

Product offering

What we offer

The IS Tools platform includes a set of proven building blocks that allow a business person to assemble enterprise grade IT applications by pointing and clicking in a web browser. The lead-time from idea to productive application is often less than one week — and by this time the application is automatically deployed, ready to cater for thousands of users and, if desired, globally accessible.

The building blocks that define the platform are of a sufficiently high level for anyone to understand, use and integrate; whilst on the other hand, sufficiently fine grained and configurable to cover the requirements of almost any business IT application. For example, the following high-level tools are available.

- Data model designer
- Form designer
- Report designer
- Access rights framework
- Workflow builder
- Data importer

The comprehensive set of robust, well integrated and carefully matched building blocks not only cut the lead-time for application development and evolution, but also the corresponding costs.

IS Tools is delivered either as a service on the Internet (“Platform-as-a-Service” — PaaS), or as a traditional software package for installation on-premises, e.g. in a corporate data center. Each alternative has its own merits, as illustrated in the table below.

Platform-as-a-Service delivery	On-premises delivery
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subscription pricing — pay per user and month only • All you need is a web browser • Standardized, cost efficient support included • O&M service for the full technology stack (HW, OS, application software) is included in the subscription price 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full control of installation and operation • “Within the firewalls”-class security • No dependence on external parties • Customized SLA’s

Proven

The IS Tools platform is in extensive and successful use with Fortune 500 companies running prime and core mission-critical applications for multi-billion dollar business processes.

Benefits for the application developer

- A complete set of “out-of-the-box” application building blocks ensures extreme productivity
- The full application life-cycle — from idea to decommissioning — is managed from the web browser
- Arbitrary application data model and web form user interface
- Comprehensive engine for business logic and workflow
- Flexible report generator
- Fine-grained data access controls
- Supports multilingual applications

Benefits for the business

- An IT system capable of supporting rapid business innovation — new applications can be made available quickly to verify and support new ideas.
- Applications are tailor made to match the business process and not the other way around.
- Requirement owners can actively participate in iterative application development and observe the results instantly.
- Employ an IT solution underpinning the business momentum and competitive advantage.

Benefits for the end user

- A standard web user interface familiar to most users.
- No client installation required.
- Accessible from anywhere.
- Comprehensive reporting, search and filtering tools for all data.

Benefits for the IT department

- A single, scalable platform that can be used for multiple applications (multi-tenant) with standardization and consolidation capabilities.
- Low application life cycle costs.
- Supports a rapid response to new business requirements.
- Freedom to choose delivery either “as a service” or as a local installation, at any stage of the application life cycle.

What one can do with it

The IS Tools platform engine can be uniquely adapted to fit various types of business processes in almost any industry. The essence of the platform is its flexibility that enables customers to create fully customized applications that truly address the actual business needs.

Business processes and workflows are replicated on a dynamic database model, complemented with a logic engine and full-scale access control capabilities. All adaptations to the database model are made directly in the web browser within the point-and-click framework.

Suitable usage areas

- Standard “off the shelf” IT systems are often predefined and thereby inflexible when it comes to addressing company specific and unique business processes. The IS Tools platform is extremely suitable in these situations and can easily adapt to fit gaps evident in a corporate IT environment.
- Collaboration applications that need to be reached from different geographical locations can fully utilize the benefits that an Internet-based system brings. Users from different locations can log in to the same system and share information in real time, without delays or risk of data inconsistency.
- Outgrown and complex Excel solutions can effectively be converted into a manageable IS Tools based application, resulting in clear benefits such as formalized and controlled user access, centralized data access/storage and security.
- Create a portfolio of unique industry specific applications and establish a SaaS business on the IS Tools platform.

Please refer to our customer success stories for more specific usage areas of our product.

Technical specification – high level

From a users perspective, IS Tools is a web application based on HTML and Javascript — fully compatible with standard web browsers.

The IS Tools server software is based on industry standard Java technologies and uses a relational database for persistent storage.

IS Tools is offered either “as a service” or for on-premises installation.

In the “as a service” case, all equipment and software required to run the IS Tools server is managed and provided as a part of the offer. Included are also operations, maintenance and platform support services.

In the on-premises case, the IS Tools platform software can be installed on most modern hardware, operating systems, virtualization solutions, application servers and relational database systems.

What is the innovation — what is the value

IS Tools innovative approach to IT delivery significantly cuts or eliminates up-front costs, dramatically reduces the time-to-market and facilitates efficient scalability.

Compared to traditional IT, which implies high up-front costs, long start-up times and costly maintenance and support commitments, IS Tools introduces numerous valuable benefits to customers (see table below).

Innovation	Customer Value
Subscription based price model	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No up-front investment • Low financial commitment • Fast and easy to try out a new idea
Efficient scalability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay only for what you use • No risk of growing out of your IT system
Web-based environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitates a global distributed IT solutions • Dynamic adaptation in “real-time” while users are online • Globally distributed system administrators can develop within the same environment simultaneously • No need for client software installations or upgrades • Available everywhere at any time
NO CODE — Visual Point-and-click & Drag-and-drop framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Almost anyone can create an application in a couple of hours
Iterative application development process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less up-front specifications required • Reduced time to market • Initial design can easily be modified at any time
Changed focus for the IT department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less time required for “keeping the lights on”, e.g. O&M. • More resources and time for developing the IT landscape to support the business • Facilitates rapid response to new or changed requirements

Benefits – ROI – high level

Since the building blocks in the IS Tools platform are generic, the benefits of an application built on the platform are best demonstrated in a scenario form. The following is a project-centered example of a business case that bears resemblance to a typical IS Tools-based application, even though certain aspects are simplified.

A business case

A turnkey provider is selected for the execution of a one year 10M\$ fixed-price service project. The turnkey provider does not have all the resources required for the project “in-house”, and hence plan to use a large number of subcontractors with different skill sets to accomplish the project objectives.

While the overall project has a fixed price, all billing from the contractors toward the turnkey provider will be based on the number of hours spent, and actual expenses. All in all, it is estimated that this type of time and material billing will sum up to approximately 80% of the total project costs.

When taking into account the large number of involved contactors, the significant cost share these are carrying, and the tough project schedule, it becomes obvious for the project manager that traditional manual task distribution and billing via monthly time sheets would be unacceptable from the perspectives of project control and risk-taking.

Requirements

To secure control of the situation, the project manager would like to establish an IT system according to the following high-level requirements:

- Support creation and distribution of work tasks in the system including
 - A bidding process on relevant tasks
 - Recording and work process support of incoming bids
 - Support relevant and strict set-up for access to the bidding process and related information
 - Subcontractor selection and award process support
 - Task assignment process and follow-up support
- The winning subcontractor should confirm when the task is completed, and register time and expenses spent completing the task

- The system should support reporting on all data and provide running costs per phase, subcontractor, etc.
- System support for notifications and warnings with an extension for quality follow-up
- Allow use of the system outside the corporate firewall
- Support for “in the field” access and use of the application
- Support export of data.

Since the project will start in one month, and thereafter run for 12 months, a quick solution is essential! During the evaluation of alternatives, the following comparison was made between an IS Tools-based application in the cloud and custom-developed software on an open source stack and hosted in the corporate datacenter.

Other benefits

Beyond the financial business case, the IS Tools solution was found to have the following benefits:

- Significantly shorter lead time to productive system
 - No extra hardware needed to be purchased and installed
 - No firewall/network security exceptions was required to allow external access
 - Fewer consultants were required, and during a shorter period of time
- Little or no internal application management was required
 - Backups included
 - Server operations included
 - Maintenance included
- Less risk
 - The team could observe progress at any time during the development, in a hands-on fashion
 - Less strict and comprehensive specifications were required for the overall solution
 - Having the solution ready in time for the start of the project

The condensed tables on the next page summarize the quantitative business case analysis.

Cloud Computing Platform for Enterprise Applications

Shortens time-to-productive system

Summary of business case analysis

Cost savings using an effective IT application during the project

Savings due to effective bidding process: $2\% \times 8M\$ = 160k\$$

Savings due to effective control of timesheets: $2\% \times 8M\$ = 160k\$$

Savings due to optimized administration and workflows: $1\% \times 10M\$ = 100k\$$

IS Tools PaaS based application

Custom development

Initial development costs

Application designer: $80h \times 70\$ = 5600\$$

Software developer: $480h \times 70\$ = 33600\$$

Requirement analyst: $40h \times 70\$ = 2800\$$

IT operation cost during the project

PaaS subscription costs
 $12 \text{ months} \times 50 \text{ users} \times 25\$ = 15000\$$

N/A

Server HW cost
Included in subscription fee

Server HW cost
 $100\$ \times 12 \text{ months} = 1200\$$

Server administration (upgrades, backups, etc)
Included in subscription fee

Server administration (upgrades, backups, etc)
 $12 \text{ months} \times 0.1\text{FTE} = 5000\$$

User support (application)
 $12 \text{ months} \times 0.1\text{FTE} = 5000\$$

User support (application)
 $12 \text{ months} \times 0.1\text{FTE} = 5000\$$

Maintenance and application improvement

Application designer
 $10h \times 70\$ \times 12 \text{ months} = 8400\$$

System developer
 $40h \times 70\$ \times 12 \text{ months} = 33600\$$

Total IT costs

36800\$

81200\$

Total cost-to-effectiveness ratio

36800 \$ IT cost versus 420000\$ in increased effectiveness

81200\$ IT cost versus 420000\$ in increased effectiveness

The Product

IS Tools is the ultimate Java based Cloud Computing Platform as a Service (PaaS) engine and software tool for corporate and enterprise use.

Capability highlights:

- PaaS engine for delivering on-demand applications
- Provides a ready and easy to use point and click framework for modeling and configuring a complete IS application with:
 - set-up of structures, rules and logical aspects
 - management of complex access rights for internal and external users
- Dynamic adaptation in real-time while users are online
- Web access and browser based
- Scalable to accommodate for large operations and concurrent usage
- Multilingual support
- Proven
 - supports a wide range of business critical processes 24/7/365
 - over 40000 corporate users in more than 40 countries

The Company

IS Tools AB provides the foremost adaptive information system tool and Cloud Computing Platform as a Service engine mirroring and supporting your business processes.

We deliver:

- a cost effective, proven, powerful and flexible PaaS product solution with associated professional services
- an information system and solution aligned with your business processes and not the other way around

The provider of the adaptive IS solution for

- sustainable competitive advantage
- operational excellence