

International Journal of Computer Science and Mobile Computing



A Monthly Journal of Computer Science and Information Technology

ISSN 2320-088X

IJCSMC, Vol. 3, Issue. 10, October 2014, pg.571 – 583

RESEARCH ARTICLE

ENTERPRISE RESOURCE PLANNING ON CLOUD FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED BUSINESS, s

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ABSTRACT: Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) execution letdowns are one of the most important concerns for every organization/institution bearing in mind ERP but particularly small and medium size businesses that be deficient in the proficiency to put into practice inside devoid of appointing faint/outside conferring with, or those who have slighter resources. Do the benefits of Enterprise Resource Planning prevail over the drawbacks and in which manner that influence SMB, s? We do consider the advantages/benefits of Enterprise Resource Planning for (SMB, s) small or medium businesses immensely prevail over the shortcoming/drawbacks as a corporation (for the first time) possibly will at present have the aptitude to eloquent business process and workflow; set up an arrangement for monetary/financial administration and enhanced operational Practice; and plan key discriminators to targets, particularly will have the utmost brunt on business effectiveness. Enterprise Resource Planning Cloud is the way out for the ventures/enterprises who wish for to have pre-prepared elucidations for achieving the enterprise goals and the diminishing the concern problems of the Enterprise. The aim of this paper is to contemplate the importance of Cloud ERP for Small to Medium Size Business's. [1]

Keywords: Analysis, ERP, CRP, SMB, s

1. INTRODUCTION:

Enterprise Resource Planning software brings customers economic and monetary advantages all through a company's operational management. The economic or financial advantages of Enterprise Resource Planning customers are healthier than that of non-users [2] from last few

decades Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) has been serving corporations to work out their intricate business incorporation problems with software concerns. As any Information Technology manager who has done work on ERP will state under oath, these software are exceptionally intense and devour a hefty sum of computing resources and at the identical time there is no as such assurance that the amount of hardware infrastructure is well enough to protract the necessities. One way out of this hitch is to shift the ERP solution to an ERP on Cloud solution. The Enterprise Resource Planning solution on Cloud can reward the fundamental cloud computing technologies, and the ensuing infrastructure outlay and exploitation can therefore be either abridged or modernized and shared among other software solutions. Characteristically shifting the ERP software on Cloud to allow a Cloud Enterprise Resource Planning ought to be attempted with support from both the ERP software vendor and the cloud vendor. ERP system on Cloud would work as a conventional ERP for the end customer. Nevertheless the fundamental cloud technologies would improve the infrastructure teams to exploit the hardware resources to a certain degree unimagined before as the similar hardware could theoretically be exercised for dissimilar software solutions in the enterprise/organization all through different occasions of the year or during different periods of the day if accurately configured. Novel architectures like private/confidential cloud computing models and even public and hybrid models are well enough to shore up the ERP on the Cloud. Of current past, ERP in the Cloud has shifted afar evidence of perceptions and into definite production models. Novel technologies like the VMWARE, CISCO, EMC, consortium of Vblock lend a hand in setting out ERP software on Cloud. A number of benefits of positioning ERP on the Cloud are the expansion of small and medium sized purveyor/vendors who are in the position to grant the solution or way out for a hefty set of customers that might have conceivably by no means of afforded a conventional ERP solution before/earlier. This is accomplished by mounting/developing an outsized base of templates that can be configured without difficulty, putted into practice and exercised on demand. WFT Cloud recommends preconfigured SAP (System Applications & Products) ERP on the Cloud. The templates/patterns can be configured in hardly 40 minutes and a new/fresh system can be configured/structured for a number of customers in round about 10 minutes. Manifold or numerous businesses or enterprises at present are trying out their assessments, growth, QA and other non production SAP atmospheres by shifting into a confidential cloud. This on the whole is an ERP on the Cloud system and clients are already viewing/observing low costs utility model based and are also well enough to reprocess infrastructure pools for further software in the datacenter. A small number of other clients are presently conducting test by having a DR site on the Enterprise Resource Planning Cloud for their concern conventional ERP putting in place. [3]

2. ERP CLOUD:

Enterprise Resource Planning systems are the software and hardware that support business processes and are accordingly by definition, these are complex systems that span different parts of the organization and often ahead of company borders. At the moment a large part of debates on cloud computing runs in parallel with advances in social software service (Google and Facebook). The up-to-date literature is usually vendor-driven means that it classifies the prospects of Cloud Computing by glimpsing at the present offers and not and the needs of the customer companies. [4]; [5]; [6]; [7]. Cloud computing is able to guarantee the advantage of both the business customer and vendor. This is the merely element/part of the defy and test, nonetheless. Predicted development will in general have at least some brunt on IT operating &

working outlays. Now presume that cloud is not only fashioned for the Enterprise Resource Planning the entire hold up and establishment of Enterprise Resource Planning will be from a cloud [8]. Associations have apparently certain objectives to implement or execute this system to consent to the business organization classify their business process, no enslavement/dependency on predefined Enterprise Resource Planning business stream. To hold up and build up a price efficient and user friendly Cloud based Enterprise Resource Planning system endowing with towering quality and vigorous system dependency. Manifold venture or business enterprise ideas are there to shore up and uphold the system. This system is in the position to offer and put forward consistent and supreme service to the IT management/administration for business corporations [9]. Enterprise Resource Planning Cloud basically recommends to having the applications installed centrally on cloud servers so that it is reachable from any place from an online connection/internet irrespective of platforms utilized or browsers as a local desktop interface. What varies ERP cloud from premises based or traditional ERP is:

- Constantly or Always on application ease of access/ accessibility/convenience.
- Multi-user alliance and access.
- The capability or jam-packed scalability of permitting accumulating any numbers of customers swiftly.
- No Maintenance of servers or to maintain at the clients/users level.
- Running and supervising the entire financial process flow within an organization/institute in terms of deliverables.
- Operational level functionality or capability entrustment validated multi-user access levels.
- Modified or tailored exposure available to chosen or selected clients.

2.1. ERP Cloud Computing Vertex:

Cloud computing is an innovative archetype or standard in which memory, processing, and storage computing resources are not physically or actually present at the customer's site. In its place, a concern service provider possesses and administers these resources, and customers access them through Internet. E.g. Amazon Web Services allows customers to store or accumulate personal data via its Simple Storage Service (S3) and executes computations on stored data utilizing the Elastic Compute Cloud (EC2)[10]. Cloud Computing brings such a change computer storage computing center are set up by specialized network companies such as IBM and Google through one line or wire customer can way in without any difficulty with browser, build "Cloud" as the hub of material storage and application services [11]. According to [12], cloud computing is primarily characterized in three aspect from hardware point of view like, the appearance of unlimited computing resources accessible on demand, the abolition of an up-front assurance by cloud customers and the aptitude to pay for utilization of computing resources on a short-term basis as required. Cloud computing endows with cloud solutions nearly for all major or foremost Enterprise Resource Planning software well-matched for SMB, s. The ERP cloud entails:

- Scalable on demand ERP cloud Infrastructure.
- ERP cloud prop up and technical help desk for 24 hours a day or without stopping.
- Capability & ease of Installation, upgrading and technical troubleshooting or problems way out.

- Capability of taking Full data backups on daily automatic basis in or from multiple locations.

2.2. *Cloud ERP: A Solution for an Enterprise Problem:*

Main problems/issues/concerns that enterprises deal with incase they exercise Premises based ERP in place of Cloud ERP are:

- Speculation or Investment in setting up the confine or Local enterprise level network and other Information Technology resources that cannot be vindicated in short terms.
- Multi-user entrée restricted within the premises and that's why calls for further investment if business are geographically isolated.
- Potential to inflate the client base of the Enterprise planning software hastily without any subsequent IT expenditures.
- Always on application access/entree and sharing ability/aptitude for all teams or groups occupied in real time. [13]

3. **Cloud ERP Importance for SMB, s:**

Why SMB, s (Small to Medium Size Business) ought to deem ERP Cloud?

If you are a small or mid-sized business and thinking about to make a decision or step to implement/execute ERP typically is a most important landmark or signpost. It means you be acquainted with the overall advantages/benefits of ERP and how it is planned to oblige enhanced business effectiveness across the whole & intact institute or organization. Shift your ERP into the cloud and you not only profit from the **(SAAS)** software-as-a-service, model but the incentives of not having to administer your internally financial/monetary accounting solution.

SAAS :(According to [14], the authors concentrated on (SaaS) Software as a service providers (cloud user) and cloud suppliers. They have classified cloud as, it is the blend of data centre software and hardware. They also identify the public cloud as, when a cloud have geared up with the pay-as-you go comportment or approach for public and these services are sold called utility computing. Latest research point out that usage of SaaS has greater than before and the demand is still rising. [15], and according to studies forecasts are that SaaS (Software as a Service) will surpass more conventional IT options as a result of the present economic catastrophe and will lend a hand the economies to convalesce or get well [16]. SaaS (Software as a Service) benefits/advantages list is growing and it will go further than cost-effective software delivery aspects, facilitating organizations or corporations to alter their business processes [17]. This category or forms of cloud technology endows with a solitary application all the way through or through browser to thousands of clients or users exercising a multi-tenant architecture. It means no upfront investment in servers or software licensing on the client side; on the provider side, with just one app to sustain, costs/outlays are low or squat compared to conventional or traditional hosting.)

For SMB, s, ERP cloud can lend a hand an organization or association:

3.1. *System Administration & Utilization simplicity/ease:*

These are two major aspects when assessing and implementing/executing Enterprise Resource Planning. For SMB, s, inadequate Information Technology resources and budget or finance for sustaining that infrastructure hold greater significance. And these two factors/aspects single-handedly craft ERP cloud solutions further reasonable and value or merit thoughtfulness.

3.2. Throughput or Scalability:

This is another facet or factor to mull over when decide on the exact ERP solution. If you are a small and midsize organization that desires to act in response to varying market circumstances, So ERP cloud possibly will be an idyllic or ultimate solution for you to go for. For an enterprise witnessing recurring development spurts or squirts, well enough or in the position to append customers hastily for a squat/small/short window of time and then scale back speaks straightforwardly to how ERP in the Cloud has noteworthy benefit over or as compared to the traditional or on-premise ERP solutions, you forfeit for merely what you utilize in the cloud.

3.3. Protection:

As far as the security or safety is concern, it ought to be at the top of the list when assessing Enterprise Resource Planning. For SMB, s, having a tight protection line of attack is a prerequisite and it verifies to boost the best practices already being leveraged in Enterprise Resource Planning solution. Shift ERP to the cloud and you do take a step/stride forward in further protecting your data, 24/7, in an unflinching and an illicit and restricted data center environment. A traditional or On-premise ERP solution may possibly not endow with this superfluous added layer of protection.

3.4. Cash Flow/Outlay Supervision:

This is also one of the most important aspect sustains at the peak/top of benefits-list for countless organizations/institutions engrossed in ERP. For SMB, s, it may perhaps bear nearly all weight as possessors or vendors comprehend the significance of improved managing cash flow, forecasting for the short and long term, and having an obvious picture of monetary/financial/fiscal across/athwart manifold divisions/sectors and how all of these aspects straightforwardly influence/affect opulence and prospect development. Enterprise Resource Planning cloud call for little to no capital/funds outlay or upfront/blunt of truthful investment; and the most important pro/benefit over traditional on-premise ERP solutions.

4.0. ONLINE ERP PROVIDERS FOR SMB, S:

At the moment nearly all organization are in this global competitive world where the entire business are very much proverbial and common to utilize technology for be in the black or from making money, viewpoint as well as daily exertions or tasks. Business has agreeable and disposed to carry out all the works in esteem or value of saving money, energy and time and also for the strengthening and reinforcing of their possessions and property in an efficient and well-organized way. Enterprise Resource Planning software is very greatly dependent and reliant on Software platform, Intelligence, Database, security and other/additional third party software. Often it is not likely for solitary software development firm/consultant to take care of every dependency and aspect or feature in a similar approach or fashion [18]. In this section we will discuss about the type of ERP providers who provide an ERP solution for SMB, s. So if you are fresh to the exhilarating world/globe of executing your personal business, you may possibly uncover it a test or defy just tackling the daily things. It's understandable; administering a company or business, still if it's just a small number of people, means exhausting substantial time for what a moment or two look like trivial or of a little significance. Say, for example, a person have a store selling gifts and diminutive/small decorative or enhancing stuffs he either resell from brokers or dealers or that make his self from stuffs he buy. This may possibly be just a straightforward one man shop but our discussions are all about tracking products, materials and

two types of suppliers/contractors whereas at the similar time there are your clients and their orders as might be expected, your partners, accounting and so on in this regard. And that's all supercilious/assuming the whole lot is under the same roof – this is not always the case if you have a store or a shop in another city or somewhere else. You may well endeavor to carry on tracking of everything utilizing paper and pen or a spreadsheet/worksheet or a combination of the two but eventually you will come across that that system does not scale. You have to be specialized about it and dig up yourself an accurate or suitable solution or way out. Fortunately, this is no longer tough to neither hit upon nor comprehend how it exerts and neither does it outlay an arm and a leg to profit or promote from. It's called "Enterprise Resource Planning" and is by now a full-grown perception as it has departed all the way through a number of enhancements from the day its initiation decades ago. The contemporary inclination or development in this regard is all about discovering this solution in the shape of SAAS (software As a Service), i.e. online, persistently updated with new/novel attributes and for a very diminutive cost. Let's have a glimpse on few of the most important players in the industry intended predominantly at SMB, s.

4.1. ERPNext: [19]

ERPNext fastidious and trouble-free ERP service designed for SMB,s with an affluent number of modules. They recommend solutions for inventory management, accounting, CRM, POS & purchases but also spanned out to other sectors like project and HRM (human resources management). Most interestingly, their technology is open sourced and put forwards all their sophisticated packages in a simple pricing scheme for just 7 USD per month.

Designed for SMB, s and utilized in over thirty countries.

Manufacturing:

Perfect for discrete/detached manufacturing (Make to Order, Engineer to Order). Supervise material planning, sales and accounting, shipping, customer support and much more.

Retail:

We can track Multi-store retail business inventory, billing, sales, warranties, returns and much more across all their concern stores.

Distribution:

We can keep track or record of inventory, serial numbers, sales, and batches across different warehouses & locations. Administer billing, Purchasing & Expenditures.

Services:

Service providers (software companies) & Consultancies can handle accounting, billing, projects, support online.

4.2. Megaventory:

Megaventory center of attention is inventory management and managing purchases and sales and is best for the fresh entrepreneur/industrialist who desires to balance an affluent number of characteristics with a squat time to become skilled at the platform just because of its user-friendly interface. Other characteristics comprise tracking materials, supervising documents and contacts and granting business intelligence to the entrepreneur. And the Prices begin from 29 US Dollars for 5 customers with 5 locations.

4.3. MyERP:

MyERP is a California set up which is recommending its minimalistic ERP for small companies with an improvement and novelty right at its core. They are betting on **(NLP)** Natural Language Processing to craft the service additional user friendly whilst first and foremost offering inventory and document management, CRM, accounting, as well as business intelligence-related services. Practice/Usage is free of charge for up to two users and 29 USD per month after crossing that limit.

4.4. BrightPearl.com:

This is another alternative with an extensiveness of hand-outs or contributions together with CRM, Accounting, sales & purchases and project management, as a minimum. POS & Inventory management aptitudes are charged individually but starting from 59 US Dollars\$ per user/client per month looks like an option worth bearing in mind given its support for B2B (Business to Business) and services clients/customers something that is comparatively meager in its competitors. Five of the top quality ERP providers that are intended particularly for the SMB, s. All these are based on the internet which means less issues/problems for your business to take care of (updates, no maintenance, security matters to concern you, backup) permitting you and your employees to spotlight your core business tests.

4.5. Erply:

This is a fully-featured jam packed service, with a brawny suit in contributing “**Point of Sale**” (**PoS**) functionality/operated either via the Tablet or the Desktop you come about to exercise nevertheless in your business. Other authoritative rudiments it has comprise managing price quotes and invoices, inventory and somewhat a bit of **(CRM)** Customer Resources Management, i.e. handling your connections with your clients, collaborators & suppliers. And the Packages start from \$US Dollars 70 for 2 users/customers and 50K product codes. [20]

5.0. CLOUD ERP ADVANTAGE:

As far as the benefits are concern so a gigantic gain of today’s cloud technology is that it can facilitate an organization/business to test drive ERP software through applications such as Open ERP or Openbravo. We strongly advise trying out ERP via this manner. A company/organization that has never had an Enterprise Resource Planning system before will acquire the experience or sense of how complex or intricate the data matrix set up can be in an integrated/incorporated system before spending or investing in any particular or specific software solution. Supple Enterprise Resource Planning systems have numerous user/clients distinct characteristics and variables and these can be tough to classify unless or except you are well enough to envision the consequential output. What “activities?” What “classes?” What “types?” What is the preminent way to set up the organizational hierarchy? Hosted cloud technology companies recommend free trial almost for a month or even free software, so you have the aptitude to plug in the parameters, all u has to do is just enter some data and see how it all comes out/yields. Cloud technology may possibly be the eventual solution for SMB, s Enterprise Resource Planning - An ERP software solution with no hardware or software investment and the suppleness to select or call for an open source system to suit the business category. [21]

6.0. On-Premise ERP Vs CLOUD-ERP:

The indispensable distinction between on-premise ERP and cloud ERP is obvious, that On-premise ERP solutions are locally installed on company's or business hardware and servers and subsequently supervised by the concern IT staff whereas cloud ERP also called SaaS (Software-as-a-Service) is granted as a service. Having this kind of deployment or exploitation, a company's ERP software and its allied data are administered centrally in the Internet by means of "cloud" by the ERP vendor and customers can accessed it by utilizing a web browser. What may perhaps not be so clear or patent is that the kind of ERP deployment/exploitation model you prefer can have a noteworthy brunt across the business. At this point we have some key aspects that you require to deem when ponder or think whether to bring into play on-premise or cloud-based ERP software.

1. Ownership or Possession Costs:

On-premise ERP systems typically oblige huge upfront or in advance and ongoing investments/money to procure and deal with the software and the associated hardware, servers, and conveniences required to run it. In case your company doesn't have a bulky or skilled IT staff, you may possibly also have to put in extra time and capital in further staff and educate them. Even more highly, on-premise systems entail that your IT squad pay out a considerable amount of their time and finances ensuring your system is up-and-running when you want it, together with maintenance or upholding of hardware, server rooms etc. When it's the instance for your ERP system to be advance and upgraded, IT be obliged to then reorganize the system crosswise the different customer computers and reimplement different customizations and integrations or incorporations that your business installed on your prior software.

For cloud-based ERP, early expenses are on average much lesser because you merely put into practice the software to your necessities and then entrée it all the way through your computer's internet link. The cloud ERP supplier hosts and keeps up the entire IT infrastructure for you, makes sure the system is always in succession or running, that the data is safe and sound, and that product improvement are rolled out painlessly to your solution devoid of infringement your beforehand implemented/executed customizations. Eventually, this all permit your IT possessions to spotlight on innovating and serving to breed the business more efficiently, relatively than spending a top-heavy amount of their time on upholding and running your on-premise systems. Furthermore Cloud ERP also proffers a knowable, pay-as-you-go subscription model that is capable of making cash flow management and planning much easier.

Over time, those IT savings add up. When putting side by side the overall outlay of ownership of on-premise ERP solutions comparative to cloud systems, one industry forecaster study brought into being that cloud-based ERP can cost 50% less than on-site ERP for a 100-employee company over a four-year period.[22]

2. System Upgrades and Development:

On-premise ERP software can be tailored/modified, but those customizations or modifications are fixed to your existing software exploitation or deployment and are not trouble-free to re-implement or execute with prospect versions. As your ERP (Enterprise Resource Planning) provider makes public latest product updates and enrichments, your earlier implemented/executed customizations will be washed out when you upgrade and your IT lineup will have to begin tailoring from scratch yet again. That's the major cause several companies purely stay away from upgrading their on-site or on-premise ERP software and just stay for

running their business on out-of-date technology. In fact, two-thirds of mid-size businesses are running old-fashioned versions of their ERP software. [23]

In contrast, **Cloud ERP** solutions akin to NetSuite are incessantly upgraded/enhanced by the supplier so you can be definite you're constantly utilizing the most up-to-date, most sophisticated version of your ERP software. Because of the cloud platform today's foremost cloud applications are built upon, your beforehand implemented/executed customizations or modifications and integrations/incorporations routinely carry onward when the solution is updated/upgraded without extra outlay.

3. Enhanced System Performance and ease of access:

Cloud Enterprise Resource Planning normally brings greater performance as compared to on-premise ERP. Cloud ERP is planned from the ground up for highest network performance, which can indicate enhanced application ease of use than conventional ERP systems. Cloud-based ERP also proposes optimized performance that can become accustomed to your requirements. If there is a thorn/spike in your business, cloud ERP by design fiddle with and animatedly provisions extra resources to grip the surge or gush. For example, NetSuite entrusts to 99.5% availability for its users, has almost 99.98% middling uptime performance over the past 12 months, and crafts uptime performance information on hand to all users at all times at <http://status.netsuite.com>. A restricted/locally IT department is improbable to be able to accomplish these results, and might not yet be capable to habitually account their system uptime results to administration. It's also imperative to note down that a cloud-based ERP solution endows with real-time data that can be way in via the Internet wherever at any time. That means that staff at your corporation can glimpse exact information on smartphones, tablet devices, and laptops at the same time as they take a trip or telecommute all devoid of additional setup fees or ongoing overheads. Cloud-based ERP can not only endow with healthier performance and superior convenience or ease of access, but enhanced protection as well. Because it's their core proficiency, Cloud ERP providers akin to NetSuite formulate protecting their systems a top main concern by providing strapping, industry standard data security certifications such as agreement with PCI DSS (Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard) and SAS 70 (Statement of Auditing Standards No.70) standards. Furthermore, NetSuite trails other painstaking security, disaster recovery, and back-up procedures that would be cost-prohibitive with on-site ERP solutions.

4. Deployment or Exploitation Swiftness:

All Enterprise Resource Planning deployment seizes time and call for vigilant planning, but cloud ERP puts forward obvious benefits when you deem pace of deployment. In view of the fact that cloud ERP obliges no extra hardware, your business doesn't have to devastate time acquiring or procuring and installing IT infrastructure. With cloud ERP, you can effortlessly move it out crosswise manifold regions, divisions, and subsidiaries evading the outlays allied with those rollouts. If you decided upon a cloud-based ERP system, these dissimilarities can append up to a momentous time savings: Cloud Enterprise Resource Planning deployments generally acquire 3 to 6 months weigh against to the 12 months that it on average takes to implement/execute an on-premise ERP. Cloud-based ERP systems are also easier to balance, giving you the suppleness to put in more users as your business rises. On-site ERP solutions don't put forward the equivalent sovereignty—to grant more employees' access to an on-site system; it's often needed to stipulate extra hardware.

CONCLUSION:

Despite the fact that conventional or long established on-premise ERP solutions are at a standstill a superior choice for numerous businesses/enterprises, the swing to the cloud has scores of compensations or benefits particularly for SMB, s or organizations. The business case for this is Substantiated or proofed by the reality that several smaller companies/businesses are toting up cloud-based solutions to their application portfolio. Even with restricted resources and capital/funds, cloud-based applications are capable of granting Deep-seated or basics business services to young or infantile companies/enterprises at a small part of the outlay.

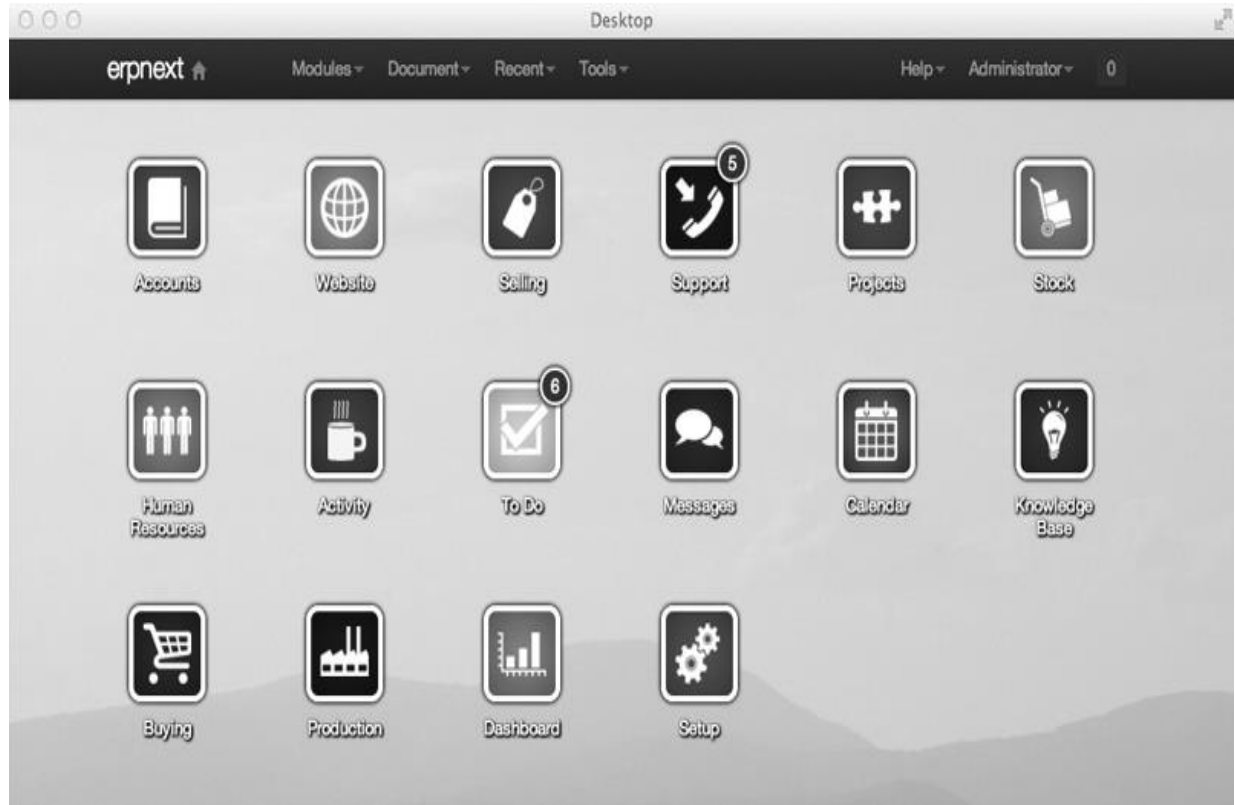


Figure 1: ERPNext Application Interface [19] (example of 4.1 ERP Next)

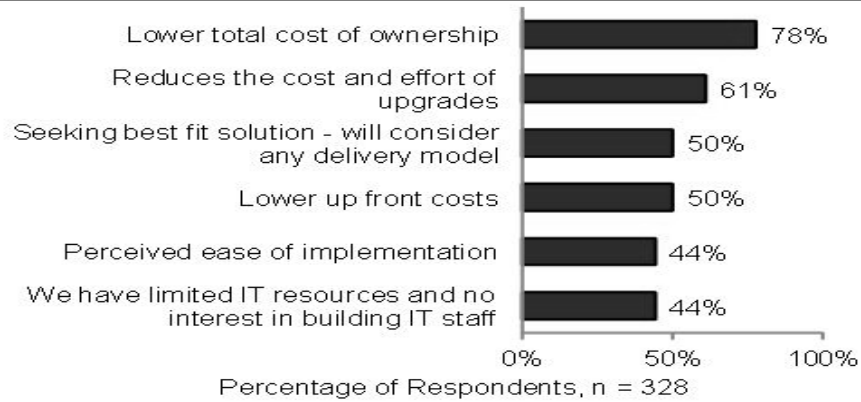
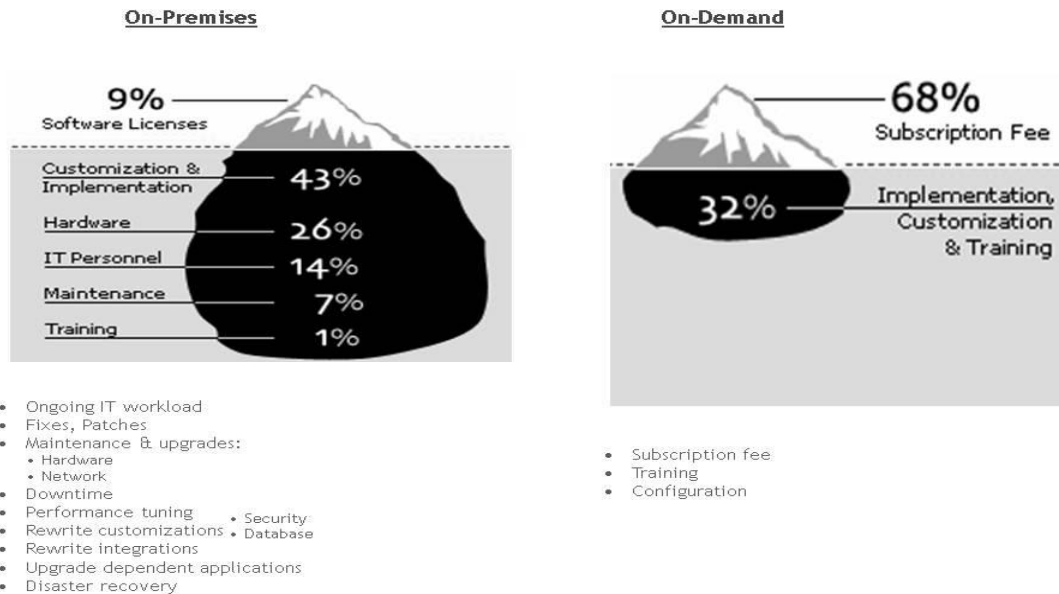


Figure 2: Cost Comparison (example of (6.0) 1. Ownership or Possession Costs)

ERP Deployment Models

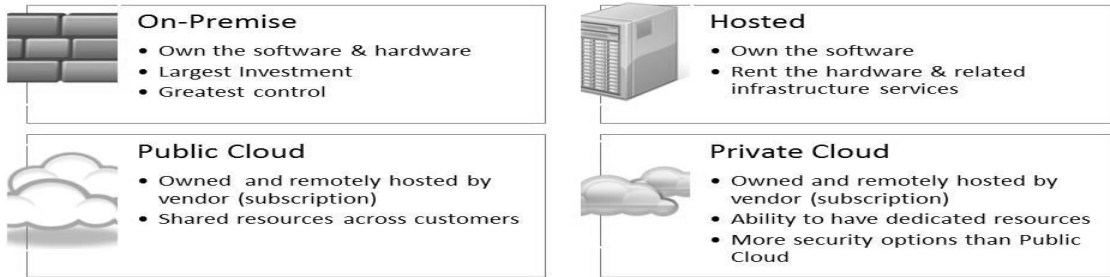


Figure 3: ERP Deployment Models (example of (6.0) 4. Deployment or Exploitation Swiftness)

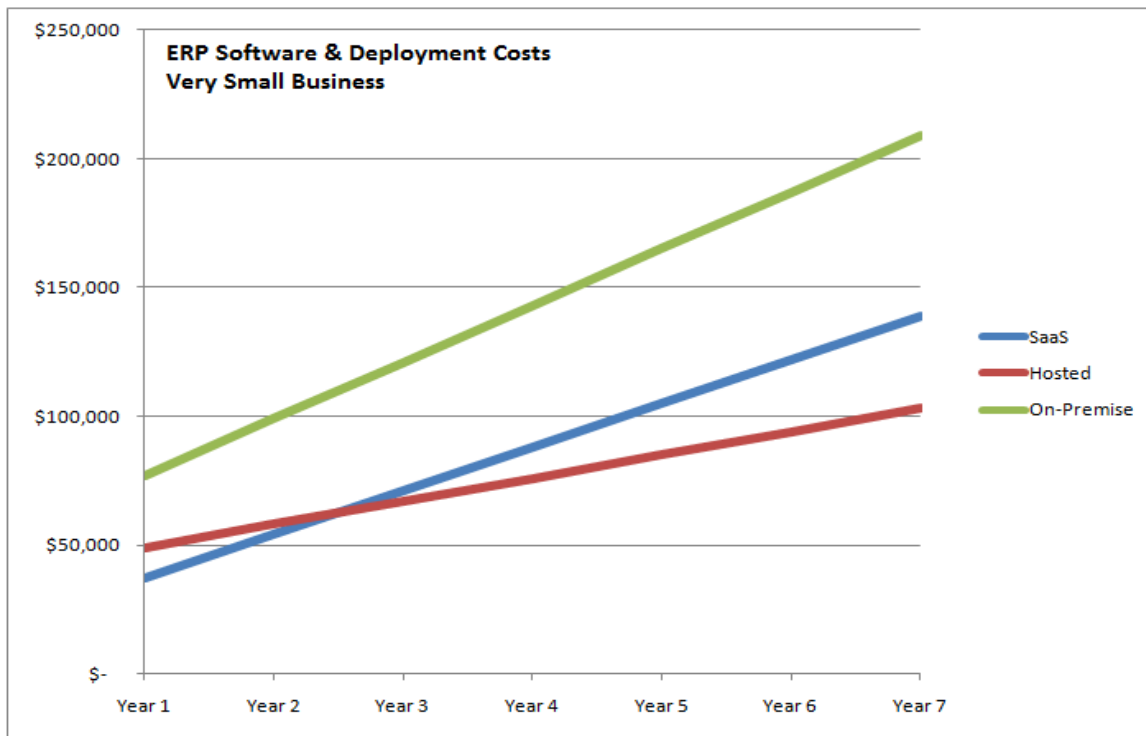


Figure 3: ERP Deployment Models Graph (example of (6.0) 4. Deployment or Exploitation Swiftness)

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