



ERP vs. ERP II

ERP II is regarded as the “next generation” of ERP (enterprise resource planning) and offers several advantages over traditional ERP systems. ERP systems have historically been mostly limited to Finance and Administration, primarily serving logistics, supply chain, and warehousing functions.

ERP II expands the scope of ERP to offer solutions for a broader range of industries and sectors.

An ERP II solution offers greater flexibility in the integration of functions between departments and even industries. And, generally speaking, an ERP II system is a much more “Web-friendly” application that makes better use of the Internet, especially as a means for support. ERP II encourages user participation, facilitating interaction between customers and vendors, which effectively eliminates the difficulties that resulted from limited communication.

Debunking the Myth

ERP II has become the talk of the day in the enterprise world. ERP II features are said to be advanced when compared with the former. However some shun it as a mere extension of ERP. It becomes very important to analyze ERP II in this context.

Industry Specific Applications

The main drawback of enterprise resource planning is that it is a generic application which remains less focused on specific functions. However ERP II believed in restructuring ERP rather than restructuring the business process in the name of business process engineering or others. ERP II comes with comprehensive features that are exclusively suited industry wise. Further the packages also offer innumerable choice for the functional components. This is the crux of ERP II features.

Flexibility

ERP was a rigid application when it comes to the question of handling functions. ERP was more prone to serving individual functions. Even though they served multiple functions they did not always cater to different functions from different category. On the contrary ERP II could not only integrate different functions from different departments but also different function from different industries.

WEB centric Application

ERP II facilitated access to internet and made it a part of the working component. Even though ERP was a web friendly application it did not make full use of internet but they served as a means of support. This act equals possessing technology and not using it. However ERP had its own reservations in using internet abundantly. ERP II worked on them and hence became totally a web friendly application.

Evolution of Technology

The history of enterprise resource planning reveals an interesting Fact. ERP was discovered in the early 80's and 90's. The information technology was at the budding phase in this period and though it was nearing the pinnacle in many developed countries. Needless to mention that the ERP software programs developed initially were not computer friendly (if we are to discuss the practical situation).

This stage was critical for both Information technology and ERP. ERP was nearing completion while IT was rapidly expanding (and is still so) till date. ERP was developed keeping in mind the latest advancements of IT. However when the ERP systems were developed it showed an imbalance with the latest technological features of computers that were improved during the manufacturing of ERP. There seemed to be no end to this gap even in successive ERP modifications because if ERP was improved twice computers also experienced the more improvements and in multiple propitiations.

This proved to be the main reason for ERP's failure to make maximum advantage of facilities like internet. Even web enabled ERP was not effective to the desired extent. However things proved to be otherwise with the intrusion of ERP II. The main advantage and well known feature of ERP II is that it is designed in such a way that it makes optimal exploitation of the technological advances.

Autonomy for Vendors & Users

ERP II has helped the vendors and users to be liberal in choosing each other in addition by giving them the required freedom in designing and demanding applications as well. The vendor is also relieved from catering only to a particular sect of customers. The case is equally true for the customers. ERP II features help the vendor in choosing his target market and serving their needs by designing applications exclusively for them. On the other hand the company is also free to make any sort of demands as applications are going to be solely based on them.

Built on ERP's Failure

ERP II evolved from its predecessor. It originated due to ERP's failure. The contribution of ERP in redefining enterprise operations is still significant but not enough. Hence ERP II has been devised to overcome the drawbacks of ERP. They have been devised by working on the weakness and disadvantages of ERP. The comparative study of ERP II and ERP shows that it overplays its successor in all areas. The significant advancement makes one call into question if ERP II will completely replace ERP from the market entirely as users become more and more informed and less impressed with the well recognized logo's that have come to symbolize endless customization, risk and rigidity.