

Getting and Using OFBiz

This document is a brief description of recommendations for getting and using OFBiz, including the Sequoia ERP project, it's targeted user community, and how to choose between them.

If you are looking for general information on The Open For Business Project (OFBiz) the best and most updated source is the web site for the project at: <http://www.ofbiz.org>

OFBiz is a very community oriented project and as such there is no central company or development team driving the project. Instead, there are dozens of groups and individuals that contribute to and help maintain the code and other artifacts and a central group with commit privileges that act as moderators and core developers on the project. Since there is no company driving it and no official commercial version of the project all contributors earn a living through other means, generally through service or other contracts or through employment at a company that uses OFBiz (as a services firm or as an end-user).

This means that OFBiz is very much development oriented community and ideal for those who want to participate in the project, or customize the latest and greatest for their use and collaborate with others in filling their needs. For this group the best way to get OFBiz is directly from SVN.

Getting OFBiz from SVN and building it is very easy. All you need is an SVN client and a Java 2 SDK 1.4 series JDK installed. To get it this way do the following:

- Using an SVN client checkout OFBiz following instructions at: <http://svn.ofbiz.org>
- Build and load seed data using included Ant libraries and build files with something like **ant.bat run-install** on Windows or **./ant run-install** on Linux/Unix/OS X; this will use the embedded Apache Derby database and will build the Java files and load the seed and demo data (for variations on this please see the Setup Guide or the Basic Production Setup Guide, both available from: <http://www.ofbiz.org/documents.html>)
- Run OFBiz using one of the **startofbiz.*** scripts, or with **java -jar ofbiz.jar**

For those who don't need the latest functionality and who aren't planning to participate in the project as a contributor and who prefer or need a more stable release with back-patched bug fixes and established reference points there is a community oriented to doing just this based on the core OFBiz code base and it is called Sequoia ERP. Please note that this is not ideal for those who are doing extensive customization or additions and wish to collaborate with others on these, but for those who want to use it mostly out of the box it is ideal. For more information and to download the Sequoia releases see: <http://www.sequoiaerp.org/>

Please send questions and comments to the OFBiz Users mailing list. To subscribe and for more information see: <http://lists.ofbiz.org>