

Open Source Business Tally Book

Cost comparison between using Open Source vs. Closed Source software for running a business and providing services to a client / and your staff.

- The Initial Tally Book

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<https://www.youtube.com/embed/hoZFivBKOVc>

As we continue in the Building a Business on Open Source, we should take time occasionally to look at the cost analysis of using Open Source software versus the Closed Source popular alternative(s). I believe this is valuable for a few reasons.

1. We should be true to ourselves about whether there is any monetary cost savings in running / utilizing Open Source software.
2. We should make sure we understand that in order to support the software we use, we need to help that software effort continue by paying for their services / support, etc.
3. We can track how much we may really save over time, or how much more it may cost us over time.

Below, you'll find a table (apologies in advance for the formatting, but it's pulled from a spreadsheet) that compares initial, estimated, startup costs for a business aiming to provide basic IT / MSP support for small business / home users.

The hardware portions are assumed to be the same cost regardless of using Open or Closed source software solutions. The estimated costs on each side are as accurate as I could find at the time of writing / making the associated video, with today's date being November 20, 2022.

All pricing will be added into the sheet as an annual cost basis except hardware which will be split out on a 5 year expected lifetime. The server I'm pricing against is 2 CPU with 12 Cores each						
Open Source Option	Pricing	Annual Cost	Closed Source Options		Pricing	Annual Cost
1 Server Machine On Prem	1,600.00 USD	320.00 USD		Same Hardware	1,600.00 USD	320.00 USD
Domain Name	15.00 USD	15.00 USD		Same for Domain	15.00 USD	15.00 USD

VPS Rental for things like Email, VPN Server outside network	12.00 USD	144.00 USD		Same VPS Rental	12.00 USD	144.00 USD
Proxmox VM Orchestrator	1,790.00 USD	1,790.00 USD	VMWare	Windows Server w/ Hyper V	5,596.00 USD	5,596.00 USD
US \$ 875.00 / CPU Socket			5,596.00 USD	6,432.00 USD		
Premium (most expensive)			Up to 3 Physical servers w 2 CPUs each	1 phys server / 2 CPU / 12 Cores each		
			Includes vSphere and ESXi	Max of 8 VMs		
Netmaker			NordVPN	iVPN	85.00 USD	85.00 USD
OPNSense / pfSense	399.00 USD	399.00 USD	Cisco 1010 Series	Price + 25% for support	1,600.00 USD	720.00 USD
Mail-in-a-box	0.00 USD	0.00 USD		Proton Mail - US \$ 7 / user / month	6.00 USD	

NextCloud Enterprise / per user per mo	3.00 USD	36.00 USD	Google Workspace = US \$6 / user / month		6.00 USD	72.00 USD
Zentyal Server Enterprise - 25 Users	190.00 USD	190.00 USD	Azure Active Directory = US \$6 / user / month	@25 users (same as Zentyal plan)	6.00 USD	72.00 USD
Cost Totals	4,009.00 USD	2,894.00 USD			8,926.00 USD	7,024.00 USD

Pricing Calculator for Windows Server I used:

<https://wintelguy.com/windows-server-licensing-calc.pl>