



Lean e-kanban Functionality Does not Require Enterprise Resource Planning

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Enterprise Resource Planning not Required for Lean e-kanban Functionality

PR9.NET August 24, 2005 - Currently Datacraft Solutions (www.datacraftsolutions.com) is the only true ASP provider in the e-kanban market space. Some of the other competitors provide a hosted solution as an additional option versus typical software purchase. Datacraft Solutions is unique in that they provide one system which incorporates all the best practices from their total community of clients.

According to Matthew Marotta, founder of Datacraft Solutions, "We do not charge for upgrades to the system as we learn about new best practices that clients ask us to incorporate. Before Datacraft incorporates the request, it is reviewed by a lean advisory board to validate the value of the best practices and the value added impact upon our partner community. Once it is passed, they develop, test, and implement."

The hosted solution provides the customer with their own set of servers which are maintained offsite by an outsourced set of administrators. All of the administration fees, equipment, support teams and software updates are all included in the monthly service fee which is less than the cost of hiring an internal system administrator.

The value of an ASP is that manufacturers can buy "by the drink", low risk, and see a rapid ROI. Only internet access is required.

The non-ASP option leaves manufacturers investing a large sum into the communication network, IT personnel, IT training, application servers, consulting for system modification, along with all the hidden costs that come with it. The only disadvantage of using an ASP is the client never owns the system (application), only their own data. This concern tends to be the issue of IT since they want to control all phases of the e-kanban operation. The cost of the control is wasteful and completely antithetical to a Lean Initiative.

While some ERP systems QAD, Factory Logic, and Supply Works have some e-kanban functionality is not their core focus, so manufacturers are purchasing the ERP system at a significant price tag including all the price increases (and upgrade charges). From the perspective of Lean functionality and immediate ROI the cost cannot be justified, unless there is a plan for a manufacturer to replace the ERP system.

Another Kanban system which is not an ASP is Pelion Systems. Companies like Pacific Scientific determined it was very confusing to use, very expensive, and replaced Pelion with Datacraft Solutions e-kanban.

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