

# **About iDempiere**

iDempiere is a powerful, open-source ERP/CRM/SCM system targeted to medium and big companies and supported by a skilful community. The project focuses on high-quality software, a philosophy of openness and its collaborative community that includes subject matter specialists, implementers, developers and end-users.

Our mission is to help companies around the world to grow with freedom. To do this, we focus on high-quality code and we have established a culture that supports, recognizes, and respects our great community, so they can share their knowledge with the world.

The project is built with ZK, Maven, PostgreSQL or Oracle, Jetty, OSGi and it is written mainly in Java.

## The challenge

Having a worldwide community present tough challenges such as coordinating different needs without letting the code to become a mess. By making contributors use the ZK Java approach consistently, ZK helps us address this challenge. Furthermore, handling client-side validations in this kind of software could be a tedious and risky task as it consumes plenty of development time and when done sloppily it opens security breaches. ZK's server-centric approach lets us control all validations on the server without exposing unnecessary data.

## Why ZK?

Formerly the project front end was built using Swing. When we recognized the need to switch to new web-based technology, there was an attempt to create a web interface with JSF, but that didn't get enough interest and traction from the community.

One community member developed a proof of concept using ZK, this allowed us to identify that the switch from Swing to ZK was more natural as there were similar concepts and components. Another community member also attempted to build a new UI using GWT, but again there was not enough interest from the community.

Once we got a first version of the ZK based front end running on a client, the community embraced the idea and loved the result, so it started evolving to the point of becoming an

essential piece of our current project, after that the Swing client was deprecated and discontinued.

ZK was also a perfect fit for our community. Given the fact that our back-end is entirely written in Java, we could leverage our community skills and the learning curve to contribute to the front end was considerably low, in comparison to having to understand and learn a client-side technology.

Additionally, by allowing us to execute everything on the server-side, ZK provides great flexibility and enables us to have improved data security, which is key in an ERP. Moreover, it enables our implementers to be pure SaaS providers, we have installations around the world that grow horizontally with load balancers on which each server runs its own ZK UI, and it works wonderfully.

#### The result

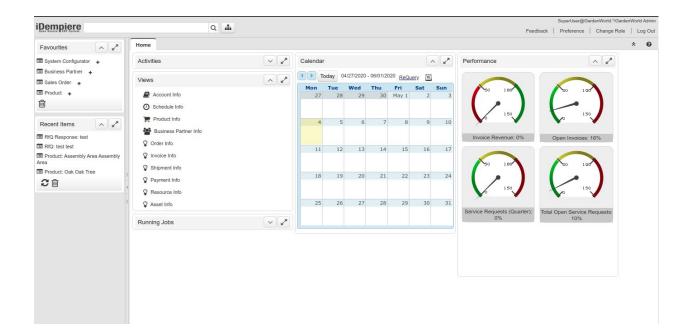
People love our ERP. It is fast, reliable and usable. ZK keeps evolving and releasing versions frequently showing good maintenance by fixing issues. ZK's flexibility allows each implementer to customize their own themes without having to change any java code which is seen as a great advantage of our software.

#### **Suggestions**

Many of our users are starting to complain more and more about a more mobile-oriented approach. While ZK provides responsiveness up to a certain extent, it is not optimal and could improve. It would be great if we could develop mobile interfaces using the ZK CE edition as well

# **Screenshots**

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