

Rackspace plans to triple Austin workforce

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Fast-growing Rackspace Hosting Inc. plans to more than triple its Austin workforce over the next two to three years.

The San Antonio-based company, which manages more than 66,000 computer servers worldwide, employs nearly 300 people here and is looking to hire more.

Over the next two to three years, the company expects to grow to more than 1,000 workers in Austin, said Max Thoene , the company's vice president of operations and site leader in Austin.

Rackspace opened its Austin office in 2006 as a sales center, but it has expanded over time to add technical jobs and software development to support its international Web hosting and cloud computing services.

The company wants to expand in Austin, Thoene said, because the region has a deep pool of technical talent and workers who fit with its values, which include "fanatical customer support."

"Austin fits with that culture," Thoene said. "We want to attract people who share those values."

The company operates an Internet-equipped shuttle service three days a week that takes workers from Austin to the San Antonio headquarters for work.

Rackspace is conducting a job fair Saturday, called Rackerpalooza , at its Austin offices where it will interview applicants for jobs in software development, Linux systems administration, Windows systems administration, network security administration and storage engineering.

The company is asking candidates to visit its hiring website, rackertalent.com/events/rackerpalooza-austin , before going to the event.

Last week, Houston-based HostGator also said it plans to add Austin jobs, growing from about 280 now to 500 within the next 12 months. The Web hosting company is looking for technical support, Linux and Windows administrators, and Perl software developers.

Rackspace has operations in North America, Hong Kong and London and employs more than 3,400 people worldwide. The company expects to add more than 1,000 workers this year, and most of those will be in Texas, Thoene said.

Part of its Austin operations, Thoene said, involve software development for new cloud-based services and the integration of those services with its existing data center operations. Cloud computing refers to providing on-demand computer services from remote data centers that can be accessed over the Internet.

The company had \$780.6 million in revenue in 2010, up 24 percent from the year before.