

Insider Weekly: Meta study finds OS/400 has best ERP ROI
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iSeries shops running an ERP implementation on any other platform other than OS/400 aren't getting the best bang for their buck, according to a Meta Group study.

"Our intent was to understand the total cost of ownership of various platforms for ERP implementation and it was a somewhat surprising result," says Christopher Hanna, director, Meta Group Consulting, Westborough, MA.

The TCO to implement and run ERP applications is significantly lower on OS/400 than on other operating system platforms, reports Meta.

The report is titled, *The Impact of OS/Platform Selection on the Cost of ERP Implementation, Use, and Management*. It analyzes data gathered from 195 companies running ERP applications on Windows NT, Windows 2000, AIX, HP-UX, Solaris and OS/400.

According to the report, and based on the number of concurrent ERP users, OS/400 has the lowest TCO. For an average three-year TCO comparison, OS/400 is at least seven-times less than Solaris, five-times less than HP-UX, three-times less than AIX, two-times less than Windows 2000, and 20% less than Windows NT.

"The information we got back tends to conclude that OS/400 fares very well. While most people have mixed environments, we examined this from a pure-environment point of view," says Hanna.

Meta looked at expenses related to hardware and its maintenance, OS license and warranty costs, the ERP software and maintenance costs, and database costs. Although the iSeries is clearly a pricier platform than Windows upon initial purchase, shops need to look at the total cost of running an application environment.

"It's a question of infrastructure. The hardware cost may be small compared to the amount of money you will need to sink into training. You can have low cost of ownership, but if you also have a two-minute response time, you aren't going to stay in business," says Hanna.