



A Study on Open ERP for Start-Up SMEs

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ABSTRACT	Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) is a software package, where it integrates the functional departments of an organization. In this article, an ERP package called Odoo (formally Open ERP) is a web based application. It supports the business processes of an organization. Odoo meets all the requirements of business processes irrespective of their industry. Start-up companies and small and medium sized companies may use this ERP package for their systematic way. This article focuses about ERP packages, Technical benefits of Odoo and Functional Benefits of Odoo for the business scenario.
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KEYWORDS	Open ERP, Open Source Software, ERP Systems, SME, Odoo
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Introduction

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) is a software package, where it integrates the functional departments of an organization. Functional departments of an organization like Human Resource, Finance, Materials, Sales and Distribution, Logistics, Manufacturing, Operations, etc. There are two types of ERP Systems for enterprises. One is to install in the server or a enterprise system and implement. This type is called Stand Alone ERP System. The Second one is a web based ERP System. In this type, no need to install the ERP Software in a computer. Instead of installing, it accessing through IP address of a server. But, internet connection is required. Mainly, ERP Systems are used in the organizations to reduce the cost involving in goods and services. The ERP name itself says that, planning the resources for an enterprise.

Open Source Software

Open Source Software is freely available software with its source code. Anyone can edit, modify and redistribute to anyone for any purpose with free license. It does not have a license of ownership. Most of the open source softwares are free licensed one and some of the softwares are in-app purchased method if the organization or an individual willing to use and get the license for commercial purpose.

Open Source ERP

Open Source Software has now moved higher value for small business organizations who wanted to do the business systematically. For those kind of firms doesn't have plenty of amounts to invest and implement for an ERP to reduce their cost cutting. Open Source ERP is a boon for them. It is a free licensed ERP software package available in both Stand Alone Software and Web Based Software. Organizations can download from the particular Open Source ERP as module wise or full version for Stand Alone ERP. For Web Based ERP, they can access particular Open Source ERP's website or IP Address.

Start-Up Firms

Following are examples of Open Source ERP available in the market:

- 1. Open ERP
- 2. Open Bravo
- 3. Compiere ERP

- 4. ERP5
- 5. webERP
- 6. Dolibarr ERP
- 7. Sugar CRM

The above Open Source ERPs are free licensed web based softwares available in the internet. They also used Open Source Languages like Javascript, Php, Frappe, etc to develop the ERP for End-Users. Most of the modules of these softwares are suitable for start-up company's functional departments like HR, Finance, Sales, Materials, etc. The company can use it, as it is. If the company needs any of the changes in that particular ERP, they can go for Customization. For any Customization required by any End-User (Company or Individual) they have to pay for the changes based on their requirement.

Open ERP (Odoo)

Open ERP is one of the popular open source ERP in the market for small scale enterprises. Open ERP changed it's name as Odoo. More than 2 million users are used Odoo Open Source ERP worldwide. It has organized 6 groups of apps officially. The lists are,

- Front-End Apps: Website Builder, Blog, E-commerce
- Sales Management Apps: CRM, Point of Sales, Quotation Builder
- Business Operations Apps: Project Management, Inventory, Manufacturing, Accounting and Purchase
- Marketing Apps: Mass Mailing, Lead Automation, Events, Survey, Forum, Live Chat
- Human Resources Apps: Employee Directory, Enterprise Social Network, Leaves Management, Timesheet, Fleet Management
- Productivity Apps: Business Intelligence, Instant Messaging, Notes

Odoo is developed by the company Odoo S A and written in the Python language with AGPL License (Affero General Public License).

Technical Benefits of Odoo

- Open ERP (Odoo) is free for five user license for any organizations or individual

- The firm or individual can access all the modules without paying any fee to the Odoo company
- Accessing the ERP anywhere in the world
- Responsive Web Based ERP
- It supports all the devices to access (i.e Desktop, Laptop, Tablet, Smartphone, etc)
- It also supports irrespective of operating systems
- Browser Compatibility (i.e Internet Explorer, Chrome, Firefox, Safari, Ubuntu, Netscape, etc)

Functional Benefits of Odoo

The company can access their functional departments through Odoo Open Source ERP apps. Supported Functional apps in Odoo as follows:

- Website Builder,
- Blog
- E-commerce
- CRM
- Point of Sales
- Quotation Builder
- Project Management
- Inventory
- Manufacturing
- Accounting and Purchase
- Mass Mailing
- Lead Automation
- Events
- Survey
- Forum
- Live Chat
- Employee Directory
- Enterprise Social Network
- Leaves Management
- Timesheet
- Fleet Management
- Business Intelligence
- Instant Messaging
- Notes

Conclusion

The study about the Odoo Open Source ERP is a boon for Start-Up companies and Small and Medium Enterprises those who really doing the business systematically. It supports all the functional and technical aspects of business processes. The company can reduce the cost involving unwanted flows. Not only Odoo ERP, all the ERPs are pro-active and giving the maximum output by using minimum resources in terms of business.

REFERENCES

1. www.odoo.com | 2. www.wikipedia.com/erp |