

Seradex White Paper

A Discussion of Issues in the Manufacturing OrderStream

The Ten Vital Reasons to Purchase a Source Code Based Business Software Solution

Your ERP System may seem like a black box, entries are made and the data comes out on business documents and reports. Source refers to the programming language that was used to create the applications that tell the system how to behave. Common programming languages are Microsoft .Net and Java. Source code is the key to understanding your application and that's why we think it's important to you.

1. **Data Imports** — Bringing in data from older systems or integrating to data from your Vendors and Customers is the basis of ecommerce. With source you can always scrub, transform and import data based on your requirements and not existing import functionality.
2. **Future Changes** — Your business requirements will change, can your system be simply altered to meet these new requirements?
3. **Modifications to Support your Critical Competitive Differentiators** — Many applications allow superficial modifications like adding user defined fields. But what about that core business logic changes that has to go deep in the system? Like creating a two way link between the system and your AutoCAD drawing files?
4. **Integration** — Next few years, you might want to integrate to the latest FedEx Shipping software. Or push data out to your field technicians PDA's in real time. With source code the answer is always yes.
5. **Performance and System Issues** — With source you can find the problem and if it's in our code, we'll fix it. Compatibility issues with other programs or the operating systems, security setups or hardware issues can be pinned down to a single line of code. This benefits you and the software vendor because when a problem comes we can quickly work together to solve it.
6. **Customized Reporting** — What if you need more data on a report? A piece of calculated data that isn't even there yet? Report logic truly requires professional development. With source you can write routines to create this data and have it available everywhere so you can get the exact reports you require.
7. **Survivability** — No one wants to think about their software provider disappearing or getting acquired. If you have source you have alternatives available. If the source is in a common language, like Microsoft Visual Studio you can change it yourself or hire others to change it.
8. **Third party support** — Everyone has great third party programs. How tightly can a third party product be integrated when you can only write to the API where they give you permission? To have really tight integration you must have source code. The availability of source is the single greatest factor encouraging the development of third party products that extend your system capabilities.
9. **Protection from Technical Obsolescence** — If you have source code in Java or .NET you are using development platforms that have a combined market share of over 90%. This ensures you are investing in a platform with a long future and a lower cost to you.
10. **Automatic Microsoft Office Integration** — If you have source code Microsoft .NET you can instantly access data within the familiar Microsoft Office environment. This allows you to generate reports and analysis without any programming at all – the best case scenario.

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