Our team decided to choose Oracle’s Virtual Box running a Windows 10 Operating System to deploy our messaging application on. We chose this for a number of reasons, the top ones being that Oracle is a leading provider of virtual machines, Windows 10 is the most popular operating system and therefore offers the best exposure to the largest number of users, and since the app is written using the .Net Framework, this provides the easiest functionality.

Oracle provides the virtual box that is able to run on all the major operating systems so anyone can have access to it, and most people can run the app natively. Also, Virtual Box is one of the leading virtual machines used by developers so there is a lot of documentation to utilize and it is free, eliminating several other barriers. A lot of the other options out there offered various niche services but they were far less widely used, if we had went with any of these options we wouldn’t have had as much documentation nor the user base from other developer to draw from.

According to statcounter.com, Windows is used by 73% of all people using desktop operating systems. The next most popular operating system (OS X) only has 16% usage. It doesn’t make sense from a business perspective to double the code required for two operating systems when one has such a small potential market.

As far as what specific .Net app it is, we went with a Windows Forms app. Windows Forms makes it easy to create user interfaces. Also, all Windows Forms have the same appearance. This is a benefit as it means the user will be more familiar with the app and be able to figure out how to operate it. Since we developed the back end database in SQL Server, a Windows Forms application makes it easy to manage the model view design pattern.