SAAS BASED LMS -A BOON TO LIBRARIES

P.C.SHAH Pcshah05@yahoo.com SUYASH K. 2suyash@in.com

Technological Developments have influenced virtually every facet of library operations and services

PROBLEMS OF COMPUTERIZATION OF LIBRARY RESOUCES

- Manpower : Shortage & Suitable availability
- Space
- Money : Financial Resource Crunch
- Technology: Changing fast. Updation difficult.
- Selection of suitable LMS
- Hidden costs of keeping current library staff and libraries

THESE factors work against Library Automation

97% of libraries are not yet automat

WHAT IS THE SOLUTION ?

 Application Service Provider (ASP Model) software use on an 'As and When' basis.

SaaS Approach

SAAS AS A SERVICE PROVIDER

- Software as a service (SaaS) model
- SaaS Applications :
 - Successfully applied in :
 - Sales force automation
 - Computerized billing
 - Invoicing
 - HRM
 - Service desk management

WHAT L&IC HAS TO DO ?

- Purchase only low end PC haring a web browser.
- Need a fast and reliable internet connection to L&IC.
- Library has to pay one time set up fee and user charge to saas service provider.
- Rs.1 per resource per annum. Taxes applicable
- Data entry of resources and circulation

- UK, USA & few in India have successfully implemented SaaS concept.
- SaaS concept is more useful, economical & appropriate for Indian L&IC.
- LIBRARY HAS NOT TO PURCHASE THE LMS.

WHAT A SAAS SERVICE PROVIDER (VENDOR) WILL DO ?

- Ites suitable LMS on a remote server somewhere in the internet cloud. LMS Database will be stored on the remote server which is highly secured and managed centrally. LMS has to follow all international standards like MARC21, 23950, AACR2, MARCXML, ISO 2709, etc. and having UNICODE (Multilingual) facility.
- Provide total IT support.
- Provide total maintenance
- Generate all types of reports needed by Library & Information Centre.
- Provide help in sharing of resources.
- Provide 100% protection to data virus free, no data corruption, highly secured and managed centrally under any disaster.
- Automatically provide future updates for LMS alongwith new technology developments.

WHAT A SAAS SERVICE PROVIDER (VENDOR) WILL DO ? (CONTD.)

- Provide automails to members for overdue resources
 few days before and after, if not renewed i.e. Auto reminders with no personal intervention.
- Provide required multiple backups regularly Auto Back ups.
- Provide completely hosted web-based solution.
- Provide feature rich applications.
- Library can extract data from Z3950 servers.
- Library can make catalogue live.
- Creating an own network is possible.
- Provide facilities for library staff to access the library resources with a user ID and password. No one can see or access library data without permission of librarian.

BENEFITS TO LIBRARY

- Simplicity
- Reliability & Security
- Scalability & Up-to-date
- Usability

IMPORT OF RECORDS BY LIBRARY

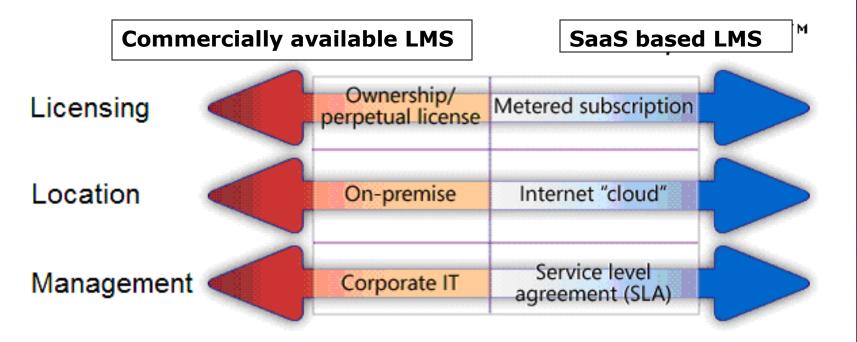
- Library can import records from
 - Any MARC Record
 - Any Z3950 Server
 - Master Database
 - Publisher's catalogue

INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDED WITH SAAS PROVIDER

- State-of-the art Internet Data Centre
- High-End Server
- Microsoft Windows 2003 Server
- Microsoft SQL Server
- Norton Antivirus
- Firewall
- Redundant Links
- Redundant Power Supplies

SAAS LMS AGAINST TRADITIONAL LMS

SaaS Technology Advantage			
Decision Factors	SaaS based	Old Client/Server	
Total Cost of Ownership	Totally integrated into one database; no extra costs!	Many Modules/Multi-Vendors (Incremental cost for each)	
Data Storage	Hosted professionally; no servers needed at your !	Local, Proprietary	
Data Safety	Encryption, virus protection and daily/weekly backup.	Tech-savvy personnel must be provided at additional time and expense.	
Data Conversion	Free! Included and done in about 3 weeks after receiving your data!	Charge to set up your server and convert your data.	
Off-Campus Access	24/7, from any Internet computer.	Third-party software required, at an additional expense.	
Patrons Website	webOPAC integrated with automated data publishing.	Additional module; requires multi-step publishing process.	
Data Sync	Auto-flows throughout to all sections and webOPAC!	Manual Entry/Copy/Paste between programs.	
Hardware Considerations	No servers to buy; SaaS provider manages your data for you.	Costly hardware; tech-savvy personnel required for operations.	
Maintenance/Support	Telephone and web-based tech support is included with monthly fee!	They charge to come and solve problems. (+ travel costs)	
Guarantee	Money-Back Satisfaction Guarantee!	???	



EXPLANATION OF ANNEXURE I & II

- Cost benefit analysis for commercially available LMS Vs SaaS based LMS for three years.
- There are two types of costs involved:
- [A] Fixed cost : (a) Hardware cost(b) Software cost
- [B] Variable cost.

Commercially available LMS
[A] TOTAL FIXED COST
includes cost of Desktop
PC, Dumb Terminal for
OPAC, Window XP Software
= Rs,67,600/-

[B] <u>VARIABLE COST</u> Includes cost of maintenance Engineer,AMC for LMS and Antivirus SW

= Rs.11,900/-

SaaS based LMS [A] TOTAL FIXED COST includes cost of Dumb Terminal and one time set up cost. and cost of LMS. = Rs,15,000/-[B]VARIABLE COST : Includes cost of user charge; Hosting fees per resource & Taxes = Rs.12,353/-

Hence Total cost for first three years is :

	Commercially available LMS	SaaS based LMS
1 st Year 2 nd Year	69,500/- 13,900/-	27,353/- 12,353/-
3 rd Year	13,900/-	12,353/-
Rs.93,300/-		Rs.52,060/-

Hence total benefit for first three years for SaaS based LMS is Rs.41,240/- for Library having 5000 resources. ANNEXTURE - II IS FOR LIBRARY HAVING 50,000 BOOKS AND OTHER RESOURCES

If we calculate as per above then,

 First three years benefit for library having 50,000 books would be :

Rs.2,18,880/-

SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED SAAS CONCEPT AT FOLLOWING L&ICS IN INDIA:

- DHL
- Jain Library
- The chipper sage
- Discover kinds
- KALIB India
- COMPASS Library
- Firestone Library
- Private Institutions (Their own data centre)