

# Proprietary vs Off-the-Shelf

Tags: Proprietary Software, Off-the-Shelf Software,

## Proprietary-Software

A one-of-a-kind program for specific application (owned by a company)

### Pros:

- this is exactly what the company needs
- being involved in the development offers control over the results
- better control and can modify features

### Cons:

- it takes a long time and significant resources to develop required features
- you want your own program, you may not have enough
- the features and performance of software that has yet to be developed presents more potential risk

## Off-the-Shelf software

software mass-produced by software vendors (addresses needs that are common across businesses, organizations, or individuals) **(for everyone to access)**

### Pros:

- The initial cost is lower
- it is likely to meet the basic needs (business)
- you can analyze existing features and performance before purchasing
- it is likely to be of high quality because many customer firms have tested the software and identified its bugs.

### Cons:

- an organization might have to pay for features that are not required and never used
- the software might lack important features, they require future modification or
- the software might not match current work processes and data standards