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CloudAccess.net: A New Company on the Bay

Written by [Bernie Bernstein](#)| Sunday, 01 January 2012 00:00 | Published in [2012 January](#)

When we're told about start-up Internet companies on the bay, we usually think about the Silicon Valley, which is situated near the San Francisco Bay in Northern California. Most of us are at least generally knowledgeable of companies that call this high-tech district home, and we're familiar with founders like Jobs, Wozniak, and others that have contributed greatly to the advancements that have taken place there over the last several decades.



Yet, there is another bay, another start-up Internet company, and another founder that we should start

paying attention to.

With main offices located at the base of the Grand Traverse Bay in Traverse City, Michigan, CloudAccess.net and C.E.O. Gary Brooks have brought Joomla!, the world's most powerful CMS, to a whole new world of users.

There is an extremely gorgeous view of the bay and all the majesty of Northern Michigan from his office window, but, in all honesty, Brooks has little time to enjoy it. He's been busy for the past few years creating CloudAccess.net, a Platform-as-a-Service (PaaS) company and the exclusive host for the free trial of Joomla! (demo.joomla.org).

He likes to work in the dark; perhaps he can see his monitors better that way. Most of the time you can find him on the phone with Joomla! users, spreading his passion and knowledge about the software and its capabilities.

Since the company's 2008 beginnings in a coat closet, Brooks and his business partner Charlie Hague have developed the company into one of the fastest growing IT companies in Northern Michigan.

Offering more than simple access to the ever-expanding Joomla! community, Cloudaccess.net offers a hybrid support team built for Joomla! and they pride themselves on "Insane Support". Support team members are available on the phone everyday of the week to take calls about Joomla!, and an endless stream of support tickets are handled readily. Their entire team - from coders to graphic designers to project managers to sales reps and support people - is specifically designed for Joomla!

Brooks' passion is contagious. What's most intriguing about his company is the fervor and dedication with which each person on his staff brings to their work. They're all adept at using the software, and they strive to make clients and demo users comfortable and highly satisfied with their experience using Joomla! They are ardent supporters of the the Joomla! community. They reference the Extensions Directory and 3rd party contributors in their free daily webinars and on the phone with clients. Hiring locally and abroad, Brooks and Hague have expanded the company to include more than thirty employees in four different continents.

Every month, over 22,000 new users sign up for their services - that's over 800 new Joomla! demo users every day. Small business owners seek out CloudAccess.net daily, but large enterprises and Fortune 500 companies have also sought security and scalability on their servers that are set up specifically for Joomla!

What's even more remarkable than the company that he has started is the dedication that Brooks has for his community. He hopes to spread the Open Source philosophy, helping to attract more IT business opportunities to Northern Michigan. He is actively seeking improvements for the entirety of the technology infrastructure in the area. It's no secret that the economic recovery in Michigan has been slow, but Brooks is working endlessly to create jobs and to create opportunities for individuals who want to better themselves through the use of Open Source technology.

There is a new company on the bay that deserves our attention. Think about it – The Silicon Valley is positioned directly over destructive earthquake faults next to the Pacific Plate. Northern Michigan has no such problem. Do you really want your site on a server that could be underwater in a few years? Talk about disaster recovery. Think about CloudAccess.net.

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Bernie Bernstein

Ryan "Bernie" Bernstein is a technical writer and instructor for CloudAccess.net. He gets to teach Joomla to new users every day. Bernie is also a professor of composition and public speaking in the Communications Department at Northwestern Michigan College in Traverse City, Michigan.

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Chad Windnagle

2012-01-02 00:46:08

Gary is a dear personal friend of mine and this article speaks wonderfully to his passion about Joomla, his love for the Joomla community and open source. He's a shining star of how open source powers business and innovation in technology today.



Adeboye Olubukola

2012-01-02 13:26:50

Nice work to make the Joomla project go beyond border..



HarryB

2012-01-02 14:24:05

Nice picture, nice story. Too bad it had to "FUD it Up" in last paragraph!



Adam Dwyer

2012-01-02 19:03:17

Great article! Thanks!



Gary M

2012-01-03 19:39:26

Gary's a busy guy. But his hard work paid off. Joomla is awesome! Great work and great article.



Nilesh Baxi

2012-01-05 04:38:47

Great story! Gary is always excited and upbeat. He is never tired! and works long hours.

Same is true for Charlie.

I always tell my staff about Gary and Charlie. No matter what time it is they are always available 24/7/365.



Dean Villegas

2012-01-06 16:47:30

I'm a CloudAccess.net customer and from Silicon Valley. The Joomla community needs more businesses like CCloudAccess. Excellent customer service! I never thought about the benefit of their location in terms of lack of Earthquakes. Well as long as those servers are safe, I'll be here under water in the SF Bay Area. 😊



Tuan Bui

2012-01-07 09:21:01

Thanks Ryan for posting this great story. Since now we know a little bit more about cloudaccess.net and how the Joomla Demo was built.

Thanks a bunch to Gary and his Team for the effort with donation the time and resources (demo Joomla.org) to the whole Joomla Community. With his help more and more new Joomla users would understand the system better and build the professional website.



Chris Chase

2012-01-13 16:53:14

Gary is a great guy! Super helpful.



Mark Hergert

2012-01-16 17:34:11

Gary is a very motivated leader that has a good heart and with that he is a asset to have on any

team. Charlie is also a wonderful person and a joy to work with!

Mark Hergert
CEO |Auto Credit Financial



Andy Mervin George

2012-08-16 03:32:38

Gary and the CloudAccess team are the angels of what the ideal hosting company should be. Their effort to champion the use of open source and the greatness of Joomla is very commendable. Looking at the fast take-up rate of Joomla users, Gary will be busier creating more jobs for passionate people -- an exemplary chain reaction of a healthy and sustainable economy for the state itself.

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