AccountMate®

WHITE PAPER:
Software Source Code

Unlock Business Potential: Harness the Power of Customizable Source Code

Technology has revolutionized the way people work, play, conduct business, and communicate with each other on a global scale. Within the realm of accounting technology, there is a distinction between non-source software and customizable software, achieved through source code. Non-source software offers users a range of template options to choose from, while customizable source code software allows for tailoring the software to meet a company's exact requirements.

What is Source Code?

Source code is basically lines of instructions that software programmers write to create all types of software applications. These instructions dictate what actions the computer should perform and how they should be executed. Once the source code is written, it is compiled into a machine-readable program, which can then be installed on a computer as an accounting, word processing, or other application.

The Benefits of a Customizable Source Code

The main benefit of customizable source code is flexibility. Source code enables *the software to adapt* to a company's evolving needs in the future.

Software companies that provide source code licenses enable customers to view and customize the actual product code. This flexibility empowers customers to make changes to the software, so it aligns with their unique business processes and rules.

However, it is essential for the individuals working with the source code to possess a comprehensive understanding of both the original product code and the customer's specific requirements before attempting any alterations to the software program. A solution provider plays a critical role in customizing the software.

Examples of Customizable Source Code

Deploying flexible source code has been crucial to meeting customer requirements. Here are some practical examples:

1. Electronic Capacitor Company

Problem: An Electronic Capacitor Company faced several challenges when dealing with chip manufacturers in China. One problem was that the chip manufacturers did not provide lot numbers for all the chips they produced. This becomes problematic when the chips are boxed up because the manufacturers failed to mark the boxes with lot numbers. Consequently, when the Electronic Capacitor Company's clients receive the reels of chips, they have no way of knowing the specific location of each chip or their correct product information like expiration date.

Solution: To address this issue, the Electronic Capacitor Company needed flexible accounting software to help them implement its own lot number system. With customizable source code, they could create their own tracking process. They developed a method to mark the boxes with lot numbers and integrated a scanning system that automatically registers the boxes into their tracking system. By utilizing scan codes generated by their products, they can accurately assign lot numbers to the boxes and trace the chips within.

Now, the Electronic Capacitor Company and its clients can effectively track the chips based on their respective lot numbers. With the implementation of their own lot number system, the company can overcome the challenges posed by the chip manufacturers in China and ensure efficient management of their inventory, saving them time and increasing their profitability.

2. School Bus Company

Problem: A school bus company faced several challenges related to organization and efficiency. One major problem was the need to track numerous charters efficiently. Another challenge was how they managed the varying rates for different days of the week and different schools.

WHITE PAPER:
Software Source Code

Solution: To address this, the company needed flexible accounting software to help them track charters schedules, manage contract rates, and monitor the different schools' needs. With customizable source code, the bus company was able to work with a solution provider who developed an entire system dedicated to charter tracking, billing, and contract organization. This system allows them to monitor and record important details such as gas surcharges, tolls, and time. This enables them to accurately calculate the appropriate charges based on the specific day of the week and the school involved.

The school bus company has implemented a solution to handle these complexities by incorporating different rate structures into their system. They also streamlined their invoicing process to improve billing efficiency and accuracy. These solutions enable them to effectively manage their charters, track important details, and streamline their invoicing process for improved operations and profitability.

Does Every Accounting Software Company Have Customizable Source Code?

The short answer is no.

The decision to release source code is at the discretion of software companies, but most do not offer customizable source code. They can deliver software products as compiled code without source code or provide it alongside the compiled code.

Accounting or Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) programs, which typically encompass a company's entire business practices, often require customizations that can only be achieved through source code changes. Without access to source code, the available options are limited to making changes to reports and screens.

Responsive to Changing Business Demands

It is crucial for a company to carefully examine and understand the differences between a templated program and a source code-available solution before deciding which option best suits their particular business needs.

To support the seamless integration of technology with internal business systems, manufacturers of accounting systems have developed software that combines performance and productivity right from the start. This is the templated option. Manufacturers also provide added flexibility by making their source code available. As processes, people, systems, and strategies evolve and change, the customizable source code option allows companies to adapt rapidly to evolving business and technology requirements. This adaptability is crucial to meeting customer demands effectively.

Typically, the determining factor lies in the importance of customizing the software to conform to the user's procedures and processes, rather than forcing the company to adjust its practices to fit the software.

Global Authorized Solution Providers

Source code accounting system manufacturers typically distribute their products through professional Authorized Solution Providers, who possess in-depth knowledge of the specific functionality available in the software. These Solution Providers offer personalized services based on the software and needs of the business.

About AccountMate
Founded in 1984, AccountMate develops and markets fully modifiable business accounting software. Systems range from single user versions to those that support over hundreds of users simultaneously. AccountMate software is available for local or cloud installation. It is distributed exclusively through a worldwide channel of authorized solution providers. AccountMate can be reached at (800) 877-8896 or at accountmate.com.

White Paper Contact:
Marketing@accountmate.com