking, DPA, Germany-only)
4. **WPinEU** is the strongest Section 2 match (cPanel, no ads, Dutch datacenter)
5. **Article 28 DPA** is missing from most free tiers — paid plans needed for compliance
6. **European infrastructure** is achievable without US data centres
7. **Technology choice depends on use case** — static for speed, CMS for ease, headless for multi-channel
8. **Avoid** - For privacy and security concerns, avoid Wix, a web development software from Israel.

Future Directions

1. Test Kirby compatibility with InfinityFree's disabled PHP functions
 2. Provide step-by-step setup guides for recommended stacks, such as html static website on free hosting site, and CMS websites Wordpress, Jimdo, Webador, Hyvor, Kirby, Drupal and Writefreely). For privacy and security concerns, Wix, a web development software from Israel will be avoided.
 3. Evaluate specific use-case migrations (WordPress to static, traditional to headless)
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Section 3: Introduction

The Importance of Learning Website Building with Static HTML and GDPR-Compliant Platforms

In today's digital landscape, the rise of e-commerce platforms has created an unprecedented demand for websites that cater to diverse user needs. However, this growth also brings significant concerns regarding data protection, security, and compliance with European regulations such as General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). One approach to addressing these challenges is by leveraging static HTML-based website building frameworks like WordPress in Europe.

Why Learn Static HTML?

Static HTML provides a lightweight and flexible foundation for web development that can be easily adapted to various content types. Unlike dynamic CMS platforms, which often rely on complex codebases and proprietary technologies, static HTML allows developers to focus on writing clean, maintainable code without the need for extensive coding knowledge or frequent updates.

Why Learn Content Management System (CMS) Technology?

Content Management Systems are a popular choice among website builders due to their ease of use and flexibility. However, many CMS platforms often lack strict adherence to data protection regulations like GDPR. By learning content management systems that prioritize user security and compliance with these regulations, developers can ensure the long-term sustainability of their websites.

Why Learn Static HTML?

Static HTML is particularly important in Europe because it offers several benefits:

- 1. **Security:** With static HTML-based frameworks, website builders can minimize the risk of non-compliance with GDPR requirements.
- 2. **Scalability:** As user traffic increases, a well-built static site on WordPress or similar platforms can scale more efficiently and maintain performance without requiring frequent updates.
- 3. **Accessibility:** Static HTML provides an optimal structure for accessibility features like alt text, closed captions, and keyboard navigation.

Why Learn GDPR-Compliant Platforms?

GDPR-compliant websites are not only a requirement but also essential to preserve national interests in Europe:

- 1. **Data protection:** By prioritizing user data security, developers can ensure that sensitive information is handled transparently and securely.
- 2. **Regulatory compliance:** Adhering to GDPR regulations helps businesses build trust with their audience and maintain a positive reputation for responsible online practices.

Preserving National Interest

By using static HTML-based frameworks like WordPress in Europe, developers can:

- 1. **Cater to local market needs:** Many popular plugins and themes cater specifically to the EU market, offering localized content options.
- 2. **Support tax reporting features:** Some platforms provide accurate financial data collection and reporting according to local regulations.

Conclusion

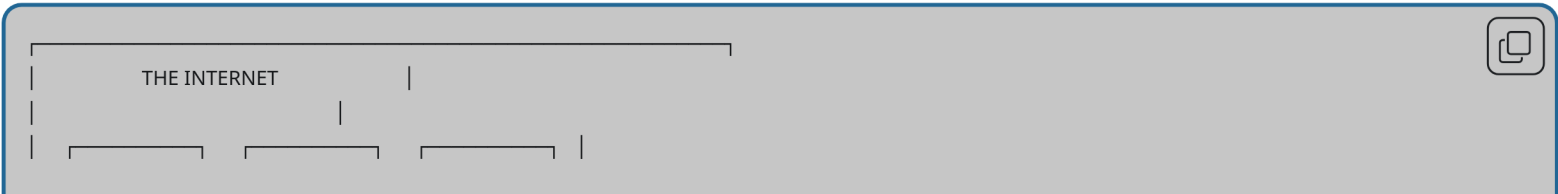
In conclusion, learning website building with static HTML is crucial in Europe due to its benefits for national interests while ensuring user security and compliance with GDPR requirements. By embracing this approach, developers can create websites that are not only visually appealing but also secure, accessible, and respectful of users' rights. This strategic decision-making process enables businesses to stay ahead of regulatory requirements, build trust with their audience, and establish a strong online presence in the European market. For privacy and security concerns, avoid Wix, a web development software from Israel.

Section 4: Understanding Websites and Website Building Methods

1. What Is a Website?

Simple Analogy 🏠

Think of a **website as a house on the internet**:



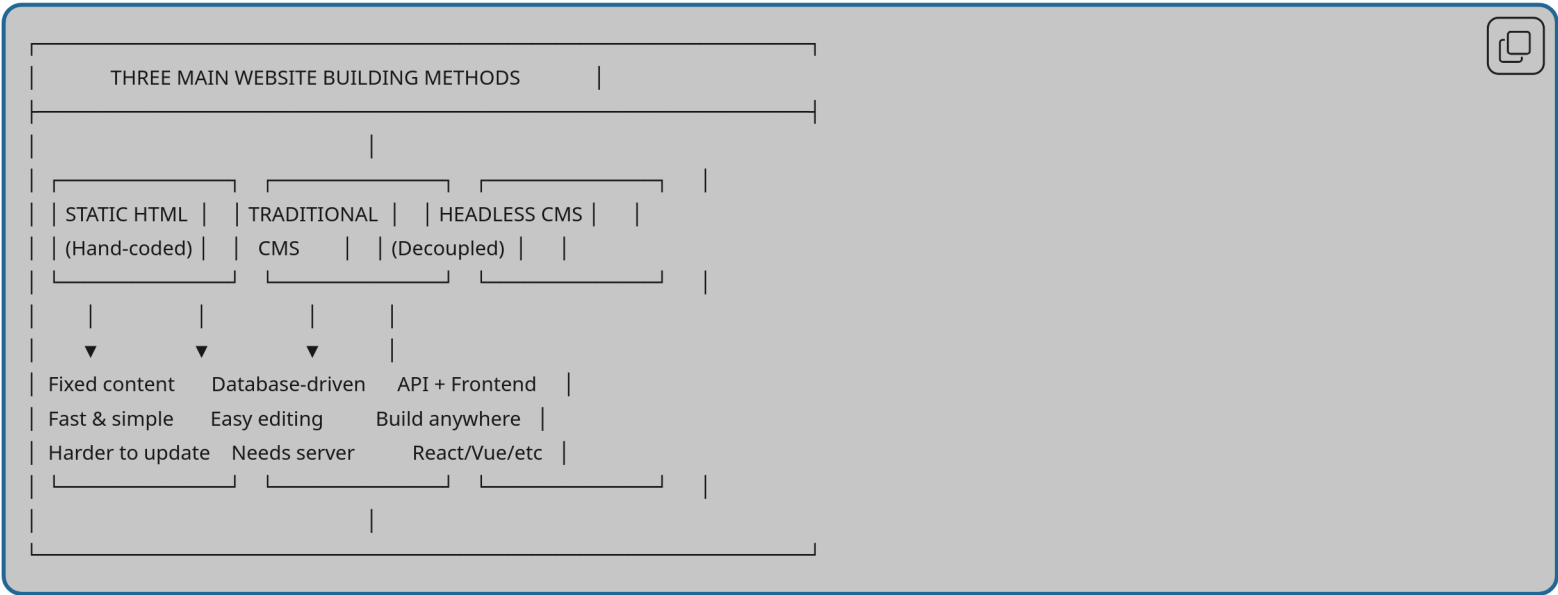


Component	House Analogy	Internet Equivalent
Domain	Street address	example.com
Hosting	Land where house sits	Server space (AWS, WPinEU, etc.)
Website	The actual house	HTML/CSS/JS files, images, content
Browser	Person walking up to door	Chrome, Firefox, Safari

Technical definition: A website is a collection of interconnected web pages stored on servers, accessible via the internet through browsers, identified by a domain name.

2. Different Ways of Building a Website

Three Main Approaches

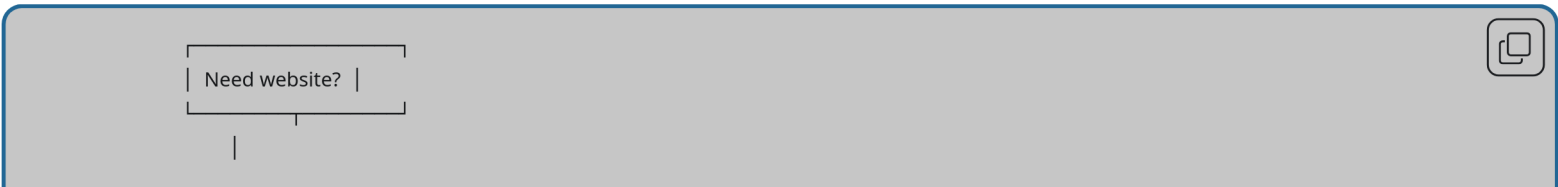


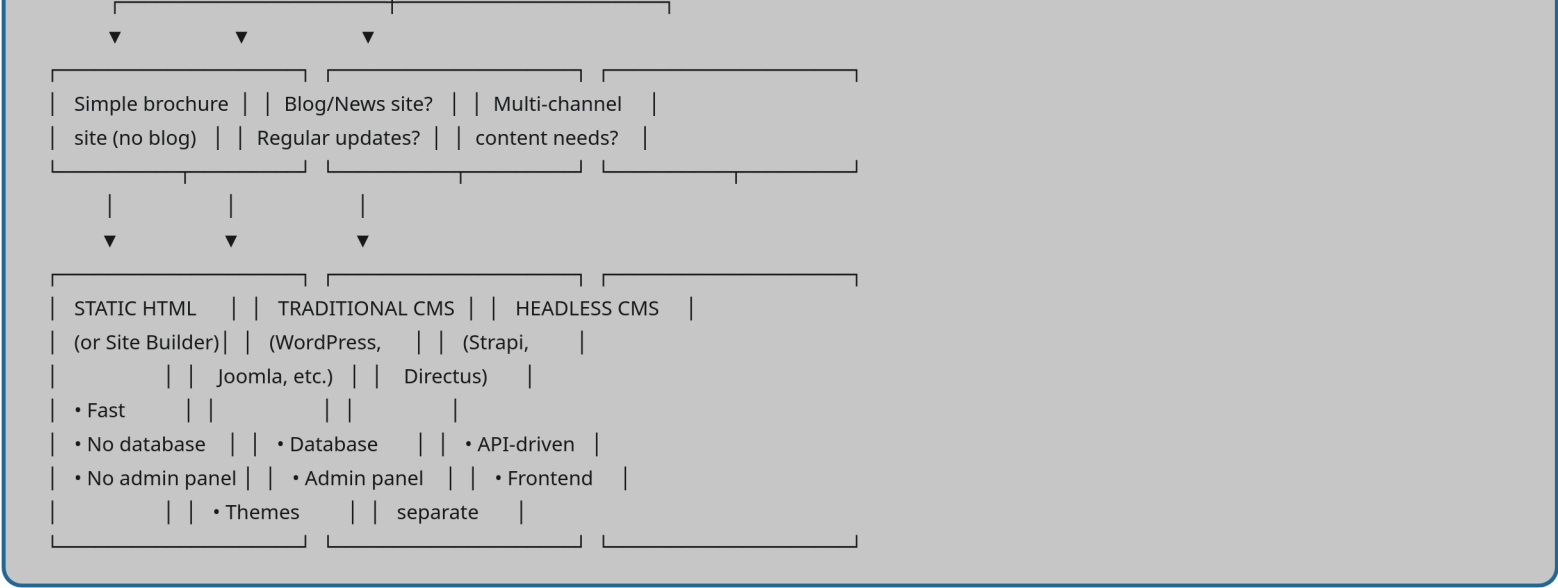
Visual Comparison Table

Method	Best For	Complexity	Who Builds It	Updates
Static HTML	Brochure sites, portfolios	Low	Developers	Edit code directly
Traditional CMS (WordPress, Joomla)	Blogs, business sites	Medium	Anyone (with login)	Edit in dashboard
Site Builder (Jimdo, Webador)	Quick personal sites	Very Low	Non-technical users	Drag-and-drop
Headless CMS (Strapi, Directus)	Multi-channel content	High	Developers	Edit in backend only

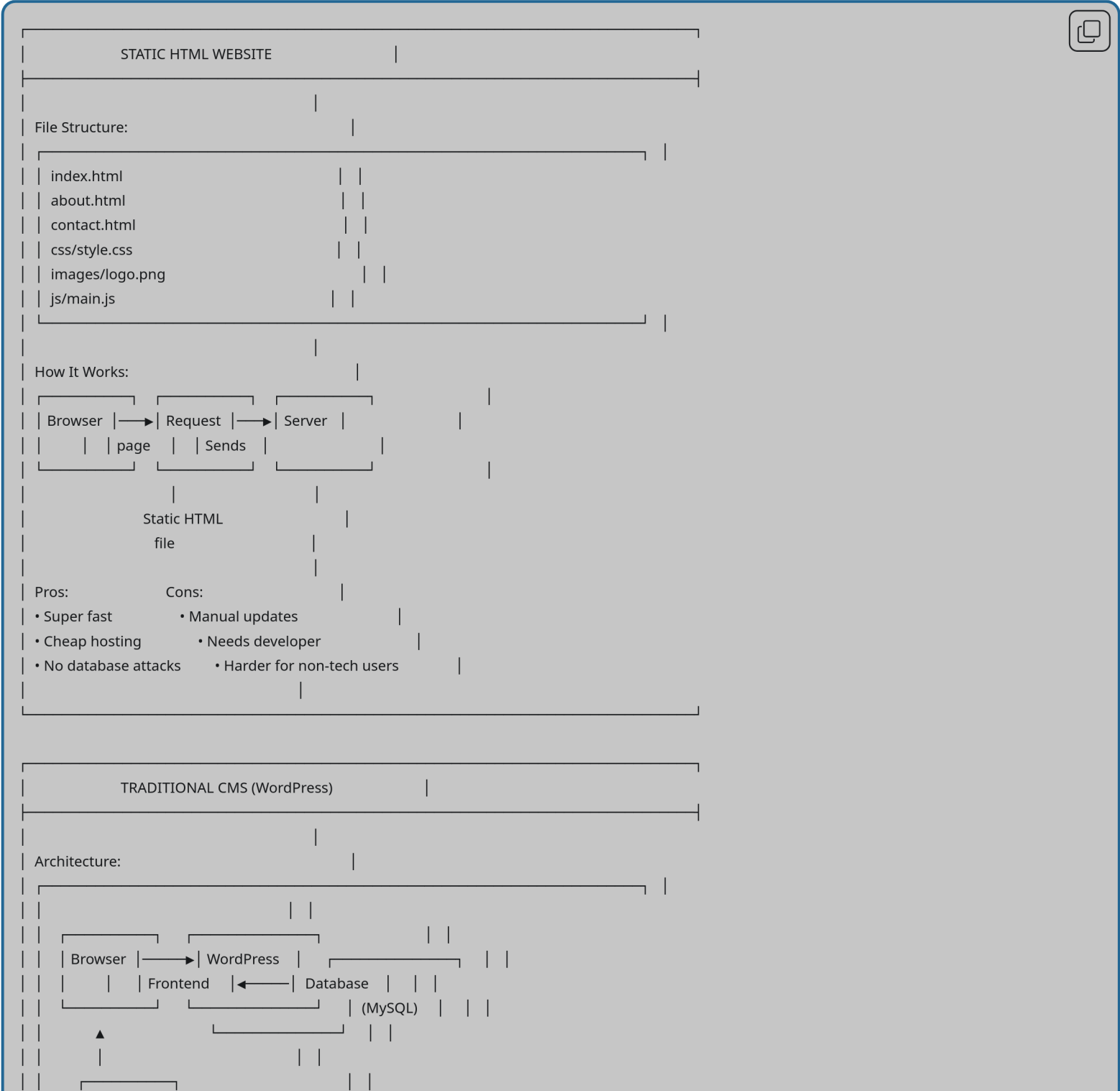
3. Static HTML vs CMS vs Other Methods

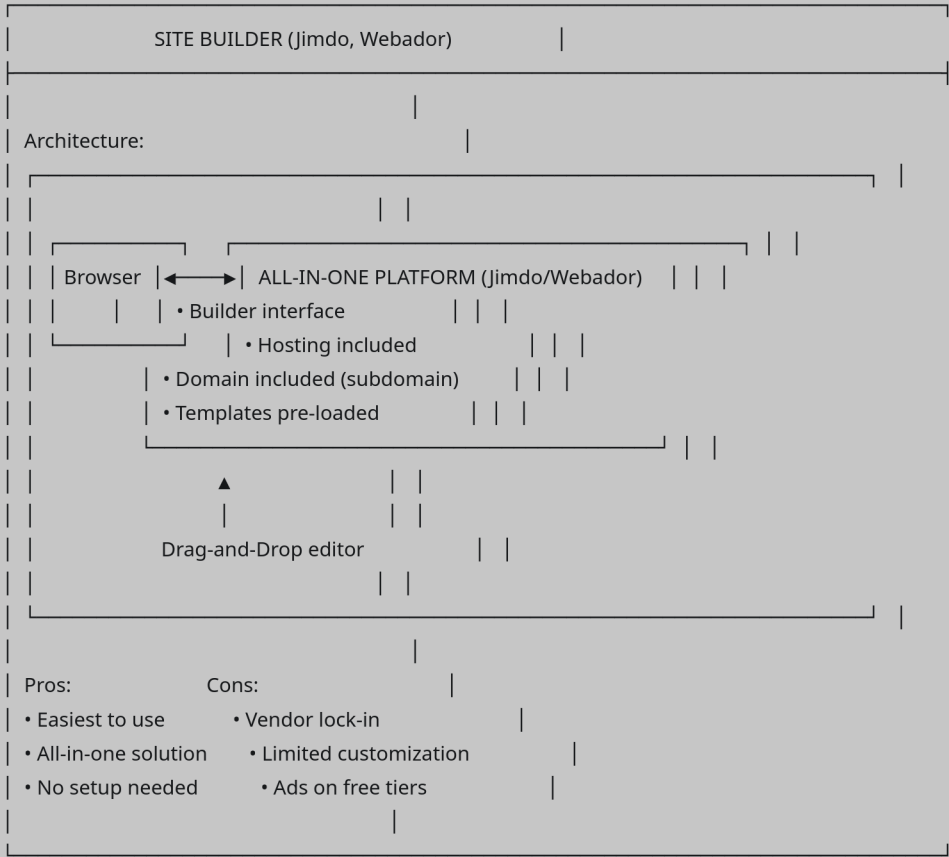
Detailed Decision Tree





Side-by-Side Comparison



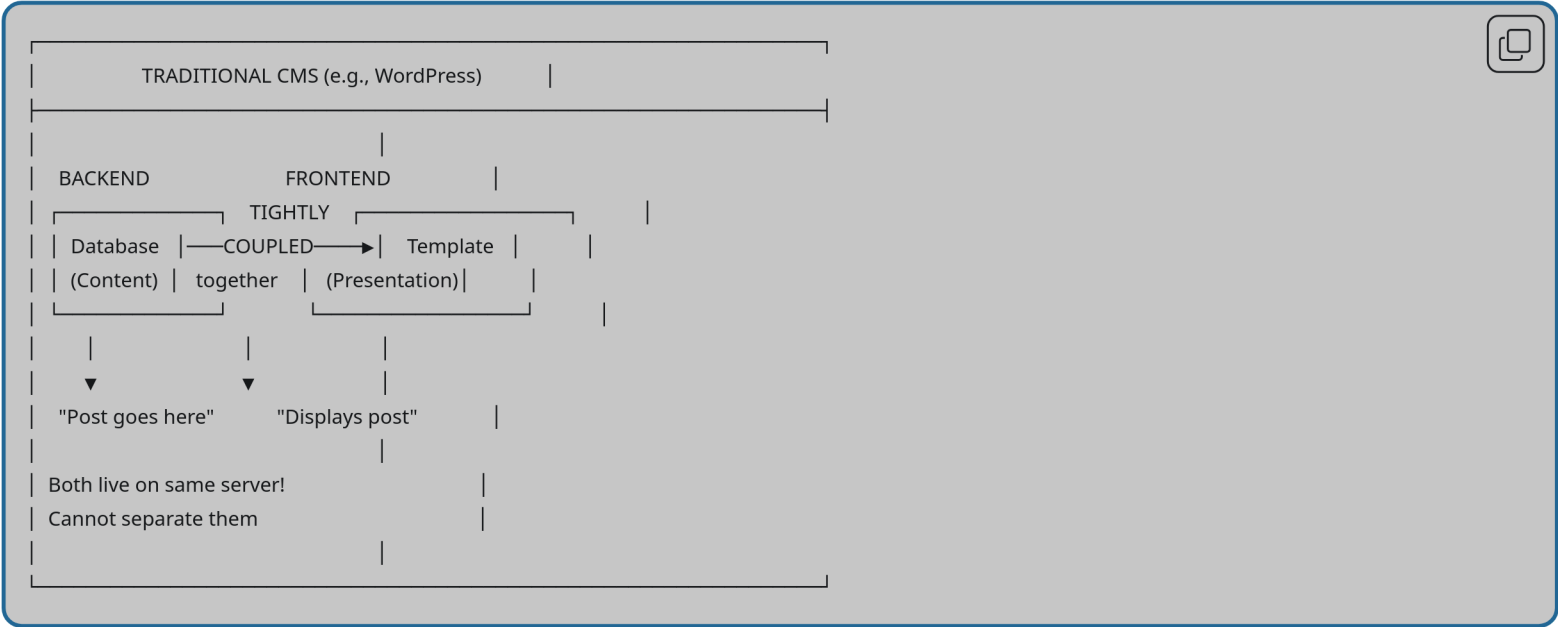


Situation	Recommended Method	Why
Portfolio or resume site, updated rarely	Static HTML or Site Builder	Fast, cheap, no maintenance
Blog with weekly posts	Traditional CMS (WordPress)	Easy to publish regularly
Business site with occasional updates	Traditional CMS or Site Builder	Balance of control and simplicity
News site with frequent articles	Traditional CMS	Efficient content workflow
Need website + mobile app + TV app	Headless CMS	One backend, multiple frontends
No technical skills, need fast launch	Site Builder (Jimdo, Webador)	Zero setup
Maximum performance + security	Static HTML or JAMstack	No server-side vulnerabilities
International/multi-language	Traditional CMS or Headless CMS	Built-in translation tools

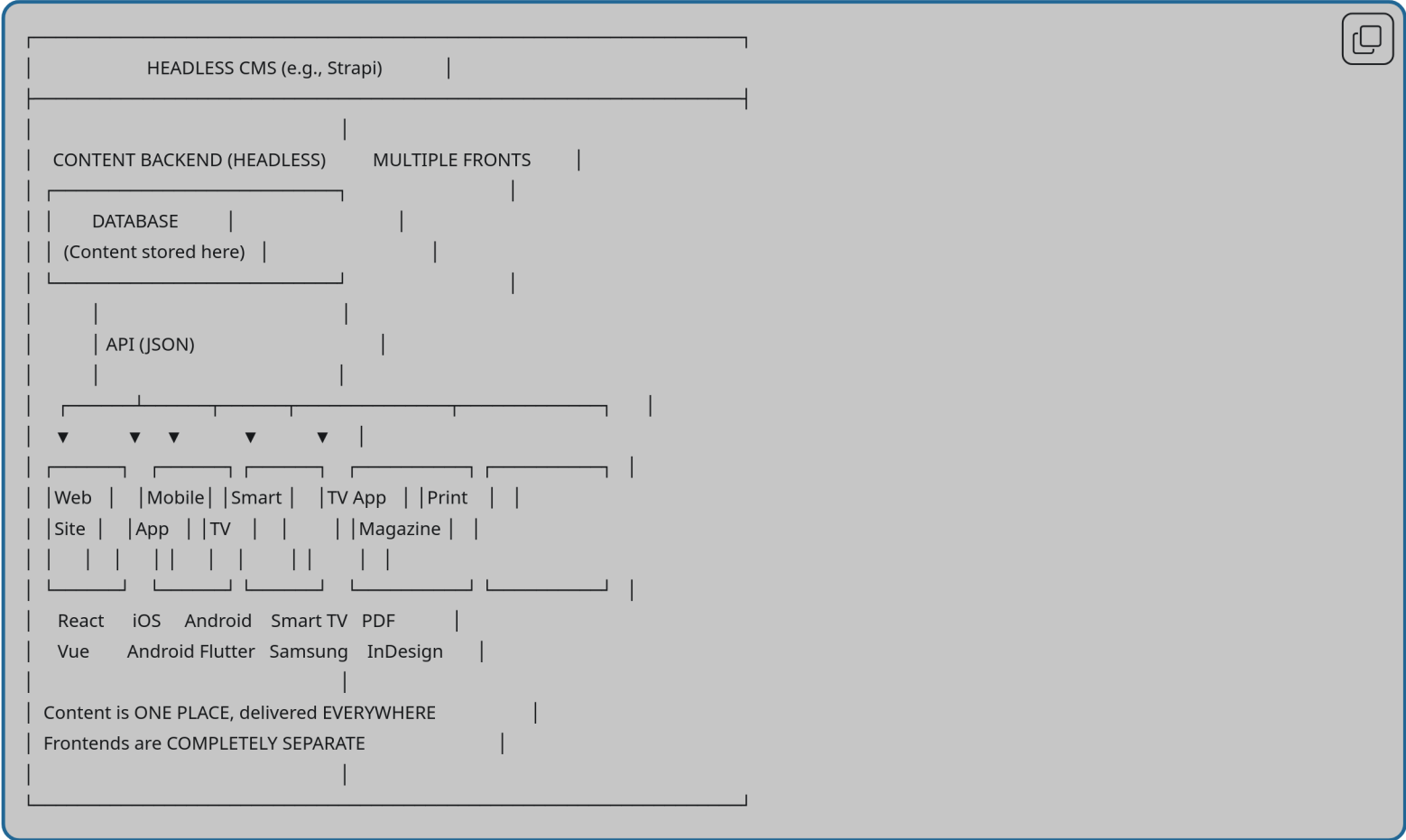
4. What Is a Headless CMS?

The Concept Explained

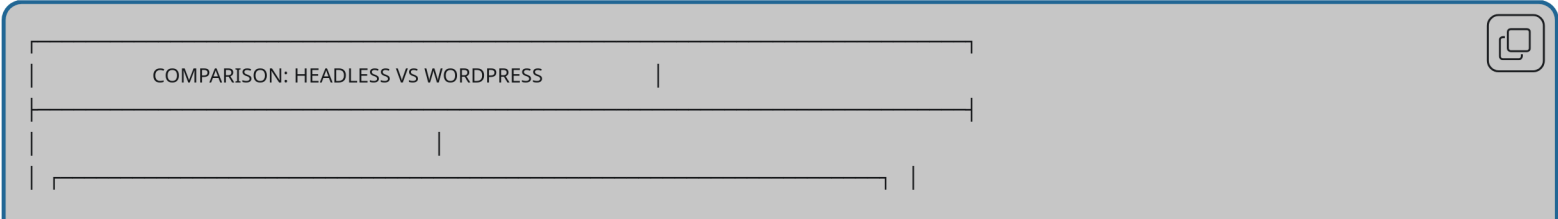
Traditional CMS (Coupled): Like a **restaurant with fixed menu**



Headless CMS (Decoupled): Like a **food delivery service**

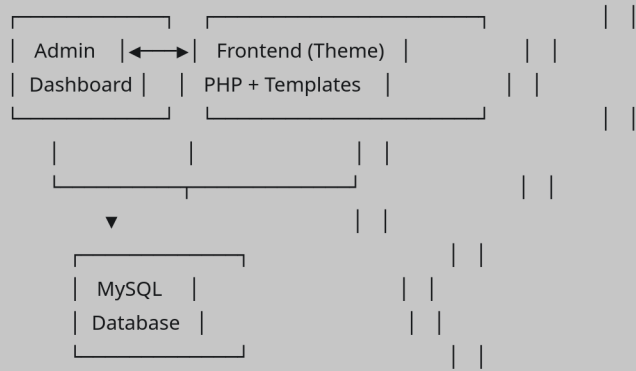


Headless CMS vs WordPress — Detailed Comparison



WORDPRESS (Traditional CMS)

Architecture:



Best For:

- Single website
- Blogging, business sites
- Non-technical content editors
- Plugin ecosystem needs

Pros:

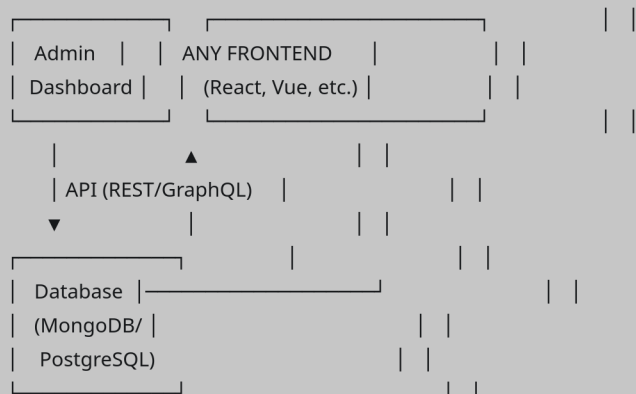
- Easy for writers
- Huge plugin library
- Cheap hosting (WP in EU, InfinityFree)
- Great community support

Cons:

- Slow compared to static
- Security vulnerabilities
- Not multi-channel
- Harder to scale globally

STRAPI/DIRECTUS (Headless CMS)

Architecture:



Best For:

- Multiple output channels (web, app, TV)
- Developer-heavy projects
- Custom frontend needs
- High performance requirements

Pros:

- Extremely flexible
- Multi-channel content
- Framework agnostic
- Better performance

Cons:

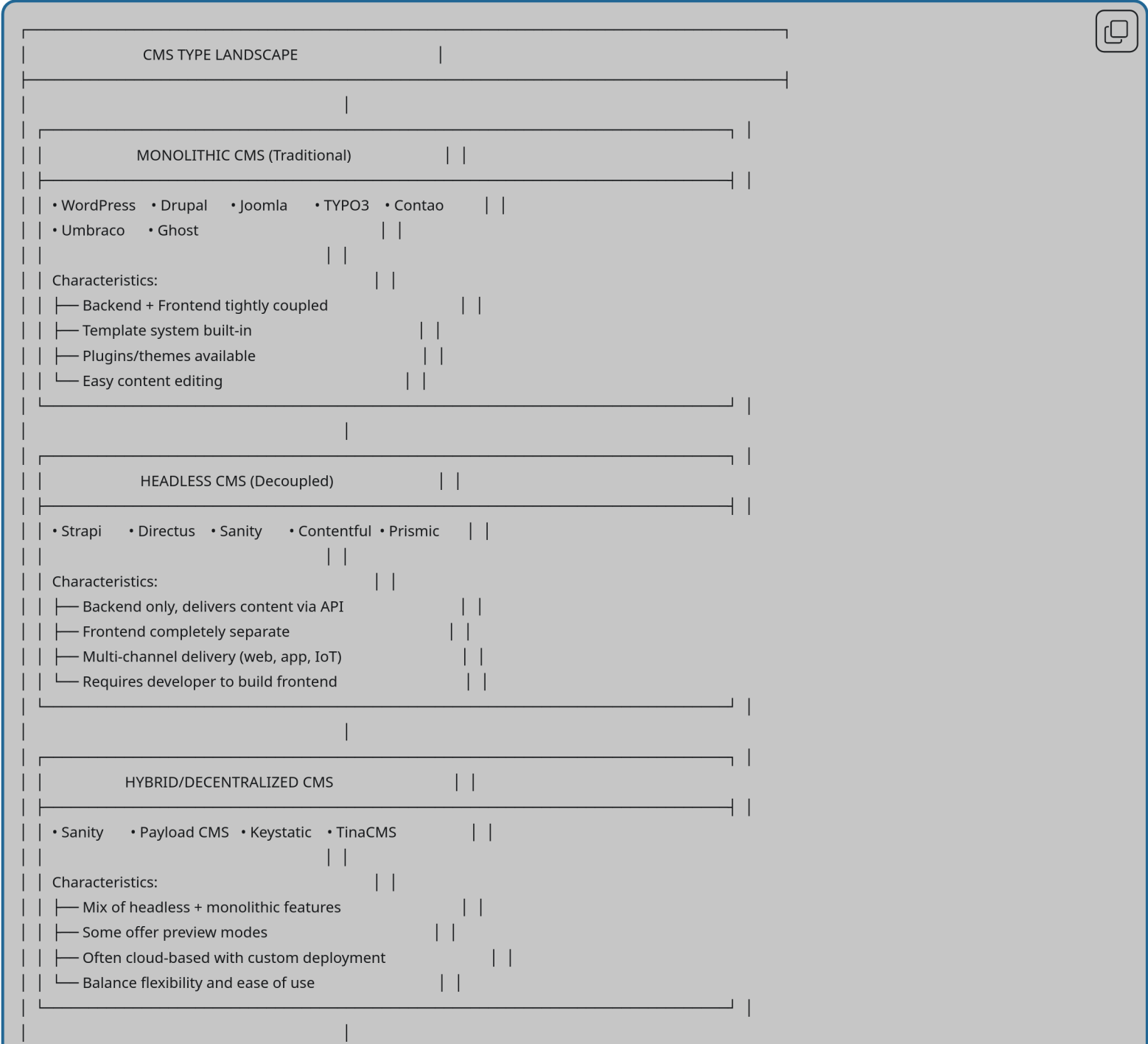
- Requires developers
- More complex setup
- Higher hosting cost
- No built-in SEO

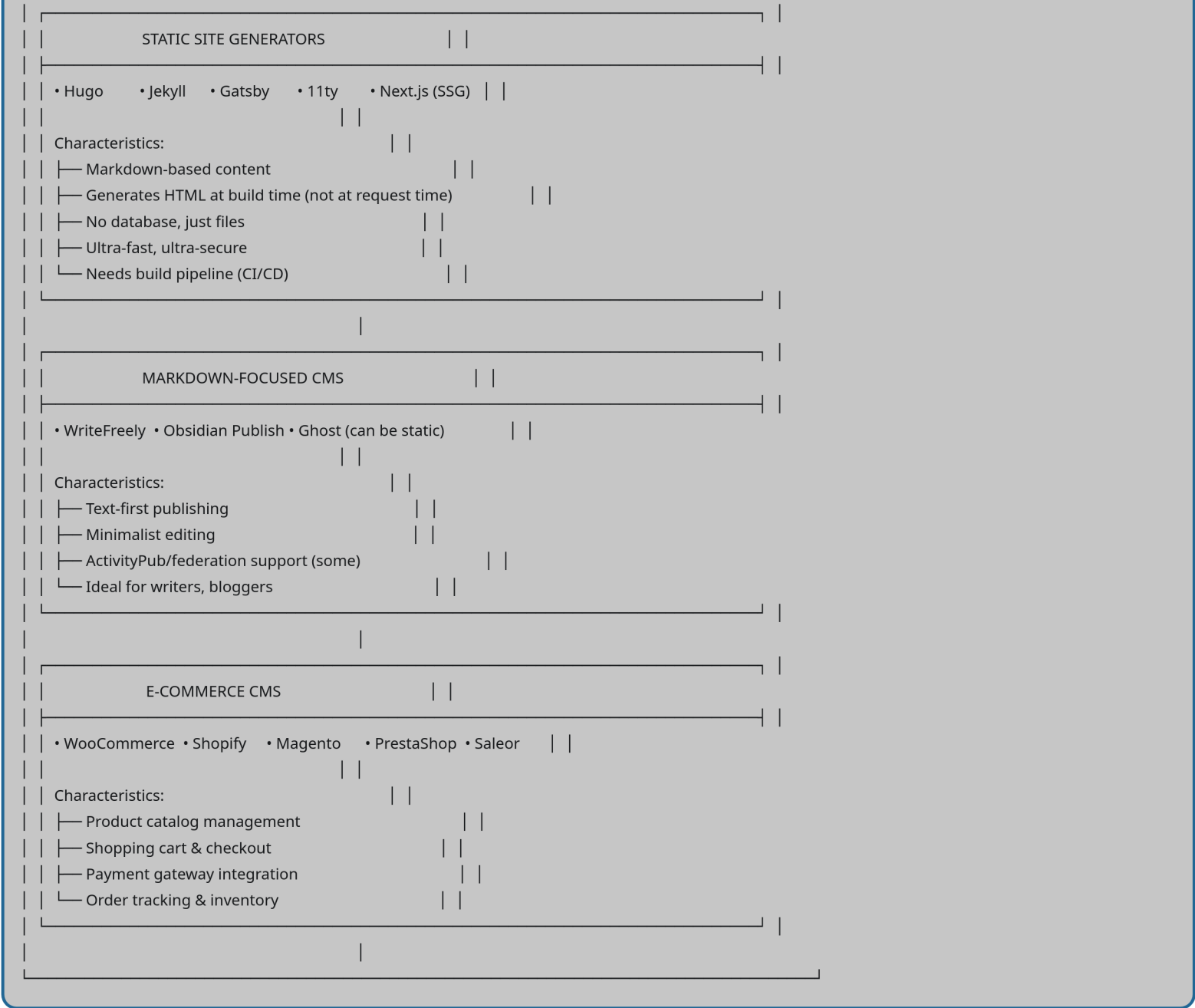
Key Differences Summary

Feature	WordPress (Traditional)	Headless CMS (Strapi/Directus)
Frontend	Locked to PHP templates	Any technology (React, Vue, Next.js)
Multiple Channels	Difficult, needs plugins	Built-in (one API serves all)
Performance	Moderate (database queries on every page)	Fast (static generation possible)
Security	Targeted by hackers (popular)	Better (API-only, no admin on frontend)
Editing Experience	Excellent for writers	Good, but more technical
Cost	Free software + cheap hosting	Free software + higher hosting
Learning Curve	Low	High
Best Use Case	Single website, blog	Multi-platform, mobile app + web

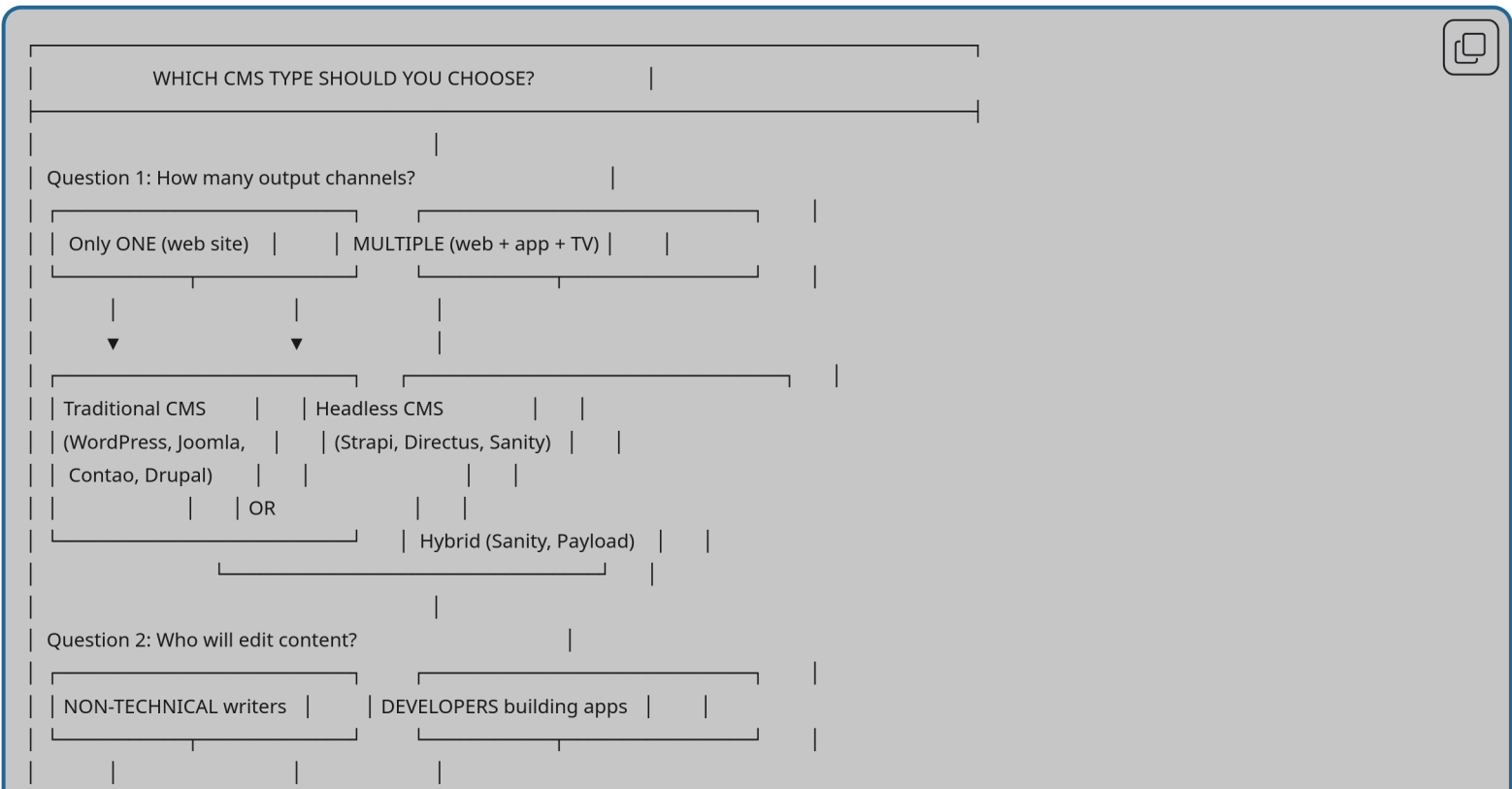
5. Other CMS Types

Complete CMS Landscape





CMS Type Decision Matrix



▼

▼

Monolithic CMS

Headless CMS

(WordPress has best UX)

(API-first, developer tools)

Site Builders also work

Static Generators (advanced)

Question 3: Budget & Skills?

LOW BUDGET, NO DEV

HAVE DEVELOPERS

▼

▼

Site Builder

Headless + Static Generator

(Jimdo, Webador,

(Strapi + Gatsby/Next.js)

Infomaniak free tier)

Traditional CMS (if budget

OR

allows for hosting)

WordPress on cheap host

(WPinEU, InfinityFree)

Honorable Mentions: If you can pay a little, ****Site.EU**** (Neatherlands, EU) and ****OVH Cloud**** (France, EU) are recommended for beginners and moderately experienced users, respectively. These deliver materially better compliance posture than any free tier — which is the structural trade-off at the heart of privacy and security requirement.

For privacy and security concerns, avoid Wix, a web development software from Israel.

6. Quick Reference: Complete Technology Stack Examples

Example Stack 1: Simple Personal Blog (Budget-Conscious)

STACK: SIMPLE BLOG (€0/month)

CMS: WordPress.org (free software)

Hosting: WPinEU (free tier, 1 GB NVMe)

Theme: Astra (free)

Domain: Subdomain (yourname.wpineu.com)

Backup: Daily backups included

GDPR: EU datacenter (Netherlands)

Total Cost: €0/month

Workflow:

User → Admin Panel → Database → WordPress Theme → Browser

Example Stack 2: Professional Business Site (Low Cost)

STACK: BUSINESS SITE (€5-10/month)

CMS: WordPress.org (free software)

Hosting: WPinEU (€10/month) or Infomaniak (CHF 10.91/month)

Theme: GeneratePress Premium

Domain: .com or .eu (free first year, then €10-15/year)

CDN: Cloudflare (free tier)

Backup: Included + manual backups

GDPR: Swiss/German hosting, DPA available	
Total Cost: €10-15/month	
Benefits over free:	
• Custom domain (professional)	
• No ads on your site	
• Better performance	
• SSL certificate	

Example Stack 3: Multi-Channel Startup

STACK: MULTI-CHANNEL APP (€20+/month)	
CMS: Strapi (free self-hosted)	
Frontend: Next.js + React (custom build)	
Hosting: Vercel (free frontend) + Hetzner VPS (€5/month)	
Database: PostgreSQL on same VPS	
Domain: Custom domain	
API: REST + GraphQL (built into Strapi)	
Output: Website + Mobile App + Smart TV App	
Total Cost: €5-30/month (depends on traffic)	
Workflow:	
Admin → Strapi → API → Next.js → Web	
↓	
→ React Native → Mobile App	

Example Stack 4: Ultra-Fast Static Site

STACK: STATIC SITE (€0/month)	
CMS: None (Markdown files in Git)	
Generator: Hugo or 11ty (free, open-source)	
Hosting: Netlify (free tier) or GitHub Pages	
Domain: Subdomain (yourname.netlify.app)	
Build: Automated on git push	
CDN: Global CDN (fast everywhere)	
Total Cost: €0/month	
Benefits:	
• Fastest possible load times	
• Impossible to hack (no database)	
• Simple version control	
• Automatic deployments	
Downsides:	
• Requires technical skill to set up	
• No admin dashboard for non-tech users	

Summary Cheat Sheet

If you want (requirement)...	Use...	Why?
Fastest possible site	Static HTML / Hugo / 11ty	No database queries, served from CDN
Easiest editing for writers	WordPress	Best dashboard, huge community
Multi-channel content	Strapi / Directus	One API, any frontend
Zero technical skills	Jimdo / Webador	Drag-and-drop, no setup
Maximum privacy (GDPR)	Hyvor Blogs / Infomaniak (paid)	EU/Swiss servers, no tracking
Cheapest hosting	WPinEU / InfinityFree (free tiers)	€0/month
Professional with custom domain	WordPress on paid hosting	Domain + no ads + support
Blog with fediverse	WriteFreely / WordPress + ActivityPub	Native federation support
E-commerce	WooCommerce (WordPress) or Shopify	Cart, payments, inventory built-in
Honorable Mentions: If you can pay a little, Site.EU (Neatherlands, EU) and OVH Cloud (France, EU) are recommended for beginners and moderately experienced users, respectively. These deliver materially better compliance posture than any free tier — which is the structural trade-off at the heart of privacy and security requirement.		
For privacy and security concerns, avoid Wix, a web development software from Israel.		

Final Recommendation

Given focus on **free, European, GDPR-compliant**:

- 1. **Section 1 (One-click):Hyvor Blogs** — no ads, no tracking, Germany-only, DPA included
- 2. **Section 2 (Manual upload):WPinEU** — Dutch hosting, no ads on site, cPanel, €0/month

Trade-off: No custom domain (`.com` , `.org`) for free on any platform. Accept subdomains or pay €5-15/year for a domain registration. **Avoid** For privacy and security concerns, avoid Wix, a web development software from Israel.

Section 5: Create Free Website with Open-Source or European CMS — GDPR-Compliant Options

Key finding about free options

Search for "free domain name included" on the free tier, across every platform researched, shows **no provider gives a true top-level domain** (**.com**, **.org**, **.eu**) free on a genuinely free plan. What exists instead:

- **Provider subdomains** — `yoursite.jimdosite.com`, `yoursite.webador.com`, `yoursite.blitz.cloud`
- **First-year domain bundled with paid hosting** — Webador Lite, Infomaniak Lite, IONOS, Mozello
- **Selected-TLD registrations** — Mozello advertises free domain registration across many extensions, but this attaches to paid plans
- **Honorable Mentions** - If you can pay a little, **Site.EU** (Netherlands, EU) and **OVH Cloud** (France, EU) are recommended for beginners and moderately experienced users, respectively. These deliver materially better compliance posture than any free tier — which is the structural trade-off at the heart of privacy and security requirement.

Section 5A — One-Click Setup with Built-in CMS and Free Hosting (Best for Beginners)

Platform	URL	Country	Free tier?	Domain on free tier	Advertising on free tier	Data collection on free tier
Hyvor Blogs	https://hyvor.com/blogs	 EU-based (HYVOR); servers in Germany (Hetzner)	 Yes	Subdomain	None — no ads, no third-party trackers	Minimal; DPA available to all customers; one-click export; data never leaves EU
blitz.cloud	https://blitz.cloud	 Germany (BlitzWorks)	 Yes	<code>*.blitz.cloud</code> subdomain	None reported	EU datacenters; DPA downloadable as PDF; apps sleep after 30 min idle
Jimdo	https://www.jimdo.com	 Germany (Hamburg)	 Yes	 No custom domain	Yes — Jimdo banner in footer on every page. Footer text is editable; the footer element itself cannot be removed on free	Sites hosted in Europe; GDPR legal-text generator for some EU countries; Google Analytics run with joint controllership (Jimdo GmbH + site operator, legitimate-interest basis)
Overblog	https://www.over-blog.com	 France (Webedia SA)	 Yes	 No custom domain	Yes — ads in footer, comparable to Jimdo. Consent-or-pay model: accept tracking cookies or pay ~€2/month; "Comfort" plan removes ads from your blog at €3.99/month	CNIL-compliant cookie wall since March 2021; Webedia collects navigation history and personalises ads with partners; ad-revenue-sharing model
Webador	https://www.webador.com · https://www.webador.co.uk	 Netherlands (Eindhoven)	 Yes	 "No domain name" on free plan	Yes — Webador advertising displayed on the website	EU company; collects signup data and visitor analytics; paid Pro removes ads
Mozello	https://www.mozello.com	 Latvia	 Yes	Free domain on selected TLDs — attaches to paid plans	Ad-free on its own platform; ad-targeting tools are opt-in	GDPR-compliant (EU); permits cookies, web analytics and third-party ad targeting

Platform	URL	Country	Free tier?	Domain on free tier	Advertising on free tier	Data collection on free tier
						(Google, Meta) with opt-out; collects signup data, IP, access logs
Infomaniak	https://www.infomaniak.com/en/create-a-website/wordpress-hosting	 Switzerland and (Geneva /Zurich)	 Yes (Site Creator free plan)	 No domain on free; Lite plan includes domain for 1 year	Yes — Infomaniak advertising on your website on the free plan. Paid Lite "removes all Infomaniak advertising"	Own datacentres in Switzerland; acts as data processor for GDPR obligations; complies with GDPR + Swiss FADP; explicit US Cloud Act independence; traffic tracked with Matomo self-hosted in Switzerland , consent-based, not shared with third parties
Framer	https://www.framer.com	 Netherlands-founded (Amsterdam); servers on AWS in the United States	 Yes	<code>*.framer.website</code> subdomain	"Made in Framer" badge; no ad banners injected into content	US-hosted infrastructure ; native analytics cookie-free and IP-anonymised, GDPR-compliant by design; if you add third-party scripts (GA4, Meta Pixel) you become responsible for consent
WriteFreely / Write.as	https://writefreely.org · https://write.as	 United States (Musing Studio LLC)	 Yes	<code>*.write.as</code> subdomain	None — no ads, no tracking	"Collects minimal data, and never publicizes more than a writer consents to"; AGPL-3.0; Markdown-only editor (text-focused); ActivityPub federation built in
Umbraco Cloud (Free)	https://umbraco.com/pricing/	 Denmark	 Yes (core CMS features)	Free subdomains via MonsterASP.NET (<code>runasp.net</code> , <code>tryasp.net</code>)	None on free tier	5 GB storage, 256 MB dedicated RAM, 1 GB database; no automatic backups on free plan ; custom domains require paid Premium
IONOS	https://www.ionos.com/hosting/free-website-hosting	 Germany (Montabaur); datacentres in both EU and US	 No true free tier — "free hosting" is bundled with paid MyWebsite plans; German sources state plainly there is no free tariff	Free domain for 1 year on paid plans	No ads on paid plans — "completely ad-free"	GDPR checklist, cookie-management tool, privacy settings by region/language, SSL by default; mixed EU/US data residency
DINAO	https://dinao.com/en/contenteurs/cms-	 France	 Paid only — from €9.90/month excl. VAT	Subdomain	None reported	29 managed open-source apps; GDPR-compliant; container-based with daily backups

Platform	URL	Country	Free tier?	Domain on free tier	Advertising on free tier	Data collection on free tier
	sites-web					
Honorable Mentions: If you can pay a little, Site.EU (Neatherlands, EU) and OVH Cloud (France, EU) are recommended for beginners and moderately experienced users, respectively. These deliver materially better compliance posture than any free tier — which is the structural trade-off at the heart of privacy and security requirement.						

Section 5B — What the free tiers actually costs to user in terms of data collection from site visitors? Recommendation: At least use GDPR compliant services which protects by regulation user and vistor data handling.

Three distinct monetisation models emerged:

- Advertising injected into user's site.** Jimdo and Overblog place their own banners in your footer. Overblog goes further with a consent-or-pay wall: visitors either accept personalised-tracking cookies or pay roughly €2/month. Infomaniak and Webador likewise put provider advertising on free-tier sites.
- Branding only.** Framer adds a "Made in Framer" badge but no ad network. Less intrusive, though the free tier still routes through US infrastructure.
- Genuinely clean.** Hyvor Blogs, blitz.cloud and WriteFreely insert nothing. Hyvor Blogs is the strongest case — no ads, no third-party trackers, Germany-only servers, DPA available to every customer regardless of plan.

On **data collection**, the pattern splits by jurisdiction. EU-based providers (Jimdo, Webador, Mozello, Infomaniak, Hyvor, blitz.cloud) process under GDPR with European data residency, though several still run Google Analytics or partner ad-targeting. Framer and WriteFreely are US-operated — Framer's own analytics are unusually privacy-preserving, but the infrastructure sits outside EU jurisdiction. Honorable Mentions: If you can pay a little, **Site.EU** (Neatherlands, EU) and **OVH Cloud** (France, EU) are recommended for beginners and moderately experienced users, respectively. These deliver materially better compliance posture than any free tier — which is the structural trade-off at the heart of privacy and security requirement.

Section 6A — Manual CMS Upload to a Free Hosting Provider (Best for users with some experience in website building)

Part A1 — Free hosting providers (host is where user uploads website management software e.g. Wordpress, when they are not using simple website files e.g. html. Note if user is using simple static website then only html files are uploaded in host.)

Provi der	URL	Country	Control panel	Advertising on site	Data collection on free tier
WPin EU	https://wpineu.com	 Netherlands (SkyLink Datacenter)	Full cPanel + Softaculous	None — "no advertisements placed on your website"	1 GB NVMe, 100 GB bandwidth, daily backups; EU infrastructure; custom domain supported
AwardSpace	https://www.awardspace.com	 Germany (Attractsoft GmbH)	cPanel on paid; custom panel on free	"100% Ad-Free"	"We will NEVER sell your personal data"; collects IP, browser type, plug-ins, screen resolution, ISP, referring/exit pages, OS, timestamps, clickstream data, landing page, referring URL via cookies and log files; free since 2003; 1000 MB, PHP/MySQL

Provider	URL	Country	Control panel	Advertising on site	Data collection on free tier
InfinityFree	https://www.infinityfree.com	 UK-linked (iFastNet)	VistaPanel (cPanel-like, not genuine cPanel)	"We will never place advertisements on it" — ads run on their own site and control panel instead	Collects name, email address, IP address, online identifiers/usernames; no DPA mentioned ; several PHP functions disabled on free accounts; uses a test cookie for bot screening
freehosting.eu.com	https://www.freehosting.eu.com	 Europe (unspecified)	Custom	Claims none	Very limited: 200 MB storage, 4000 MB monthly transfer; EU servers claimed
miHosting	https://mihosting.com/en/	 Unclear	cPanel + Softaculous	"No ads"	Free for 6 months only ; domain not included

Part A2 — The CMS software (user uploads website management software e.g. Wordpress, when they are not using simple website files e.g. html)

CMS	URL	Country	Licence	Free for production?	Notes for free hosting
Drupal	https://www.drupal.org · Wikipedia	 Belgium origin (global community)	GPL v2+	☒ Yes	Self-hosted. Needs PHP 8.x, MySQL 8+, generous RAM — heavy for free tiers
TYPO3	https://typo3.org	 Germany /  Switzerland	GPL	☒ Yes	Strong multi-site and multi-language; complex setup
Contao	https://contao.org	 Germany	GPL/LGPL	☒ Yes	Self-hosted, PHP-based, well-suited to SME sites
Umbraco	https://umbraco.com · https://docs.umbraco.com/umbraco-cms/get-started/installation/requirements	 Denmark	MIT	☒ Yes	.NET / ASP.NET Core — needs Windows/IIS/SQL Server or Azure. Not compatible with PHP/cPanel hosts; use MonsterASP.NET's free tier instead
Kirby	https://getkirby.com · https://getkirby.com/buy	 Germany	Proprietary	☒ No	Flat-file PHP with no database — architecturally ideal for InfinityFree. But: <i>"While Kirby's source code is publicly available, Kirby is not free. To use Kirby in production, you need to purchase a license."</i> Free only for non-public development or private family installations. Production: €99/site Basic (under €1M revenue) or €349/site Enterprise ; renewal €59/€249 for 3 more years. Free licences for students and academic staff
Strapi	https://strapi.io	 France (Paris)	MIT	☒ Yes	Headless, Node.js runtime — incompatible with typical cPanel PHP hosts
Directus	https://directus.io	 Netherlands (Amsterdam)	GPL	☒ Yes	Headless CMS over any SQL database

CMS	URL	Country	Licence	Free for production?	Notes for free hosting
Neos	https://neos.io	 Germany /  Austria	BSD	 Yes	Composer-based deployment
Bolt	https://boltcms.io	 Netherlands /  Belgium	MIT	 Yes	Lightweight PHP CMS
SPIP	https://spip.net	 France	GPL	 Yes	Publication-oriented
Odoo	https://www.odoo.com · https://www.odoo.com/app/website	 Belgium (Brussels)	LGPL-3 (Community) / Proprietary (Enterprise)	 Community Edition	Open-source ERP/CRM with a drag-and-drop website builder . Community is free to self-host; Enterprise requires paid subscription. Offers "One App Free" cloud tier with unlimited users. EU hosting in France/Belgium
WordPress	https://wordpress.org	 United States (foundation)	GPL v2+	 Yes	Not European in governance, but the target of nearly every free host's one-click installer
ActivityPub plugin	https://wordpress.org/plugins/activitypub/ · https://github.com/Automattic/wordpress-activitypub	 United States (Automattic)	MIT	 Yes	Connects WordPress to the fediverse (Mastodon, Pleroma, Pixelfed). 6,000+ active installations ; acquired by Automattic in March 2023; latest release 7.5.0 (Oct 2025) with Following UI and moderation tools. Posts federate automatically; replies and likes return as comments

Section 6B — What the free tiers actually costs to user in terms of data collection from site visitors? Recommendation: At least use GDPR compliant services which protects by regulation user and vistor data handling.

Free hosting monetises differently from free builders. Rather than injecting banners, most providers rely on **resource throttling, upsell pressure, and advertising on their own control panel** — InfinityFree is explicit about this: *"We earn enough from ads on our main site and control panel to cover the costs of free hosting."*

The **data collection** picture is more concerning here. AwardSpace's privacy policy is unusually candid about its scope: IP addresses, browser type and plug-ins, screen resolution, ISP, referring and exit pages, operating system, timestamps, clickstream data, landing page and referring URL — collected via cookies and log files, with tracking possibly extending across different websites and services. InfinityFree collects names, emails, IPs and online identifiers, and passes information to iFastNet.

The critical compliance gap: most consumer free tiers sit outside **Article 28 GDPR processor agreements**. No DPA was found for InfinityFree or freehostingeu. If your site collects any personal data — contact forms, newsletters, member accounts — you are acting as data controller without a processor contract. Infomaniak, by contrast, explicitly positions itself as a **data processor**, which is precisely the relationship free hosts omit. Honorable Mentions: If you can pay a little, **Site.EU** (Neatherlands, EU) and **OVH Cloud** (France, EU) are recommended for beginners and moderately experienced users, respectively. These deliver materially better compliance posture than any free tier — which is the structural trade-off at the heart of privacy and security requirement. **Avoid** For privacy and security concerns, avoid Wix, a web development software from Israel.

Section 6: Conclusion: How do requirements match findings?

Requirement	Reality
Open source or built in Europe	 Widely satisfiable — Drupal, TYPO3, Contao, Umbraco, Strapi, Directus, Neos, Bolt, SPIP, Odoo (open source);

Requirement	Reality
	Jimdo, Webador, Infomaniak, IONOS, Mozello, Hyvor, DINA0, WPinEU, AwardSpace (European)
Follows GDPR	✔ Satisfiable — but note the Article 28 DPA gap on most free tiers, and US infrastructure for Framer and WriteFreely
Free domain name included	✗ Not achievable on any free tier. Subdomains only, or first-year registration on paid plans
Free web hosting	✔ Available, but with resource limits and, on several platforms, provider advertising
No ads on free tier	⚠ Only Hyvor Blogs, blitz.cloud, WriteFreely, WPinEU, AwardSpace, InfinityFree, MonsterASP.NET explicitly state this
Honorable Mentions: If you can pay a little, Site.EU (Neatherlands, EU) and OVH Cloud (France, EU) are recommended for beginners and moderately experienced users, respectively. These deliver materially better compliance posture than any free tier — which is the structural trade-off at the heart of privacy and security requirement.	

Closest honest matches

Section 1 (one-click, built-in CMS):Hyvor Blogs — no ads, no third-party trackers, Germany-only servers, DPA available to all customers, one-click data export. Runner-up: **blitz.cloud** (Germany, DPA as PDF, no reported ads).

Section 2 (manual upload to free hosting):WPinEU — genuine cPanel, explicitly no ads on your site, Dutch datacenter, 1 GB NVMe with daily backups. Runner-up: **AwardSpace** — 100% ad-free, German company, but a broader data-collection footprint.

If you can pay a little:Infomaniak (Swiss, own datacentres, GDPR + FADP, self-hosted Matomo, acts as data processor, explicit Cloud Act independence) or **IONOS** (\$1–6/month first year, German company, ad-free, GDPR tooling) deliver materially better compliance posture than any free tier — which is the structural trade-off at the heart of privacy and security requirement.

If you can pay a little:Site.EU (Neatherlands, EU) and **OVH Cloud** (France, EU) are recommended for beginners and moderately experienced users, respectively. These deliver materially better compliance posture than any free tier — which is the structural trade-off at the heart of privacy and security requirement.

Avoid For privacy and security concerns, avoid Wix, a web development software from Israel.

Remaining uncertainties

Webador's `.co.uk` free-domain claim was checked and **contradicted** — the free plan states "No domain name." Kirby's InfinityFree compatibility remains untested against that host's disabled PHP functions.

Section 7: Future Directions

1. Test Kirby compatibility with InfinityFree's disabled PHP functions
2. Provide step-by-step setup guides for recommended stacks, such as html static website on free hosting site, and CMS websites Wordpress, Jimdo, Webador, Hyvor, Kirby, Drupal and Writefreely). For privacy and security concerns, Wix, a web development software from Israel, will be avoided.
3. Evaluate specific use-case migrations (WordPress to static, traditional to headless)

Section 8: Citations

Motivation and major references.

1. The EU Open Source Strategy | European Union Commission| Date 3 June 2026| <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/open-source-strategy>
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3. Data Protection in EU | European Union | Date NA | https://commission.europa.eu/law/law-topic/data-protection_en
4. Franco-German Relationship The Backbone of European Union | France and Germany strike car-industry deal linking 2035 engine rules to ‘Made in Europe’ push | Euronews | Date 16/10/2026 | <https://www.euronews.com/2026/10/16/france-and-germany-strike-car-industry-deal-linking-2035-engine-rules-to-made-in-europe-pu>