

Myths surrounding Accounting Software and the role of technology.

Understand how Technology plays a significant role in running a successful business

Myth - Data Corruption is due to an unstable network

Data corruption in older databases can be caused by a number of factors but more so because of the technology used in the update process. With older flat-file or non-relational databases, the update process is at best "best-effort" with the update being effected with no intelligence or relationship between the files. On the other hand, the technology in true relational databases is such that the database itself does the management and control of the updates, with full roll-back functionality, meaning that the system will either update everything or nothing ensuring that the integrity of the data is intact.

Myth - You can't run on wireless networks

Older legacy systems, and a host of more modern systems too, tend to create a permanent static connection to the software database despite the user being inactive. All this does is just create unnecessary network traffic and activity. Older systems also open database files on the terminal itself leaving the system open to corruption should the connection be interrupted for even a split second. Newer systems using MS SQL Server can now create Dynamic Connections to the database on demand, and reconnect on the fly, completely transparent to the user. With the database updates all being done on the server there is very little information travelling on the network. In layman's terms, a user could unplug a network cable mid invoice then reconnect on updating and the user would be none the wiser as the re-connection is created dynamically.

Myth – SME Software can't store a lot of information

Modern SME systems use the same, if not better, technology than their ERP counterparts and can

store as much data. An SME system worth its salt should be able to store all our companies data, current and historical, indefinitely.

Myth - Data Corruption is an acceptable cost of running a business

My what a wicked web we weave. It is a scourge of the past that a data corruption or data fix could be considered an acceptable cost of running a business. Additionally there are simply more intrinsic costs than just the consulting cost of the data fix itself. There are also unseen costs like the salaries of idle employees, costs of manual stationery books, human error in the manual processing process etc. Once the data has been "fixed" there is also the recapture, or duplication of the sales onto the computerised system and, more often than not, stocks are recounted because of a lack of trust in the inventory on hand quantities; an area where the real cost of the corruption comes to light.

Did you know that Palladium is the only Software Company to put its money where its mouth is and offer a 3-year money-back guarantee on Data Corruptions.

Myth - You need additional costly hardware such as UPS's on all workstations to run a stable system

Again this is simply a cost of running antiquated software and an urban legend of sorts. Although this "remedy" may improve the situation where there is an inconsistent power supply in the building, it is more important to have the power assistance on the Server and network Switch. At the end of the day though, instability is generally caused by the way the software updates, and handles files and/or instructions to the database, and not the terminal or power supply integrity itself.

Myth - You need to Upgrade to an Expensive Version of the Database to eliminate data corruptions

I'm afraid this is a case of the words of Rodriguez who said "A monkey in silk is a monkey no less". Upgrading to say a SQL version of a database may solve some of the problems associated with outdated systems simply because it is a newer version of the software and a little more compliant with newer operating systems, but if the update routines and data structures are not updated to accommodate the new technologies, this may simply prove a waste of time and money. True relational SQL databases come complete with their own update procedures, constraints and a host of other technologies to ensure the integrity of the database.

Myth - You have to pay hundreds of thousands for ERP functionality

This is comparable to having someone in your employ for a long time and you feel obliged to give them the mandatory 10% annual increase and odd promotion. What you really end up with is just an overpaid employee. The fact is that the cost of development has become much cheaper from both a resource and a time point of view with various tools to assist developers. Today Big Business functionality can be purchased at a fraction of yesterdays legacy prices. Another problem associated with older systems is that because the product has been developed over the years, basic functionality is added and clients are charged as an upgrade or even as a separate "module" of sorts greatly increasing the total cost of ownership.

Did you know - Palladium offers a contract-free, monthly software rental option, allowing small business the ability to compete shoulder to shoulder with their larger counterparts.

Myth - You need additional remote software and extensive licences to run a wide area setup (or simply to work from home)

Companies running multi-branch environments traditionally have had to acquire expensive 3rd party Terminal Emulation software in order to connect to a central server that is often slow and very susceptible to dropped connections. Certain systems now offer fully embedded VPN technology in their software allowing for multiple connections to multiple data sets all transparent to the user.

Did you know - Palladium advocates a Single Price Policy on its products with the Enterprise version shipped standard with Full Accounting; Departments; Cost Centres; Projects; PoS; Distribution; Manufacturing; Multi-Currency; Business Intelligence and SMS functionality.

Myth - Business Intelligence is only for Big Businesses

Business Intelligence should not be the preserve of larger Businesses, but the ability to analyse data should be afforded to every business, big or small. More modern systems are moving away from the "static" reports and are complementing them with data cubes rendering the report "real-time" with the ability to drag and drop and slice and dice the data dynamically as required. We have even opened up our data cubes to allow our Business Partners to create their own Data Sets

and drop them into our Cube structure with all the relevant securities to further create their own Data Views within the cubes.

Myth - Technology Doesn't Drive Software Choice

This may have been the case pre Y2K but things have definitely changed since then. The traditional layman, who used to accept the old "blue screen", is a lot less forgiving and understands that technology affects systems as much as anything else. Businesses demand more from their software vendors with stability now being a non-negotiable.

Myth - SME Accounting Packages are used to just record transactions

Today's modern products come with a host of business-enhancing features from SMS marketing to document Up-Selling with the Quick Customer and Supplier Transactional lookup functions for enhanced customer service. Vendors are realising that it is a highly competitive market and there has to be a compelling reason or value proposition for clients to change software.

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