ERP Software Comparison Guide 2022

Make better informed decisions on your ERP software with YourShortlist

YourShortlist

About this Guide

When you're trying to find the best Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) solution for your business, it can be challenging to gain an overview of all the options available on the market and which best meets your requirements.

This ERP software comparison guide explores the different deployment models and options for different sizes of business. We've also included a helpful table comparing some of the top ERP solutions on the market and their available features.

All of this is to help you, the buyer, save time and money and quickly implement the best possible ERP solution for your business.

Shorty's Shortcut:

If you want to compare solutions right away, head to Page 7 for our ERP comparison table!
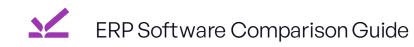
About YourShortlist

YourShortlist helps make ERP procurement simpler, faster, and more cost-effective for buyers at every stage of the process.

Our team of IT consultants help match buyers with their ideal software provider, creating bespoke shortlists from our diverse database of 1200+ trusted software partners.

Whether you're actively searching for a new ERP solution, dissatisfied with your current system, or simply looking for an alternative to your current business management software, we can help guide you in the right direction.

Our advice, your decision.

What is Enterprise Resource Planning?

ERP is often used as a method of planning and controlling all the resources needed to successfully sell, create, and deliver products and services, while accounting for customer orders throughout the supply chain and processing all relevant finances.

The principles of ERP are applicable to back-office process and business management in many sectors, from manufacturing and distribution to computer technology and managed service providers.

It ensures that your most essential business management functions can operate within a single system, integrating with other project management and business management systems to provide a full 360-degree view of your organisation.

ERP Software

ERP software is a class of software solutions that empowers companies large and small to consolidate internal and external data and to manage essential business processes.

ERP solutions provide a real-time, integrated view of core business processes using common databases maintained by a database management system. They can track business resources and commitments across the supply chain, with applications sharing data across various departments and facilitating information flow between all business functions.

When looking to deploy an ERP solution, you will likely require software that integrates:

- **Sales tracking, including ecommerce**
- **Accounts and finance**
  Payroll, accounts receivable/payable, ledgers.
- **Human resources (HR)**
  Manage areas like employee tracking, staff evaluation and education, skills administration, and benefits management.
- **Customer relationship management (CRM)**
  Track customer contact information and activity across service, sales, and marketing departments. Increase satisfaction, nurture leads.
- **Inventory, ordering, and supply chain management**
  Track product or material supply to avoid overspending. Monitor supplier performance and track goods between manufacturing, distribution, and retail facilities.

Categories of ERP Software

There are many ways to categorise EPR software, but the simplest is to segment by the size of business the software is suited for and whether it provides an all-in-one or specialist solution.

Small to Medium Business Solutions

It used to be expensive for small businesses to adopt an ERP system due to up-front costs and technical obstacles, but small business buyers can now benefit from an expanding choice of cloud-based or affordable on-premise options. ERP solutions for SMBs are designed to help smaller teams handle core ERP functions and typically lower volumes of sales, inventory, and supply chain data.

Suitable software solutions include Aquilon, SAP Business One and Odoo.

Industry-specific Solutions

Depending on your industry, you may require an ERP solution with features tailored to your industry or area of business, such as distribution management, produce ordering, or manufacturing functions. If you're looking for something more specialised to serve a specific purpose, you may be better served by a best-in-class standalone CRM, project management, or accounting system.

Suitable software solutions include SYSPRO and Epicor for Distribution.

Enterprise Solutions

Large organisations across multiple business units or regions benefit from enterprise ERP software with a complete, centralised integration of departmental data. Enterprise ERP solutions usually come with in-depth functionality and business intelligence integration. They are also designed to handle large volumes of data and be accessible to many users at once.

Suitable software solutions include NetSuite, Wherefour, and Oracle Fusion Cloud ERP.

ERP Applications & Modules

While many ERP solutions are stand-alone products, many are also add-on modules or applications for software suites. Your existing accounting software may have ERP specific products that integrate with it. Or you may wish to use an ERP system from a larger business management suite to gain access to CRM, accounting, or project management functions under the same license.

Suitable software solutions include IFS Applications, Microsoft Dynamics and Quickbook Desktop Enterprise.

ERP Software Deployment

Throughout the ERP procurement process, you should consider the different deployment options, and which will be most suited to your business and IT infrastructure.

On-Premise Deployment

Traditionally, ERP solutions have been deployed on office hardware, with data stored within on-site servers. This means the business is in complete control over data hosting and software implementation, through it means access to the ERP system is tied to specific hardware.

Cloud Deployment

Many ERP solutions have become cloud-based or have cloud deployment options. Cloud ERP systems are adaptable for remote working and mobile data access and can be a more affordable option for small businesses. If your business wants data to be available remotely from any device and at any hour, cloud deployment is the best option.

Mobile Deployment

Nowadays, ERP software can also be accessed via the cloud on mobile devices (smartphones, tablets). This expands the reach of access to the software for global teams. With remote and hybrid working now commonplace, mobile deployment provides added flexibility to cloud ERP software.

The table below outlines the key differences between on-premises and cloud-based software deployment.

	Benefits	Challenges
Cloud ERP Software	• No up-front costs for on-premise hardware and servers • Scalable and flexible depending on budget and/or usage • Lower burden on IT staff • Automatic backups	• Limited access to system infrastructure • Dependent on network connectivity • Increased usage and data consumption can quickly raise costs
On-premise ERP Software	• Lower network bandwidth usage and associated costs • Tighter data security and privacy • More control over servers, hardware, and access	• Requires larger hardware and server investment • Compliance is solely your responsibility • Requires extra IT support and resources • Potentially limited scalability

ERP Comparison Table

There are many ERP software options to choose from on the market, but to help you narrow down your search, we have compared some widely used solutions.

This data has been selected to provide a quick overview of different ERP software based on a limited number of criteria. To find out more information about each solution and which ones best fit your requirements, get in touch with the software procurement experts at YourShortlist.

Product	Deployment	Relative Price	Pricing Model	Free Trial	Number of Users	CRM	Finance	HR	Inventory	Supply Chain	Ordering	Project Mgmt
ABAS	🖥️☁️📱	££	Per user	X	2-2500	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
Acumatica The Cloud ERP	🖥️☁️📱	£££	Bespoke	X	2-500	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Advanced	🖥️☁️	££££	Per user	X	8+	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓
Aquilon Software	🖥️☁️	£	Per user	✓	2-200	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X
Microsoft Dynamics 365	🖥️☁️📱	£££	Per user	X	1-500	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Epicor	🖥️☁️📱	££££	Per user	X	2-1000+	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X
IFS	🖥️☁️📱	££££	Bespoke	X	201-1000+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Infor CloudSuite Distribution Enterprise	🖥️☁️📱	££	Per feature	✓	11-1000+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
infor M3	🖥️☁️📱	£££	Per user	X	11-1000+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

ERP Comparison Table (cont.)

Product	Deployment	Relative Price	Pricing Model	Free Trial	Number of Users	CRM	Finance	HR	Inventory	Supply Chain	Ordering	Project Mgmt
NETSUITE	☁ 📱	££	Per user	X	2-1000+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
odoo	🖥 ☁	££	Bespoke	✓	1+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
ORACLE ERP	☁ 📱	£££££	Per user	✓	1-1000+	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
QuickBooks Enterprise	🖥 ☁	££	Per user	✓	1-1000+	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	✓
sage Intacct	☁	££	Bespoke	✓	1-1000+	✓	✓	X	✓	X	✓	X
SAP Business One	🖥 ☁ 📱	£££	Per user	X	2-1000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
SAP S/4 HANA	🖥 ☁	£££££	Bespoke	✓	501-1000+	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
SYSPRO	🖥 ☁ 📱	£££	Per user	✓	1-1000+	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X
WHEREFOUR	☁	££££	Bespoke	X	1-500	✓	✓	X	✓	✓	✓	X
xero	☁	£	Set plans	✓	1+	X	✓	X	✓	X	✓	✓

How to Choose ERP Software?

When embarking on an ERP procurement project, you should consider the following criteria to make the most informed decision for your business:

Software Deployment On-premise, cloud, or a hybrid approach?	**System Security** Is the software secure and private?
Operational Compliance Is the system compliant or does it help you achieve compliance?	**Platform Scalability** Will the software be supported and updated as your business grows?
Data/Infrastructure Control How much customisation and access do you have?	**Implementation & Ongoing Costs** Will you achieve a return on investment?

To ensure your new ERP system can help you achieve your company's goals, consider your future objectives and projected growth.

- Individuals from different departments should identify key requirements for their areas of expertise. Establish a project team to highlight requirements across the entire business.
- Allocate responsibility to key personnel for internal software support and maintenance post-implementation.
- Guaranteeing external software partner support in the early stages will negate the need for training further down the line.
- Review and map out your business processes to gain a picture of how the software will support and impact your company.
- Ensure buy-in from the team and that the ERP system will be utilised by all relevant members of staff (as well as ensuring they are trained in its use).
- Look for well-supported software that provides longevity and scalability to adapt to changes and growth within your business.

Shorty's Shortcut:

If you already know your key criteria, save time on searching for the right solution by speaking with one of the advisors at YourShortlist. Get in touch today!

Challenges with ERP procurement

For anyone looking to begin researching, selecting, and buying new software ERP systems, keeping the following considerations in mind can make the process much easier:

Objectives

Clearly defining your goals for the ERP solution at the outset will narrow down your search criteria. This keeps your focus on systems that are relevant and achievable to implement for your business and offer the desired functionality.

Scale

As the scope of your ERP implementation escalates, so too can associated costs. The more data you must migrate, the longer and more costly the process becomes. A data audit can be invaluable prior to procurement.

Budget

ERP is often costly to setup, so you should be confident that the solution can achieve your desired results and provide the necessary functionality to make it a worthwhile investment.

Other factors worth considering include:

- **Disruption**
  Your chosen software should be easy to implement and not disrupt ongoing business.
- **Functionality**
  The software should provide functionality that supports and improves your current business processes.
- **Reputation**
  You should undertake sufficient research to ensure the software provider can deliver as they claim
- **Expansion & Support**
  The software should be able to expand and grow with your business. The software provider should be able to support you during and post-implementation
- **Change Management**
  Your team might be used to working and managing ERP functions a certain way. Ensure buy-in from the team to make the transition to a new solution as smooth as possible.
- **Implementation Time**
  Consider how long a particular solution will take to implement for your business.

Next Steps

Once you've settled on your requirements and key criteria for what you want your ERP system to achieve, you can begin to research the market for options.

Rather than waste time and money sorting through hundreds of potential options, why not speak to someone that can manage the procurement process, so you don't have to.

1.

Typically, a review process for selecting and onboarding new ERP software can take between 6 and 12 months.

2.

This would involve comparing options on the market to narrow down a longlist of around 10 to 12 providers.

3.

This would then be narrowed further to a shortlist of 6 to 8 providers.

4.

Finally, IT buyers must compare software options from each provider to determine their best overall solution.

Your ERP Needs. *YourShortlist.*

As a key decision maker, you'll have to do your research before choosing the best ERP solution for your business.

At YourShortlist, our goal is to make technology procurement simple, transparent, and cost-effective by matching businesses with the right software providers.

We're all about helping our members understand, choose, and implement the solutions that will facilitate successful growth. We manage a diverse database of 1200+ software partners providing solutions in ERP, CRM, cyber security, cloud migration, HR, and more.

With the help of YourShortlist, IT buyers across the globe have made better-informed decisions on new software, infrastructure, and managed services to improve their business.

Our non-chargeable service includes:

- Independent buying advice on the best ERP solutions and providers on the market
- A bespoke shortlist of specially selected partners experienced in implementing ERP solutions for your industry
- Partner background information
- Free call-backs from partners with no obligation to purchase

If you're on the hunt for a new ERP system, discuss your requirements with a member of our team. Begin the journey today towards a free, no-obligation shortlist tailored to your business; YourShortlist

Book a Calendly meeting with our team or call us on **+44 (0) 20 4532 5532** and we can match you with the software partner you need.

With the help of YourShortlist, IT buyers across the globe have made quicker and better-informed decisions on new software, infrastructure, and managed services to improve their business.

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