

HostGator steps up hiring hunt at Austin facility

Web hosting company has hired 250 already this year, expects to get to 500 in next 12 months

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When it announced in May 2010 that it was expanding into Austin, Houston-based Web hosting company [HostGator.com](#) said it would eventually bring hundreds of jobs here.

The company is keeping its word — and then some.

HostGator has already hired about 250 people this year for its Austin operations and expects to reach 500 hires in Austin within the next 12 months, said Taylor Hawes, HostGator's chief marketing officer.

Since the company's facility opened in August on Cameron Road in Northeast Austin, HostGator has hired about 280 people here in positions such as systems administration, technical support and field representative, Hawes said Thursday.

HostGator initially occupied 30,000 to 40,000 square feet of the 100,000-square-foot office building it bought in Austin, but the company is swiftly building out to fill the remaining space, Hawes said.

HostGator did not receive any incentives from the City of Austin when it decided to locate here. Company officials picked Austin over Chicago and Orlando, Fla.

HostGator's initial projection was that it would hire about 300 people in Austin over three years, but "our hiring numbers have been even higher than we initially expected, nearly double in a shorter amount of time than what was originally projected in Austin," Hawes said.

"We came to Austin because we had heard great things about the talent pool here in Austin, and we've been more than pleased and very impressed," he said.

Dave Porter, senior vice president for economic development at the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, said HostGator's success in Austin shows is "a great testament to the availability of a great workforce here in Central Texas."

"Secondly, any time you have an employer — especially one we helped recruit here — have more success here than they had anticipated, that speaks well for the Austin area in general," Porter said. "We see it time and time again, that a company comes here and has great success in recruiting good people to where they exceed their job goals. It's a great thing to see."

HostGator runs data centers that provide Web hosting and a range of computing services. The privately held company is one of the world's largest Web hosting companies, company officials say.

HostGator's hiring boom in Austin has come during a time of rapid growth for the company as a whole. Already this year, the company has hired an additional 350 people at its Houston facility, bringing its total workforce to about 815 people, Hawes said.

HostGator's Internet domain hosting business has nearly doubled to about 6 million domains in the past year, Hawes said. HostGator now has between 10,000 and 12,000 servers under management and between 400,000 and 500,000 customers, he said.

Lance Custen, HostGator's president and CEO, declined to release revenue data.

Company Chairman Brent Oxley founded HostGator.com in 2002 in his dorm room at Florida Atlantic University. The company moved its headquarters from Boca Raton, Fla., to Houston in 2006.

Courtesy of JB Goodwin