

# CMMS gets Saasy!

## *In hard times, consider this Mean, Lean and Green soft option...*

By Paul Dean, CEng,  
Shire Systems Limited

*First published in the technical press*



### **If you think professional level CMMS is out of your reach, think again!**

In this era of economic challenge, ever-tighter purse-strings and even more tight-fisted banks, you may not be able to obtain capital approval or find the cash to buy the software licences and hardware needed to set up a

conventional computerised maintenance management system.

No problem! You can now get state-of-the-art CMMS on easy terms. *AND*, you can avoid all those time-consuming and scary IT hassles at the same time.

Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) CMMS is now available for a modest monthly fee. It's the ultimately affordable, zero-hassle computerised maintenance management solution.

### **A dream come true**

With SaaS, the system provider 'hosts' the CMMS for you in a secure data centre, removing all the barriers and bothers of traditional system ownership. To get going at your end, you only need an Internet-connectable computer with a web browser. In contrast to CMMS deployed on your own premises, you don't need any up-front capital, IT

skills, new servers or extra kit. You can get up and running straight away, without any implementation delays. Plus, you don't have to bother about system back-ups, disaster recovery and unpleasant stuff like that. You can relax in the peace-of-mind that comes from knowing that all this is being looked after nicely by someone else.

You use the no-hassle solution 'on demand', just like you would with any other utility. In the final analysis, you want a utility plainly and simply for its functional effects - and you expect it to be 'there' on demand. The utility provider shoulders the responsibility of satisfying your service-level expectations for the assured quality, availability and reliability of supply.

With SaaS CMMS, you get the functionality you're after without having to concern yourself with the ins and outs of IT system provision, technicalities and vulnerabilities. And, the system provider's economy of scale means the overall cost to your organisation is less than if you had followed the DIY approach.

Except for the computers at your end, your provider manages the whole thing, including data preservation and disaster avoidance. Your provider also automatically upgrades the system in use and even monitors its correct usage.

### **No entry barriers**

All independent experts now agree that well-organised asset care and maintenance demands the use of a computerised maintenance management system. It's a prerequisite of success. With SaaS CMMS, engineering and service managers have never been better placed to get their hands on all that the admin-busting functionality which enables them to do their jobs more successfully: state-of-the-art work management, materials management, preventive maintenance, mobile capability – and all the rest. Compliant equipment, reduced downtime, lower costs and an easier life are now within the easy reach of all. SaaS CMMS has demolished the traditional cost and technical barriers to CMMS entry.

## A well-proven solution

The software-as-a-service model for system deployment is well-proven and has become hugely popular in other business areas - for example, salesforce management systems. Now, the unique benefits of SaaS are available to CMMS users as well:

- Lowest up-front cost. No need to jump through CAPEX hoops
- No IT skills needed
- No extra kit needed
- Fastest deployment across multiple sites
- Simple, scalable, expandable and future-proof. Just sign up for what you need now – you can add to your system-in-use at any time
- Operating system flexibility: Windows, Mac, Linux
- Automatic updates – this means there's only one version of the system ever in use: the latest and best!
- Anywhere, anytime access – including from your mobile phone
- Real time operation – no synchronisation issues like those with client-server systems
- Bullet-proof security. Your data is more secure than with conventional on-premise deployment. It's access

protected, fire-walled and backed up for your total peace of mind. Besides comprehensive security, top flight system availability is assured by redundant hardware and power supplies at your provider's hosting centre

- All-inclusive monthly fee with minimum fuss. You can even roll-in those difficult-to-get-approval-for user training courses into your drip-feed payments

CMMS life can't get easier than this!



## Universal appeal

SaaS CMMS is ideal for both small and large organisations. That said, small to medium-sized organisations might find the accessibility and economics of SaaS particularly appealing. The advantages

are simply huge for anyone with a mobile workforce.

## Mean, Lean and Green

SaaS CMMS is a 'mean' solution. Its low up-front cost and lowest TOC (Total Cost of Ownership) makes it universally appealing to cost-conscious frugalistas. With no CAPEX obstacles and the low kick-off price-tag you can get the solution in quickly. Let's face it, the foot-dragging shenanigans that often goes on with traditional capital investment review and approval can be counter-productive; the organisation can lose out on great opportunity. It can also drive you to distraction!

SaaS CMMS is a 'lean' solution; it's a true waste-eliminator. With the maintenance - and IT department if you have one - sticking to their knitting, the organisation scores hands down. Liberated from the day-to-day drudgery of system maintenance, key members of staff can spend more time on innovation and continuous improvement initiatives. Happy days!

As an engineering or service manager, you're there to lead, innovate and keep the wheels turning. Certainly, CMMS is your essential tool but, with on-

premises CMMS, it's all too easy for your time and attention to be diverted onto CMMS system admin, house-keeping and troubleshooting. Take stock; these non-core activities can now easily be avoided with ultimately affordable and headache-free SaaS CMMS. Think lean!

SaaS CMMS is a 'green' solution. Unlike an on-premises system, the system provider's servers are optimally loaded. Across-the-board energy usage is less. The carbon footprint is smaller.

## The downsides

There aren't any really. However, there is a caution. With SaaS, caveat emptor is arguably of greater importance than it is with an on-premises system. Just make sure you choose a system provider with a rock-solid reputation. Fly-by-nights may offer an apparently compelling solution but, buyer beware, that appearance could be less of a reality and more of a contrived illusion. ■

For more information, call us today

**+44 (0) 23 8022 4111**  
[www.shiresystems.co.uk](http://www.shiresystems.co.uk)

**Be a winner with Shire!**

