

Before You Begin: Compare Open Source to Big-Box Applications



When considering a custom database solution, we believe it is extremely important to consider the long-term implications of the various platforms available.

Microsoft and other off-the-shelf software

- Requires an expensive dedicated server with enough horsepower to manage the resource-hungry applications provided by Microsoft and other off-the-shelf providers such as Cluen, Dillistone, etc.. This can often result in multiple servers or peripheral devices not anticipated in early planning.
- Customization is limited in these applications since the owner tightly controls the code behind its applications. To address allowable customization, developers and consultants may be needed to customize the infrastructure and applications.
- Ongoing support requirements are much higher, including in-house or contracted support, maintenance or replacement of proprietary hardware, patch installation and upkeep, all of which require additional personnel too.
- Speed and reaction can be an issue. Larger software development companies may be slower to respond to bugs and other issues, especially issues that affect smaller customers.
- Systems can be at risk of attack, theft or suffer from catastrophic failure. Having daily backups may not be enough to ensure a speedy recovery. Having duplicate, redundant servers can ensure your systems are more secure - but system duplication through mirrored servers or redundancy will double your costs. Unfortunately, many mirrored or redundant servers are no more secure, meaning all backups can be equally devastated by an attack.

Open Source Solutions by Prospect City

- Fully hosted solutions require no in-house equipment. Instead, they require a small monthly hosting and maintenance fee for the use of our equipment. All software updates and hardware repairs are included at no additional cost. This ensures your systems have the most up-to-date technology without making significant up-front investments.
- Our open source systems can be updated, changed or fixed immediately, without having to wait for a large corporation to respond to your needs. Because of their simplicity, developing costs are significantly lower than those of off-the-shelf systems.
- Open Source systems are designed with security as the highest priority. These systems are more secure against attacks and tend to be passed over by attackers in favor of easier targets, including MS systems. In addition, Open Source systems require fewer resources as they operate with great speed on even the slowest computers. This means the life of your equipment is extended significantly, lowering long-term costs of equipment and software.