

= Halo.Bungie.Org =

Halo.Bungie.Org , often referred to as HBO , is a fansite created in 1999 by Claude Errera ( known online by the pseudonym " Louis Wu " ) and two associates as a news site for the Bungie video game Halo : Combat Evolved . The site was started in 1999 as Blam.bungie.org based on the project 's development name before it was called Halo . The site now covers all Halo properties ( including those associated with 343 Industries ) and posts game news , rumors , and fan art and videos .

Halo.Bungie.Org grew to become the most widely read Halo fansite , receiving about 600 @, @ 000 page views a day in 2007 . While his cofounders have ceased involvement in the site , Errera continues to update all sections of the site with the occasional assistance of others . Aside from contests , Halo.Bungie.Org also coordinates charitable endeavors and fundraisers .

= = History = =

Claude Errera and several friends first created bungie.org for developer Bungie 's other video games , namely Marathon , in 1998 . Before bungie.org , Errera had been involved in other Bungie @-@ related sites . Halo.bungie.org began as " blam.bungie.org " on May 22 , 1999 , after information about what was to become Halo was leaked soon after the Electronic Entertainment Expo in 1999 .

While Errera had used his real name for previous Bungie sites , his cofounder wanted to remain anonymous . At the time , little was known about the new project other than that it was set on a ringworld ? a massive ring @-@ shaped habitat . As such , the site founders took aliases from Larry Niven 's novel Ringworld ; Errera assumed the name " Louis Wu " , after the novel 's protagonist . Though the universe 's Halo megastructures turned out to have more in common with Iain Banks ' Orbitals , the aliases stuck and it was too late to change them . The first Halo trailer was unveiled in July 1999 , and the site was renamed . Errera and the other founders searched the web for information and provided a place on Halo.bungie.org for fans to discuss and contribute .

Over time one member of staff dropped out followed by another shortly after Bungie 's acquisition by Microsoft , leaving Errera the sole webmaster and the main force on the site . Errera says that the only reason he has become known as the " Godfather " of Halo is due his long @-@ term presence in the community . Halo.Bungie.Org is unusual among large non @-@ commercial sites in having no paid advertisements of any kind on any portion of the pages .

= = Overview = =

Halo.Bungie.Org is the most widely read Halo fansite . In 2007 , it received about 600 @, @ 000 page views a day . The site covers game news and rumors , strategy , fan @-@ made machinima , stories and art , contests and forums . In the site 's early years , it received only a small amount of fan @-@ submitted material , which has ballooned since and made constant site maintenance a challenge . Errera attributes the site 's longevity to the fact that it provided fans with not just Halo news but a place to share their love of the franchise . At a time when there was no easy video sharing via YouTube , Halo.bungie.org posted and categorized Halo films that fans submitted .

Each day , Errera reads through the Halo.Bungie.Org forums , looking for interesting items to put on the news page and monitoring comments . He then checks other Halo and gaming @-@ related sites for more news . He also approves fan movies or artwork and updates batches of new submitted content . Errera credits the site 's success to its longevity ; " When you ? re there from the beginning , and you add new content every day , folks tend to come back , " he said .

= = Recognition and charity = =

Bungie has a strong relationship with Halo.bungie.org and has called the page the ultimate Halo fansite . Halo.bungie.org is listed as a source on Bungie 's project pages ; Bungie employees

frequent the Halo.bungie.org forums , often to point out a new Bungie.net update or answer questions from fans . Halo.bungie.org often receives promotional items from Bungie to give away in various contests . Its administrators and members have been repeatedly quoted in mainstream publications .

Errera has been interviewed numerous times by gaming sites such as Microsoft 's Xbox.com and mainstream media organizations such as CBS and the BBC . The site was nominated for IGN 's " best fansite " award in 2005 .

Halo.bungie.org has used its notability to conduct several fundraisers for various causes , including raising money for Hurricane Katrina disaster relief . The site 's members took part in a massive effort by the Halo community to raise money , primarily through selling collectible items through eBay auctions . These auctions raised just under \$ 11 @, @ 000 for the relief effort . Members of the community also chipped in through personal means ; one member held a charity Xbox live night and raised \$ 139 . In 2003 , following news that community member Brian Morden 's cancer had returned , the community decided to set up a donation fund to support him . Although Brian died later that year , the fund became the Brian Morden Memorial Fund .