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Inside the Data Center: Liquid Web

Liquid Web is the biggest webhosting company in Michigan. They currently have three data centers in Lansing, Michigan. All data centers are SSAE-16 compliant. Data Center One is 11,000 sq. ft and has the capacity for 2,000 servers. Data Center Two is 32,000 sq. ft. and has the capacity for 8,000 servers. Data Center Three is 90,000 sq. ft. and has the capacity for 25,000 servers. They also have a data center in Phoenix, Arizona that is HIPAA compliant and has the capacity for 2,000 servers. Liquid Web has over 300 full-time employees.

In terms of services, Liquid Web offers shared hosting, dedicated hosting, cloud servers, VPSs, as well as many additional hosting services. They offer both Linux and Windows hosting. Possible Linux distributions include: CentOS, Arch Linux, Debian, and Ubuntu. All Linux servers are run using a LAMP stack. Currently they host big names such as the American Cancer Society, Red Bull, Aunt Jemima, MTV, Bose, and even Michigan State University.

Liquid Web uses a mixture of industry standard software and in-house custom software. Their industry standard software includes: WHM, cPanel, Softaculous, and Fanstatico. WHM and cPanel are both owned by the same company and provide a simple to use content management system. While, Softaculous and Fantastico allow users to easily install common management tools with the click of a button. Liquid Web has a lot of custom software including their Guardian Backup & Recovery system, Mr. Radar, and Sonar Monitoring. Guardian provides continuous off-site full backups of a server. While Mr. Radar and Sonar Monitoring are services for monitoring server services like: WHM, ftp, http, and MySQL.

As having little downtime is one of the most important things in webhosting, Liquid Web picked premium Tier-1 bandwidth providers to use for their network. These include: Level 3, Global Crossing, SAVVIS, and Comcast. Level 3's network spans over 47,000 route miles throughout the United States and Europe. Global Crossing's fiber optic network covers more than 100,000 route miles, spans 6 continents, 60 countries, and over 600 major cities. The SAVVIS network spans 47 countries, 105 cities, continents including: the U.S., Canada, Latin America, The Middle East, Asia and the Pacific Rim. Comcast's fiber optic network spans over 147,000 route miles handling over 2TB of traffic per second.

The main thing that separates Liquid Web from its competitors is its Heroic Support. This support covers not only the standard services of keeping all aspects of the LAMP stack running but also "best effort" support. "Best effort" support includes anything outside of keeping the server up and running. Support will try their best to help with most issues outside of coding. There is almost nothing that Liquid Web will not try to help you with on your server. This is what keeps customers coming back to the hosting company located in little old Lansing, Michigan: great hardware/software and even greater support.