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# Mambo

*By Ryan Goodrich*

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**Mambo** is content management system software focused on business ↗, which means that it will handle all your content in addition to offering full commerce options as free plugins. Some users consider Mambo a "designer's CMS," meaning that it has numerous design elements you can tweak or add, without it being as geared toward developers. If anything, the criticism of Mambo seems to be that it is too light on features.

Mambo includes nearly all of the major built-in features necessary in a CMS. The overall capabilities of this product make it an effective tool for starting up any type of website. Your site can have easy blogging capabilities, but Mambo also offers an open-source utility that enables you to tweak the coding for your site and change the layout, appearance and style of its elements. One major benefit of this software ↗ is that you can add content through the front end, so you don't always have to log in as an administrator to add to your site.

Mambo relies heavily on the use of add-ons such as modules and extension, which are also known as mambots. One issue we encountered is that we couldn't find very many of these mambots for download. Mambo advertises basic extensions such as a shopping cart, calendar and photo gallery, but little else. Installing a plugin isn't difficult; simply download the files ↗ with the plugin you want and a wizard will guide you through the rest of the process.

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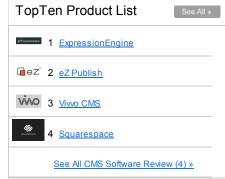Compare Top10 Web Hosting Companies Get The Best Web Host Deals In USA!

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Mambo's user-management access control levels are very useful when delegating site work to employees who require restricted permissions. There are five user levels: public, registered, publisher, editor and author. Each of these has set granular rights that we could not edit.

The search-tracking feature is stunning mechanism that keeps track of all searches made on your site. Combined with web stats – also a built-in feature – this information can help you keep the site running at its highest possible level. By identifying what your site visitors are looking for, you can update your site to reflect that.

This CMS uses an intuitive content-organization hierarchy, referred to as sections, categories and items. Sections are receptacles for one or more categories. Categories are receptacles for items such as article content. This setup is quite similar to another CMS we reviewed in this category, which was quite refreshing because we felt that its

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content management ☒ systems administrator interface is well designed. The same goes for Mambo, though it could use some aesthetic updates because the orange text everywhere starts to hurt your eyes after a bit.

The back end of Mambo is also quite user friendly and follows a straightforward format that really sets it apart as an outstanding CMS software product. At no point did we feel confused or uncertain of what to do or how to set up our site with this interface. All of the managers for content, media and add-ons are incredibly easy and intuitive, enabling you to make many diverse changes to your website's overall appearance.

As is customary among CMS software, you can pose any questions you have regarding Mambo to a thriving user community. In addition, you can rely on the documentation and knowledgebase provided on the main website. Each of these is a valuable resource to be utilized in expanding the capabilities of your website.

Mambo is one of the simpler content management system software we reviewed. It offers many of the stalwart elements of the more robust systems while keeping it easy to use and configure. If your site involves diverse content such as photo galleries, news, videos, blogs and forums, then any CMS like **Mambo** will be better than trying to coordinate it all yourself or working through a webmaster. This CMS does well for itself by being easy to use and install, and it would be a good fit for any size of company or organization.

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