

# Metatron's Information Management Server: A solution for Your Small to Midsize Business

Chris Travers

April 18, 2006

Copyright © 2006 Metatron Technology Consulting .

Permission is granted to use this documentation in creating any other works for any purposes. Any derivative works created must prominently display the new author, and any works quoting this document must provide credit to Metatron Technology Consulting and this paper within a credits section, citation, bibliography, or similar method.

SQL-Ledger is a Registered Trademark of DWS Systems. Linux is a registered trademark of Linus Torvalds, Fedora is a Registered Trademark of Red Hat, Inc. All other trademarks are owned by their respective owners.

## Contents

<b>1 Information as a Strategic Resource</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2 Platform Overview</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>3 Technology</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>4 The Service Solution</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>5 Solution Benefits</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>6 Pricing</b>	<b>3</b>

## 1 Information as a Strategic Resource

All businesses rely on information for decision making, whether it is analysis of the market or locating a given part, mismanaged information is a great cause of many business hardships and problems. Paper systems of accounting, correspondance, and sales management work reasonably well, but they are also relatively inflexible and it can take a great deal of time to extract answers to unforeseen questions from these systems, or sometimes even to dig through the paper to find a specific record.

Many small business owners don't adequately appreciate the ability of a computer to search through large amounts of data quickly, and arrange it in a useful way. In fact, the main benefit of computerization is the information management capabilities of computers.

Until recently, such solutions were beyond the financial reach of small to midsize businesses. With the development and maturation of a number of open source programs, however, many of the solutions that were previously available only to the largest companies are now within the reach of any small business.

## 2 Platform Overview

The server which contains the information management platform should generally run a variant of Linux. Additionally, it will run SQL-Ledger and all its dependancies. This software provides an accounting solution with some additional ERP capabilities in an open framework that can grow as your business grows, and the PostgreSQL backend provides an ability to pull your data from the application using a variety of third party reporting tools.

## 3 Technology

This package provides the following technologies:

**Apache:** the industry's leading web server.

**PostgreSQL:** the world's most advanced open source relational database management system. PostgreSQL provides high performance access to data sets of the sort that your business is likely to use. PostgreSQL also provides the ability to pull data into other third party reporting systems.

**A full X11 environment:** provides functionality similar to Windows Terminal Services.

**The SQL-Ledger accounting package:** Track invoices, income, expense, inventory, and more. SQL-Ledger provides comprehensive accounting capabilities for your business and a smaller set of Enterprise Resource Planning functions to help you manage your business assets effectively.

**Customization:** A comprehensive software development package.

**Operating System:** Your choice of the current Red Hat Fedora Linux or CentOS.

Optional Components include:

**CRM:** The HERMES customer relationship management package. Manage customer contacts, feedback, sales leads, and more in one application.

**Jasper Reports:** reporting package

**pgAccess:** PostgreSQL front-end and reporting package

**TotalRecall:** database front-end and reporting package.

**DBMail:** so you can manage your emails in the database too.

## 4 The Service Solution

The software platform is available free of charge and can be installed exclusively from freely available packages on the internet. However, in order to ensure that your business needs are best met, we suggest that your business work with ours to evaluate your needs and plan capacity and customizations accordingly. Most businesses spend between \$500 and \$1000 on training and customizations with additional services needed as business needs change.

Once the system is deployed, we provide a year of warranty support for any hardware we sell or customizations we make. Additional support is available on an hourly basis, and can be performed remotely.

Other service options include:

**System Administration Subscription:** Let us proactively maintain your computer system for you!

**Data Security Plus:** Unlimited security-related support and secure, online, remote backups periodically made.

**Service Level Agreements:** For when downtime is unacceptable

## 5 Solution Benefits

Our comprehensive solution provides customizable information management capabilities for your small business. With this solution, one can get valuable insight into any question regarding your business, and as business needs change, your solution can change as well without disruption.

The core benefits include:

**Manage** all important information from your business in one place.

**Create** customized reports to pull whatever information you need

**Alter** your solution to adapt to changing needs without disruption to your business.

**Leverage** our expertise to keep your systems running optimally under all circumstances.

## 6 Pricing

The Information Management Server starts at around \$799 (as of April, 2006), allowing an affordable, "plug and play" solution to your information management needs.

Base hardware includes a Celeron or Sempron processor, 1GB RAM, 80GB of redundant hard drive storage, a network card, basic VGA-compatible video card, and normal serial, parallel, and USB ports.

Additional software components are generally free of charge though there may be an additional setup charge associated with the entire package.

Other upgrades include rackmount units, additional storage, higher-end processors, additional RAM, CD burners, and the like.

Also available is a basic support account and manual for SQL-Ledger from the author of the software.

All upgrade prices are variable due to the volatility in various parts of the semiconductor market.  
All prices are subject to change without notice and are only guaranteed to be accurate as of the date of this writing.  
All hardware and customization work is warranted for one year from date of invoice.