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1. What is an ERP ?

1. Definition: Enterprise resource planning (ERP) refers to a type of software that organizations use to manage day-to-day/essential business activities such as accounting, procurement, sales, manufacturing, financial, risk management and supply chain operations. This may include enterprise performance management and reporting, software that helps plan, budget, predict, and report on an organization's financial results.

ERP systems tie together a multitude of business processes and best practices optimizing the flow of data among them. By collecting an organization's shared transactional data from multiple sources, ERP systems eliminate data duplication and provide data integrity in a secure environment.

2. Community driven - Open Source ERP vs Traditional ERP Solutions

Open Source ERP means that you have full access (not restricted) to the full source code of the software, so you , your team or your consultant can modify, extend and integrate the ERP in any way that your business needs. That is good for managers and companies with an autonomous style, teams that want to modify/fix any requirement issues in house and share the knowledge with other members of the community.

A Community oriented ERP such as: Idempiere means that you can take the contributions/fixes of other members but also that your team shares some of your fixes/enhancements for the standard processes that can help other people and do not compromise the "secret" of your business strategy. It is very common to hire other community consultants to help you with specialized topics, training, extensions and customizations that the dynamic of business or human resources require.

Using *traditional (closed/proprietary/subscription) software* is a completely different approach where you are buying licenses or subscriptions and "depending" on your vendors all the time, and you have to pay for any additional feature/service/ users and much more. Sometimes that require expensive licenses, restricted contracts of support or in the best cases, online subscriptions depending on simultaneous users/size of your company and other factors.

2. Is a Community ERP for my company ?

Let's analyze this question with more context/criterias, because we can not generalize.

2.1 Size of your company/formality of your processes

- Small Business/Independent people: Typical small business want something simplified, quick and with no much formality (like a point of sales (pos) , small accounting packages and sometimes manual processes, however some small business want to have integrated processes and their teams are disciplined and well trained in best practices, in those cases and ERP sounds viable.
- Middle size Business: A gray area depending on the geography and size of the teams, but usually they are agile, distributed in different places (branches), they need integrated processes but they have limited budgets. In those cases an ERP solutions sounds good, an a community open source ERP might be good if you fulfill some of the following criterias (it team and management style)
- Large Organizations: They usually have formal processes, distributed operations and complex customization/integrations, that is the right place for the ERP, but open source community options might require validating the following aspects first.

2.2 IT/operations Management style

- Autonomous operation: the company has their own IT team (developers and functional team members) to drive the project and sometimes hire extra consultants; they want to have high levels of innovation and agility to fix topics. Here it is the perfect place for community driven ERP such as: Idempiere.
- Delegation/Outsourcing style: Your IT manager wants to focus the attention in the essential processes and delegate operations, maintenance and risk to third parties as much as possible. We would say that traditional ERP software, subscriptions and other traditional solutions/service contracts would be better for these teams.

2.3 Dynamic of your industry/processes

- Agile changes in process/requirements and business rules required access to modify the ERP solutions frequently, if your team have the technical skills a community open source ERP would be perfect to follow your innovation style

2.4 TCO (Total cost of ownership) : If you are a middle size/large organization, community oriented ERP solutions can save you more than 70% of the TCO in the long term, giving you additional benefits in autonomy, innovation and sustainability of your long term plans.

Do not forget that you could install idempiere/smarterp in all the clients that you want, any cloud and customize it without any limits.

3. What is Idempiere ?

iDempiere is a powerful, open-source ERP/CRM/SCM system supported by a skilful community. The project focuses on high-quality software, a philosophy of openness and its collaborative community that includes subject matter specialists, implementors, developers and end-users.

Idempiere is the third fork/distribution of previous ERP projects called: Compiere (client/server desktop) and Adempiere (web solution), some of them have different licensing models, architecture and innovation levels.

On top of a clear open community approach, and flexible licensing (GNU V3) Idempiere adds a lot of IT innovation, optimized/modular architecture (OSGI, modern frameworks), high levels of quality and active community members with a lot of experience in different industry implementations and consulting services.

iDempiere has earned a strong reputation for its high-quality, architectural design, reliability, robust feature set, extensibility, and the commitment of the open-source community behind the project to consistently develop and improve the software with performant and innovative solutions.

4. Other benefits of Idempiere

- It runs on a small servers
- It scales to hundreds of users.
- It uses commonly available technologies.
- It features an enterprise quality accounting and financial best practices
- It supports multiple tenants in one environment/server instance
- It is commonly used around the world. (financial standards, multi-language, multi-currency)
- It is supported by a large active community.

5. What is SmartERP ?

SmartERP is a distribution of Idempiere (includes Idempiere plus additional functionality depending on geography, Industry (retail, healthcare, agricultural and much more) and customizations), it is also 100% Web and includes all the (ERP) functionalities, that can be configured to run in the cloud (aws, google), containers , on-premise (private data centers), small devices like raspberry PI or Asus tinker board and integrated with the extended operations of a company using modern middleware.



6. Additional References

- [SmartERP/Idempiere ERP First Steps](#)
- [Idempiere Downloads](#)
- [Idempiere extended documentation](#)
- [Idempiere wiki pages in English](#)
- Other ERP distributions for specific industries (To be release in V 10 soon)
 - [SmartRetail \(Pharmacy, Restaurants and retail store management\)](#)
 - [SmartClinic \(Clinic & Pharmacy\)](#)
- Youtube tutorials

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