

Final Project

Information Technology Plan for Computerization of Inventory at Flat 4 Brewery

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I. Introduction

Bananaware, Inc. strives to meet our clients needs by promoting the use of nonproprietary software under the GPL, (general public license) allowing them to maximize the effectiveness of their financial resources. In addition, we provide information systems tailored to each client to help them reach their full growing potential. We specialize in facilitating the work process providing a fast means of getting information to the people who need it.

II. Background

Conducting business requires insight in the internal - and external environment. Information workers need accurate and up to date information to make informed decisions. The ability to manage information has become a critical factor for corporate success in any business. It is the main competitive differentiator in information or knowledge intensive industries. Since information is used in every aspect of business and generated in every process, a centralized managing function is needed to structure, combine and distribute it effectively and efficiently.

Flat 4 Brewery currently relies heavily on clerical staff to input data and track the day to day business operations. The process of collecting and inputting data at Flat 4 Brewery presently consists of a business calling with an order via the telephone line, which is processed by a representative, and then is documented by clerical staff. The information flow requires bulky file folders, and large amounts of printed documentation along with a clerical staff bogged down with unnecessary steps for recording and tracking orders and inventory.

This is an inefficient use of a company's resources. There are a few basic technologies that would provide a more efficient way of running Flat 4 Brewery's in a . Bananaware, Inc. would create an infrastructure inside Flat 4 Brewery for applications of technology. This along with hiring a network administrator to work side by side with the staff at Flat 4 brewery would prevent human error and increase quality control.

II. Description of Plan

Flat 4 Brewery wants to digitize their inventory tracking system. We are proposing that Flat 4 Brewery incorporate some new technologies within its infrastructure. We begin by addressing the need of four computers including a database server. The Server will be setup in a physically secure location and store all the data. The best solution to this would be to use a remote data center. They can provide a ninety-nine percent up time with redundant backups at a lower cost. Second, there will be a computer for the manager to handle bookkeeping including payroll, inventory, and employee information, third, two computer terminals on the brewery floor for the purpose of helping employees track inventory and maintain records. An external one terabyte harddrive will be kept in a secure safety box to maintain backups of all information in case of fire or other disaster. We would suggest incorporating three essential software applications . The first application we would want to incorporate would be a Linux Operating System. We chose Linux because it is an open source operating system that is of no cost to Flat 4 Brewery. The next application would be to run a MySQL database to store information. Warehouse Manager will be used on all other machines to store and retrieve data from the database.

III. Technical Pro's and Con's

However, the disadvantages to of using the paper method are: a lack of security, no backup system, and the time consuming nature of data input and retrieval. Digitizing the system will include the acquisition of new hardware including, but not limited to, a database server, networking devise, and two or more computer terminals for users to access information from the server. These upgrades will provide a more accurate method of maintaining inventory data. These aspects can improve quality control and alert employees to

Database:

The database will be constructed by Bananaware with the help of Flat 4 management and will encompass all information the company stores by paper means now. Programmers will also design queries for forms the business currently uses and look for any improvements to them that can be made.

