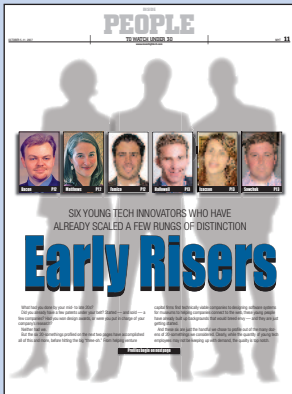


# MHT

MASS HIGH TECH

THE JOURNAL OF NEW ENGLAND TECHNOLOGY



## INSIDE PEOPLE TO WATCH UNDER 30

What had you done by your mid- to late 20s?

Did you already have a few patents under your belt? Started — and sold — a few companies? Had you won design awards, or were you put in charge of your company's research?

Neither had we.

But the six 20-somethings profiled here have accomplished all of this and more, before hitting the big "three-oh." From helping venture capital firms find technically viable companies to designing software systems for museums to helping companies connect to the web, these young people have already built backgrounds that would breed envy — and they are just getting started.

And these six are just a handful we chose to profile out of the many dozens of 20-somethings we considered. Clearly, while the quantity of young tech employees may not be keeping up with the demand, the quality is top notch.

# Early Risers

SIX YOUNG TECH INNOVATORS WHO HAVE ALREADY SCALED A FEW RUNGS OF DISTINCTION

## Young entrepreneur is a host with the most

**A**t 28 years old, **Aaron Sawchuk** has already started two successful companies; one as a junior in high school (which he sold), and the other when he was fresh out of college (which has become a data center success story).

Sawchuk was interested in Internet technology in high school and started a small business, Dream-Com Internet Services, in 1996.

"The concept of communication via computers interested me. I did some hosting of websites for small businesses as a sole proprietor after school and on weekends. I was at the right place at the right time and was lucky enough to roll out sites that could be used in a larger way — for ordering their products and e-mailing," he said.

The business grew into one of the first corporate-oriented providers of Internet access and hosting in Massachusetts and sold for an undisclosed amount in 2001.

His father, **Wayne Sawchuk**, helped him finance the startup operations for DreamCom, and there were several online communities that

offered guidance for starting up that type of business, he said.

Sawchuk went on to study computer science at **Middlebury College** in Vermont, but switched majors and graduated with a degree in economics. In 2002, he was awarded the Wall Street Journal Student Achievement Award for his high academic standings there.

With IT knowledge and business experience under his belt, Sawchuk opened an 800-square-foot data center hosting facility called **ColoSpace Inc.** He launched the Quincy-based operation along with his father, who is now the CEO, and VP of sales **Kevin Lessard** in 2001, Sawchuk said.

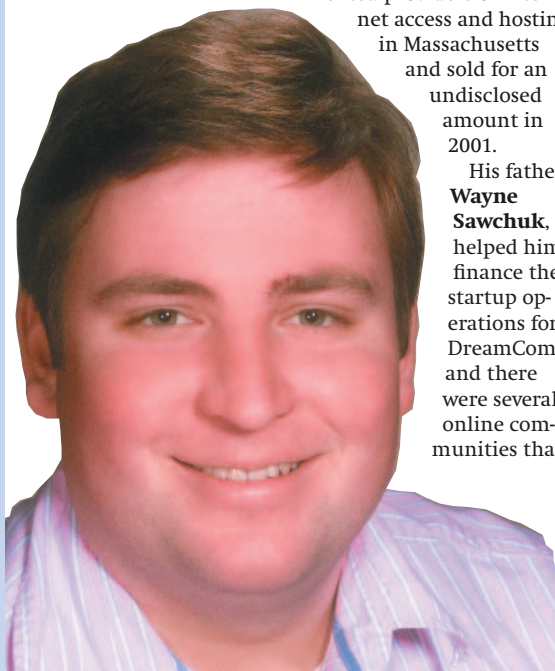
Now based in Rockland, the company provides application hosting, colocation and disaster recovery services through a network of six Internet data centers (IDCs) throughout the region, and is the biggest company of its kind in the area, Sawchuk said.

As CTO, Sawchuk led the technical team at ColoSpace in facility construction, product development, service delivery and expansion into a network of five data centers, south, west, and north of Boston and in Southern New Hampshire. ColoSpace consists of about 35,000 square feet total space and he intends to open at least one more facility over the next 12 months in either Connecticut or Vermont.

ColoSpace reports seven quarters of double-digit growth. "I would like to continue to grow the organization and take it to the next level," he said.

Sawchuk also led an effort to extend alternative-fiber network connections south of Boston and was instrumental to the installation of the first non-incumbent fiber-optic connections in the region, boosting the amount of capacity and reliability available to firms on the South Shore.

*Written by Bridget Botelho, a freelance writer based in North Providence.*



**Aaron Sawchuk**, Co-Founder and CTO, ColoSpace, Inc.