

CS3810 Business Plan

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1 Business Description

Anti-Entropy is company specialising in mobile applications for back office sales systems. The currently supported platforms are the iOS and Android operating systems. The aim of this product is to give businesses a simple solution to managing information on customers, provided products and services. This application may even replace dedicated terminals with a more convenient form factor, ideally installed on company supplied phones or tablets.

We also provide server hardware which hosts a central database the mobile software interacts with for its operations. This can either be renting our hosting service or purchasing a dedicated server for installation on the customers premises.

Along with the software and the server hardware we also offer support contract packages to help streamline the integration of our products into a customers business.

2 Competitor Analysis

The main competitors for this type of product would be similar products and the dedicated hardware versions as well as companies that offer similar back end sales management.

Companies that offer such services are:

- ACT!
A CRM solution software package created by Sage.
This seems to be a Windows only solution with no Mac, Linux or mobile support apart from some standard calendar syncing features.
They also offer a support package at a cost.
- Goldmine
It has a mobile version as well as a desktop version with integration into Microsoft Outlook.
The mobile version is only available on iOS and requires a windows server to host the service.
This solution also seems to have third party plugin support for a few additional features.
- Maximizer
Maximizer CRM Which also has iCalendar integration as well as a web based access to the system.
It has mobile versions as well including blackberry and windows mobile (not windows phone).

3 Strengths

We have solutions for the two main current mobile platforms as well as offering both hosted and dedicated database options.

Providing a personal service by having a friendly sales team who get to know each of our customers businesses directly and offer to meet on their own premises.

4 Weaknesses

The costs of starting up and generating an initial income is the greatest weakness during the early stages of the business.

Competitors are already established and can already generate revenue to stay afloat.

The second weakness would be awareness, the competitors are already known or easily found. Getting the brand out to potential customers and portraying our product as a quality brand.

5 Opportunities

The internet is a very cheap and effective medium for gaining awareness and for easy communication between us as a company and our customers.

Anti-Entropy will focus on good business to business relationships to try and establish brand loyalty and to help tailor our service to their individual needs.

A lot of these services are just a software package with optional support with no need to talk to a human being, just order the software and you are done, we offer a personal service to help integrate with existing businesses.

6 Threats

Already established products are much more likely to get the sales over a new unknown product.

If the venture is very successful then there is the possibility of work overload where we may not be able to deliver all of the services promptly and to the standard of which the customer is expecting.

7 Personnel

- Managing Director
Will be responsible to the top level management of the business and making sure that all of the finances are managed appropriately.

- Senior Developer
Responsible for the development team. Should have a Computer Science or programming background.
- Web Developer
Creation and maintenance of the company website will be the responsibility of the web developer, which should expand to a team when the company is more established. Also will work on the web client for the product.
- Developer
Standard developer working on the product itself. Ideally having one developer per application (iOS, Android, Server). Initially developers will have to provide support for their products as well.
- HR Manager
Will be tasked with making sure the Government criteria for workplaces is met and that staff are kept happy. Primarily ensuring a productive workforce.
- Sales
Responsible for contacting other businesses about our product and building relationships with them, as well as acquiring sales.
- Marketing Manager
To seek out potential customers to give to sales, to organise and manage advertising. Should be familiar with digital marketing.

8 Marketing

Co-ordination between the sales team and the marketing manager will be key to successful marketing.

- Traditional advertising
In business magazines and newspapers.
- Targeted adverts on websites.

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