

Let Santa MikeE help you build a great Santa Claus website!

Site Navigation By Direct Link or by Drop Down Menu.

Customized Backgrounds: Still or Animated

Embedded Videos

- Lots of fun widgets to bring your website to life:
- Mailing Lists
 - Counters
 - Blogs
 - Much More!

Provide your clients information about you and your services on as many pages as needed!

Don't forget to add your customer reviews!

Link your Calendar to your web site to show your availability

Check out the entire website presented here as an example at <http://www.MrsClausPlusSanta.com>.
If you would like to talk with Santa MikeE about creating a site, please email him at Santa1MikeE@gmail.com, or call **919-238-9585**.

Web sites hosted on WIX.com or WordPress.com

How Much Will Your Website Cost?

Every website on the Internet resides on a server. Although there are free web hosts (e.g.: Yahoo, Google, etc.), these are not what you want to use for a site that you conduct business out of. You are better off paying a nominal fee for a better hosting solution. Two relatively inexpensive web hosts are **Wix.com** and **WordPress.com**.

Web Hosting

Wix.com

Best deal is the \$7/month (**\$84/year**), this Premium Account includes a free domain name, 10GB of storage, and unlimited bandwidth. This is the hosting solution that **MrsClausPlusSanta.com** is built on. Wix.com is fairly simple to maintain, but is a little clunky.

WordPress.com

Although WordPress provides a free hosting solution, it doesn't include all the bells and whistles that the Wix.com solution mentioned. However, the WordPress Premium account, at \$8.25/month (**\$99/year**) is more than comparable, providing 13GB of storage and the free domain name. Other vendors also will host websites created with the WordPress tool set, but they are similar in price. I am considering moving **MrsClausPlusSanta.com** over to WordPress, since it looks like the capabilities are greater; however, I plan to wait until next year to do so.

Once you decide on a hosting solution, you actually need to build your web site. A website includes text and pictures, organized on one or more pages. The best websites don't put too much information on any one page, but are organized so that desired information can be easily found.

I deciphered the Wix.com interface, and set up **MrsClausPlusSanta.com** in about a week. I had not used the interface before, so there was a bit of a learning curve, which I have now passed. I don't know if it would take you as long to figure out their system, or the system for WordPress, since I don't know your technical savvy. But I started creating web pages in the mid 90's, using text editors, so I may have a leg up.

Be that as it may, if you need a web site assembled, I will work with you to create one for a one-time fee of **\$125**, plus the cost of the web hosting (mentioned above). This will get you up to 15 pages (additional pages will cost \$5/page) with a menu navigation system, up to 30 photos and two embedded videos, up to 10 widgets (counters, contact forms, blogs, etc.), and as many links to outside websites as needed. For comparison, **MrsClausPlusSanta.com** is currently 40 pages, about half of which are hidden, and some blank, for future expansion. It has 16 photos and one video on the 20 active pages (plus some more for blog entries), 5 widgets (mailing list, contact form, blog, comment form, and calendar), and 5 external links. My price will also include a **How To** booklet that will explain how you can edit your website, and add additional content. If you need help maintaining your website after it is finished, I can do that too, time permitting, at the rate of **\$20/hr**. However, my time is limited, so be warned!

What you will need for me to create a website for you:

- A Domain Name (e.g. BigSantaJoe.com). You may suggest several domain names, because someone may have already chosen your first choice.
- A list of topic areas. (e.g.: Welcome page, About Santa, Services, Gallery, Blog, etc.) Usually, you will dedicate one page per topic. All pages will share a common background, to be selected by you.
- Photos you want to use. Most pages will benefit from having a photo. More than one is OK, but don't use too many on one page (except in a Gallery).
- Text to tell your story and sell your services. Text will be formatted using available fonts.
- List of any external websites that you may want to link to.