



Strategies and Deal Breakers for Choosing an Integrated Grants Management System



March 16, 2015

Martin Schneiderman President Information Age Associates 47 Murray Place Princeton, NJ 0540 USA <u>mbs@iaa.com</u> www.iaa.com 609-924-6936



Copyright © 2015 Information Age Associates. All Rights Reserved.



Topics We'll Cover

- <u>Different kinds of systems</u> being offered today and what's coming in the foreseeable future
- <u>Key lessons learned</u> by other grantmakers
- How to develop a realistic and practical prioritized list of *your* next generation system requirements
- Key questions you'll need to ask and get fully answered to make well informed decisions
- How you can <u>script system demos and</u> <u>create rating worksheets</u> to facilitate good comparisons





Technology Trends Impacting Foundation Information Systems in 2015

- <u>Web based portals</u> with easier, differentiated, and *personalized* user interfaces (UI)
- Expanded use of online applications and online grantee reporting
- Migration to *hosted commercial* cloud based systems
- <u>Quickly growing use of</u> <u>portable web-connected</u> <u>devices</u>







Technology Trends Impacting Foundation Information Systems

- <u>More, faster and better broadband</u> <u>Internet access worldwide</u>
- Increased telecommuting by senior management and program staff
- <u>Quickly expanding hosted</u> <u>multi-tenant cloud computing</u>
- <u>Multiple browser and application</u> <u>software</u> types and versions makes system development, integration and support more difficult











Different Types of **Foundation Services**

1. All Microsoft Windows



2. All Microsoft Windows and accessible from inside a browser **GoTo**MyPC^{*} using remote access programs (e.g. Windows Terminal Server, Citrix GoToMyPC or XenApp, or Windows Remote Desktop Connection)

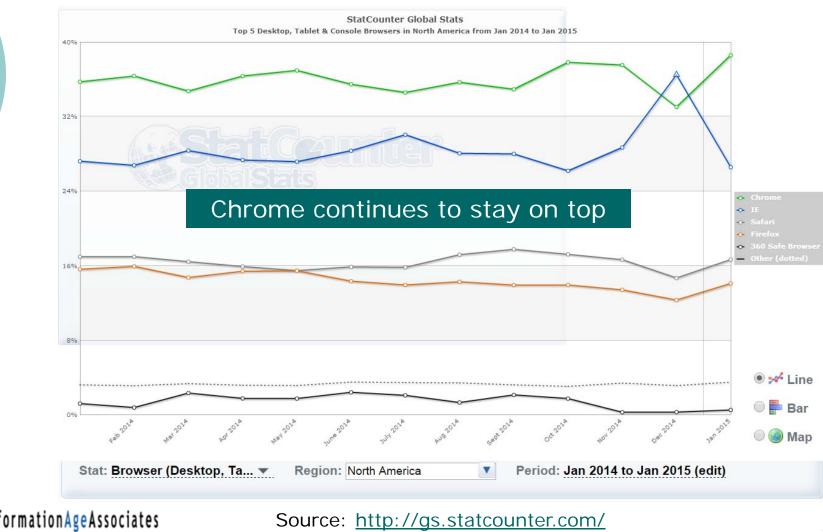


- Hybrid Windows and Web browser 3.
- 4. Fully Web browser





Browser Use in North America







Lasting Companies Know How to Re-invent Themselves

"Lasting companies know how to re-invent themselves.

You've got to reinvent the company to do some other thing, like consumer products or devices.

<u>You've got to be like a butterfly and</u> <u>have a metamorphosis</u>."



Mike Markkula, right, Apple's first investor and father figure to Jobs.

Fired by Jobs in 1997 his parting advice called for re-invention.

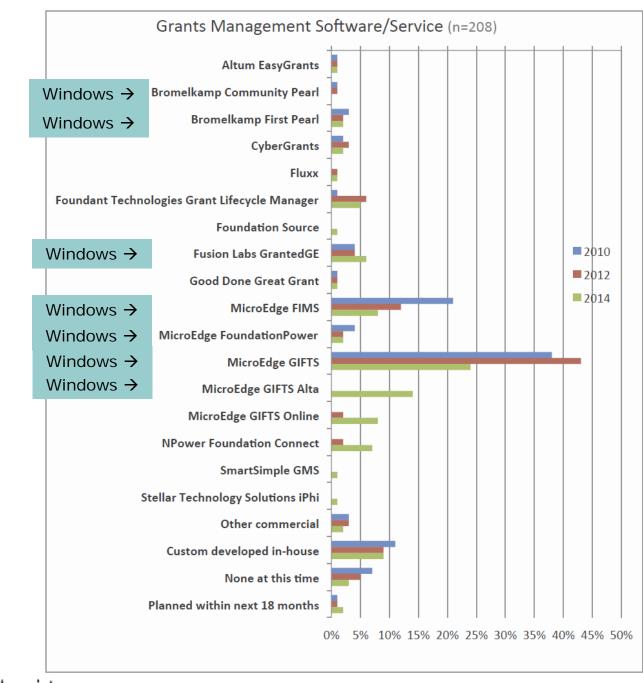
Source: Mike Markkula – Apple's first investor



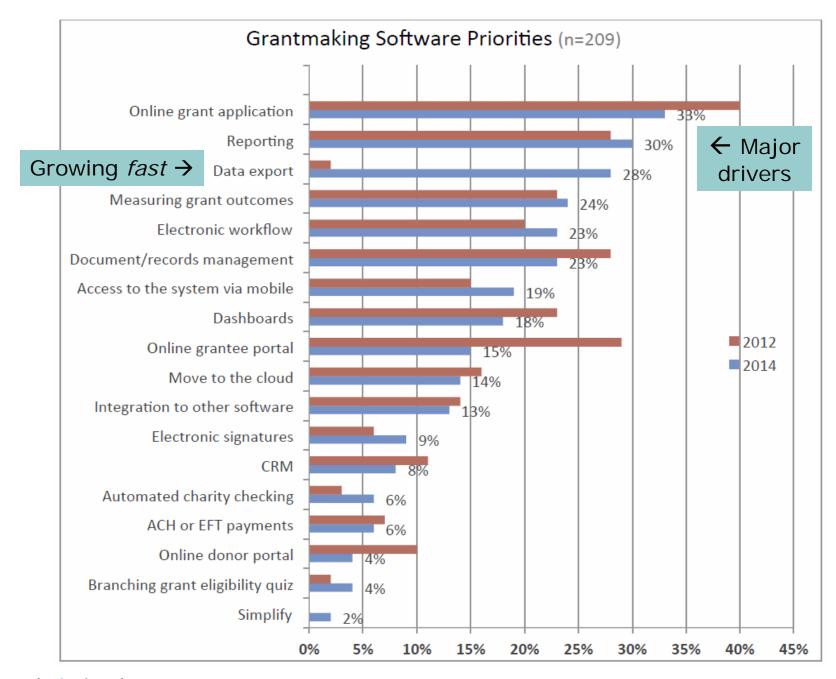
Source: Excerpt from Walter Isaacson's Steve Jobs, page 320

27 North American **Integrated Foundation Information System** Software and Service Providers





formationAgeAssociates Source: GMN-TAG 2014 Grantmakers Information Technology Survey Report 10



ormationAgeAssociates Source: GMN-TAG 2014 Grantmakers Information Technology Survey Report 11



The Hosted System Options

Basic system with limited flexibility Highly customized one-of-a-kind system

Some of today's systems and tomorrow's opportunity

Today's

systems

More flexible *personalized* (*not customized*) fully Web-based systems that can be enhanced and linked to other applications and data



Location and Platform Differences

Location

- <u>In-house</u> on your server(s)
- On <u>remotely hosted</u> servers

Platform

- Practically all of the system provided by <u>ONE vendor</u>
- The <u>core platform</u> provided by one vendor plus the <u>grants management</u> <u>system</u> and <u>utilities</u> each provided by DIFFERENT vendors







Is it all ours or is it shared?

All ours

- 1. <u>On a hosted server that is used</u> <u>ONLY by your organization</u>
- 2. Your data always stored in YOUR OWN DATABASE

Shared

- On a hosted server that is <u>SHARED</u> by many organizations
- 2. Your data stored in a <u>SHARED DATABASE</u> (just as the bank does)







Remote System Security

 Hypertext Transfer Protocol Secure (HTTPS) is a widely used and a MUST HAVE communications protocol for secure communication over a computer network such as the Internet.

HTTP

Attp://www.gmnetwork.org/

HTTP<mark>S</mark>

https://www.grantrequest.com/SID_1082/Default.asp?CT=CT&SA=AM&FID=&SESID=4236&RL=

 Authenticated Single Sign On (SSO) restricts remote system access to computers from a specified location. It's used mostly by corporate grantmakers.



Advantages of Moving Online to a Fully Hosted Web-based System

- 1. <u>Overall system benefit and value</u> to improve and streamline operations.
- You <u>only need a Web browser</u> and <u>Microsoft Office</u> + <u>Outlook</u> installed locally.



After research, thoughtful decision-making, and good leadership.

- 3. The grants management service provider:
 - <u>Maintains</u> all of the server system hardware
 - Minor and major <u>software fixes and upgrades</u>
 - Ensures new and continuing <u>links to local</u> <u>applications and online services</u>
 - <u>Backs up</u> all of your grant data



More **Advantages** of Moving Online to a Fully Hosted Web-based System

- Service provider <u>keeps enhancing the</u> <u>system</u> based on the prioritized needs of their many clients.
- 5. <u>Better integration with</u> <u>external systems and services.</u>

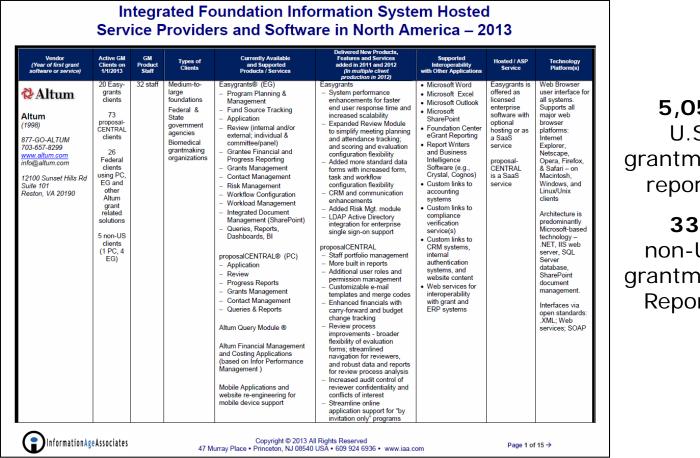


- 6. Very easy remote access from anywhere.
- 7. Somewhat reduced need for in-house IT support.





Review the "Hosted Service" and "Technology Platform(s)"



5,057 US grantmakers reported

332 non-U.S. grantmakers Reported



SOURCE: http://www.iaa.com/resources.html





Some **Key Things to Consider** When Moving Fully Online from Another System

 <u>No one-of-a-kind customizations</u>, rather <u>personalized enhancements</u> to a core system for all of your foundation clients.

2. Inevitable differences (+&-) in functionality.

- Data migration . . . many things may not carry over because of your variable codes, terminology, and data fields over time.
- 4. <u>Requires sufficient staff and time for</u> planning and comprehensive system testing.



Some **Key Things to Consider** When Moving Fully Online from Another System

- 5. Your not recognizing the need to change operations to use the new system well.
- Problems resulting from internal and external staff turnover during migration, training and ongoing support.
- 7. <u>Vendor's choice of solid future</u> <u>technologies and partners.</u>



8. <u>Good management</u> and a <u>successful</u> business model that *can and will evolve*.





 Greater <u>dependency</u> on <u>Internet access</u> and the <u>service provider(s)</u> than ever before.



- 2. How many <u>different service</u> <u>providers and products</u> will you require to <u>make and keep</u> the whole system working?
- 3. Do they have a <u>successful business model</u>?
- 4. Does their staff <u>really understand grantmaking</u> <u>operations, regulations and their system</u>?



5. Who tests ALL of the products to ensure that they all keep working after upgrades?



- 6. <u>Data conversion</u> FROM your current systems and <u>also</u> TO a <u>FUTURE SUCCESSOR</u> system.
- 7. Make sure your <u>demo is of the standard</u> <u>system</u> – not a costly customized version.
- 8. What functionality do you currently have that <u>WON'T be in the hosted system</u>? OK?



- 9. <u>Personalized Web portals</u> for each user type with graphics and interactive dashboards?
- 10. Their ongoing <u>major investment</u> in R&D with regular releases?
- 11. Is the <u>user interface</u> the same across all key systems?
- 12. What <u>links does it currently have</u> to internal and external services? *(e.g. GuideStar Charity Check, OFAC, accounting, EFT/ACH, NGOsource, social networking)*







13. Easy <u>personalization?</u> (NOT costly customizations)

14. Saving and naming <u>favorite searches</u>, views plus many standard reports?

15. Globalized <u>multi-lingual</u> (e.g. Nicolás, René) and <u>multi-currency</u> products?



16. Are the vendors using <u>industry</u> <u>standard supported software and databases</u>?



- 17. Systems hosted in <u>secure reliable</u> <u>enterprise class datacenter?</u>
- 18. Is it designed and tested to handle a <u>high volume and</u> <u>shared load</u> of online applications and users?
- 19. How good is their communications and project management?





20. What is their <u>track record of</u> providing quality support services?

Information Age Associates

Plan for and include in **SOW** and **legal contracts**



- Services to migrate to Web portals for <u>applications, reviews, and reports</u>
- Services to migrate all *personalized*:
 - E-mail + printed <u>correspondence</u> and write-up templates
 - <u>Graphical user interfaces</u> with drill down capabilities
 - Saved searches
 - <u>Saved views</u>
 - Default screen views per use
- Final payments conditional upon <u>successful</u> <u>testing</u> of data conversions, system configurations, portals and new workflows





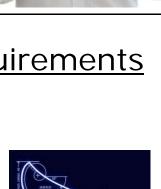
SInformationAgeAssociates

Deal breakers

- 1. Your lack of prioritized system requirements and not choosing based on *needs*.
- 2. It *isn't* really a *good fit* for you.
- 3. <u>Lack of good integration</u> with iPads and other mobile devices.
- 4. <u>Provider's poor planning</u> and growth management.
- 5. <u>Your poor planning and</u> <u>management of system</u> <u>and operational change.</u>









TInformationAgeAssociates





More Deal breakers

6. Cannot export all selected data to Excel.



- 7. Staff and consultants with no or very limited experience with foundations.
- 8. A poor track record of implementation assistance and ongoing support.



9. Annual support fees that can escalate very quickly and are not tied to any national standard.







Integration with External Systems and Services

- Browsers and Microsoft Office (32 and 64-bit versions)
- Windows 7 and 8 (32 and 64-bit versions)
- GuideStar for Charity Check, Alert Service, and Simplify
- OFAC list checking services
- Contact relationship management (CRM)
- Accounting systems (type and version of each)
- File and document management
- Electronic board and committee books
- iPads and other Android tablets
- Foundation Center eGrant and hGrant Reporting + free mapping service
- Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT & ACH)
- Social networking services











What to See, Track and Rate in Vendor Demos

- 1. <u>Prioritized features</u> that you NEED and are <u>MOST important to YOU</u>
- <u>Count the number of steps to do</u> <u>routine operations</u> (e.g. download online applications with attachments)
- 3. <u>Creating and using saved</u> <u>searches, views and reports</u>
- 4. How integration with 3rd party services REALLY works



5. Permit vendor's to demo their wonderful <u>distinguishing features</u>





Ask the Service Provider to Use a **Clear Rating Scale**

Integrated Grants Management System Requirements

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS: Please describe your ability to meet each of our specified system requirements. Please do this by completing the Vendor Response column of this document. When doing this, please be very specific and describe your system's features and capabilities. Enter the number (1,2,3,4) associated with the bolded text in each box followed by additional explanatory information. Please also shade the Vendor Response box with the same color as shown below. See the SAMPLE ENTRY for an example.

- 1 Currently available and is fully functional exactly as described in the latest production version of your product and/or service.
- 2 Similar but with some limitations compared with what is described. Then clearly describe all limitations.
- **3** Not currently available and, if shown as "Required" what you propose with a guaranteed delivery date and cost (if applicable) from the date of contract signing. Please clearly specify if your approach will be a customization, the integration of a 3rd party product, or other.
- 4 Targeted for future integration into the core system exactly as we've described for all clients vs. being specific to us. Please specify the guaranteed delivery date.



Compare Vendor *Described* System Capabilities Side-by Side

Integrated Grants Management System Requirements

- IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS: Please describe your ability to meet each of our specified system requirements. Please do this by completing the Vendor Response column of this
 I Currently available and is fully functional exactly as described in the latest production version of your product and/or service.
- 5 2 Similar but with some limitations compared with what is described. Then clearly describe all limitations.

Not currently available and, if shown as "Required" what you propose with a guaranteed delivery date and cost (if applicable) from the date of contract signing. Please clearly
 Targeted for future integration into the core system exactly as we've described for all clients vs. being specific to us. Please specify the guaranteed delivery date.

9	Function	Description	Hequired or Desired	Vendor A	Vendor B
10	User Interface				
12	Windows XP /Vista 7 workstation	Fully compliant with Microsoft's Windows XP workstation and Windows Vista Common User Access (CUA) interface standard.	Required	adipiscing elit. Curabitur hendrerit, risus at vestibulum volutpat,	1 - Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Curabitur hendrerit, risus at vestibulum volutpat,
13	Cross browser and platform support	Full support of Internet Explorer v7.x and later, Firefox 2.x and later, and Safari 3.x and later. Accessible from all Windows and Macintosh PCs.	Required	 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Curabitur hendrerit, risus at vestibulum volutpat, 	2 - Restricted to Web based components of the suite
14	Ease-of-use	Graphic user interface that has uncluttered screens, facilitates navigation, and functions consistently with other supported Web and	Required	 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Curabitur hendrerit, risus at vestibulum volutpat, 	 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Curabitur hendrerit, risus at vestibulum volutpat,
15	Searchable online help	Online help that describes the capabilities of the system. Includes a searchable index.	Required	4 - On-line help is not currently available but is planned for future release	 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Curabitur hendrerit, risus at vestibulum volutpat,
16	Windows interface	The application is fully accessible and functional via a Microsoft Windows interface.	Required	1 - Fully Windows compatible	 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Curabitur hendrerit, risus at vestibulum volutpat,
17	Web interface	The application is Web enabled and is fully accessible and functional via a supported Web browser.	Required	 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. 	 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Curabitur hendrerit, risus at vestibulum volutpat,
18	Full screen display	All screen displays (except pop-up windows) will display full screen regardless of the monitor size and display resolution. Text elements will be designed to fill the screen to make optimal use of	Required	1 - All key screens are full screen display	 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Curabitur hendrerit, risus at vestibulum volutpat,
19	Supervisor view	Ability for a supervisor to see the status of all proposal and grants assigned to selected staff.	Required	 Records can be associated with staff, but not limited to just those staff, Supervisors can see which staff are 	 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Curabitur hendrerit, risus at vestibulum volutpat,
20	Web parts design	Ability to add, delete, move Web parts if these exist. This can either be done and locked by the system administrator for groups of users, or with	Required	 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Curabitur hendrerit, risus at vestibulum volutpat, 	 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Curabitur hendrerit, risus at vestibulum volutpat,
21	Saving personal favorites	Saves personal settings of favorite queries, reports.	5		 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Curabitur hendrerit, risus at
22	Custom help screens	Capability for the system administrator to easily create user customized on-screen help to improve the accuracy of data entry.	5	4 - On-line help is not currently available but is planned for future release	 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Curabitur hendrerit, risus at vestibulum volutpat,
23	Collapsible code table listing	Code tables can be easily expanded and collapsed (This is especially helpful for complex multi-level code tables)	5	 All code tables are multi-level and configurable. 	 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Curabitur hendrerit, risus at vestibulum volutpat,
24	Last used queries	Saves drop down list of last used queries for quick access.	4	 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Curabitur hendrerit, risus at vestibulum volutpat, 	
25	Personalized view by individual	Enables individual users to choose their own default startup view that specifies what data is presented and how it is sorted. The presentation of data can be filtered to display only those tasks that are the responsibility of the user. The user can	4	2 - Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit.	 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Curabitur hendrerit, risus at vestibulum volutpat,
26	Tree view	Display of contact relationships in a hierarchical tree view.	4	 Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Curabitur hendrerit, risus at 	3 - Needs to develop in 2012



Create and Use a System **Demo Rating Worksheet**

Vendor _

Demonstration Requirements

Proposal finalists will be invited to demonstrate the latest production version of their system during the week of February 2, 2009. We invite you to make this presentation in person (preferred) or via WebEx. This presentation will be attended by our decision-makers and Project Advisor.

It's very important to us that at the presentation we meet (either in person or via conference call) all of the individual team members who will be responsible for our particular account to include but not be limited to our:

- Account / project manager who will be our single point of contact for our requirements specification, system implementation, customizations, installation and testing, training, upgrades, etc.
- Technical support specialist who will provide expert support for all post-implementation questions and resolving all of our reported problems

During the 2.5 hour demonstration would you please <u>first demonstrate all of the following and then the many</u> <u>other powerful features of your system</u>. If your system cannot currently do one or more of these capabilities then please explain this up front, skip it, and continue. Please feel free to reorder the sequence of the demo so that the flow works for you.

Rating scale:

- 5 = Excellent Does completely and easily
- 4 = Very good Does completely but not easily (e.g. not intuitive, many steps)
- 3 = Good Does in an acceptable way (possibly using a workaround)
- 2 = Poor Does poorly
- 1 = Unacceptable Cannot use as is
- 0 = No current capability

	Capability	Rating	Comment
g (I p g b	Demonstrate an online <u>branching eligibility</u> <u>uiz</u> with a <u>two-stage online application</u> Mission Status Eligibility Application + full proposal) with attachments from a grantseeker's perspective - please show this in both English and Spanish (with marks and text uch as ¡ ¿ á ñ Ó)		
C	Demonstrate how <u>online applications are</u> <u>reated and modified</u> by the systems dministrator.		
g - -	Demonstrate a <u>grantee portal</u> and how a grantseeker can: review the status of a pending request update their contact information see requirements due		



Tuesday, March 17th 9:00-9:45 am <u>and</u> 10:00-10:45 am Roundtables

Choosing and Implementing an Integrated Grants Management System





Time for more spirited questions!



See the Information Age Associates Web site for more up to date information

http://www.iaa.com

