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News Software Quarterly

July 2004

Friends of nFold,

Welcome to the third edition of nFold Software Quarterly. If you find it worthwhile, please share it with your friends and colleagues. To subscribe to this newsletter contact subs@nfold.com.

OPEN SOURCE OPEN SESAME?

I read recently that almost about 15% of all computers are now shipped with a Linux platform. And Apache has remained the leading webserver platform for the last 10 years, at a whopping 60% of all web servers. I also read that several Nordic cities have switched to open source. Our own government has made moves in that direction too. So with all the hype surrounding this hot topic, what's the reality in South Africa?

nFold's software research shows that although many companies trust open source platforms in

a server environment, very few have switched their desktops to open source.

The main reason seems to be fear of incompatibility. Of the 102 mid-market companies I interviewed, 4 companies mentioned Linux. All 4 rated it as critical to their business. Another 13 mentioned unix as a server platform. Only 1 is already using linux on the desktop (open office), although there were a few more investigating the switch.

Note that these results may form an incomplete picture, since respondents were not asked to list ALL software used, but rather the most business critical.

I suppose desktop adoption has a way to go, while server adoption is a big enough slice to take seriously. But perhaps this is the thin edge of the wedge? I would love to hear your thoughts.

SOFTWARE SPOTLIGHT

INFORMATION	CUSTOMERS	EMPLOYEES
DB/TextWorks is an affordable choice for managing content such as documents, images, knowledgebases, and multimedia objects. At approximately R30,000 for 5 concurrent users, the software enables information professionals to index, manage and retrieve text, images and multimedia objects. With its fielded search engine, DB/TextWorks deliver a precise results with lightening speed. For more information, visit www.inmagic.com	Presentation Express enables users to generate customized Microsoft PowerPoint presentations that include only the most relevant slides and contain audience-specific content. Based on Pragmatech's cutting-edge document assembly Technology the software automatically generates a form from a slide library. Author licenses are about £1,000 while client licenses are about £250. For more information, visit www.pragmatech.com	Project Scheduler (PS8) is a project management system for managing many projects or large and complex projects. Licenses start at \$1,000 per user, but become cheaper as you buy more. PS8 claims to be the best tool for managing Critical Chain projects. The software is deal for the project office due to cross-project scheduling, resource analysis, portfolio management, web updating and flexible reporting. For more information, visit www.sciforma.com

ASSET MANAGER REPORTING SOFTWARE

nFold conducted a quick telephone survey to determine what software is used by asset managers in the creation of quarterly reports. The graphical results of the survey have been posted to the nFold website. [Click here to browse to results...](#)

13 asset managers participated in the survey. I enclose a brief summary of conclusions for your

convenience. There were three key insights arising from the research:

- **How are reports produced?** - most of the companies who had an automated process were using a custom built solution. The next most popular process involved some form of desktop publishing (DTP) process.
- **What software is used in the process?** - although there is lots of software used to create quarterly reports, only two companies used off the shelf software for a fully automated solution. Core systems (like AFA) typically play some part in the process.
- **In what format are documents delivered to clients?** - Adobe's pdf format is the most popular format. Next in line, was sending a hard copy.

NFOLD NEWS CORNER

It's that time of year when nFold's suppliers have their annual conferences planned. **EtQ's** conference will be on 23 and 24 September. **Pragmatech's** will be from 3 to 6 October. **Speedware** typically hosts a conference every two years and has not announced a date.

Pragmatech has released v6 of its proposal automation products. The new version has some exciting collaboration features that enable content specialists to contribute to a tender or RFI, without added licensing implications. Speak to sandy@nfold.com on (083) 326-6763 for a demo.

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