



CAPITA

Introducing Chorus – LMS as a Service



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Capita's delighted to announce the launch of Chorus, the Library Management System as a Service. In this article we review the history of the library management system and why Capita's chosen to adopt a Cloud solution for its next generation LMS.

Cloud Computing, Software as a Service (SaaS), Platform as a Service and Hosting in the Cloud... these are all hot topic terms on everyone's tongues at the moment. It is attracting much attention from business and IT professionals alike. "It's become the phrase du jour," says Gartner senior analyst Ben Pring⁽¹⁾. "The problem is that (as with Web 2.0) everyone seems to have a different definition." So what does this mean for your library service?

Back in 2008 we launched our next generation OPAC, Prism 3 - which we are

Technology trends tend to ebb and flow like waves; thirty years ago a typical system would be a 'dumb' terminal connecting to a backend mainframe, which did all of the grunt work. Then the PC revolution happened and sophisticated applications were deployed onto desktop computers. The emerging cloud computing revolution is shifting back towards the terminal/mainframe model - but now with the web behind it. Think of the old mainframe as the new cloud and the dumb terminal as your web browser. Rather than have applications installed on desktops, the applications are installed on the web. This is what Google is, what Amazon is, what Salesforce.com is and now what Prism is.

When the first generation of Capita's Library Management System launched over 40 years ago we used the technology of the time, the mainframe, to host our Union catalogue of bibliographic data for shared cataloguing (this still exists today as Base - a SaaS application serving millions of bibliographic records which Capita host and manage). As more and

customers incur with on-premise hardware and system administration.

This is an exciting time for Capita and our library customers. Having successfully operated in the cloud with Prism to service library borrowers, we are now entering into a next generation of library management service provision for library staff. Our cloud based solution, Chorus, will manage all of the services that customers enjoy now, such as self-service, RFID, Management Information and integration, to name but a few.

Our secure data centre facilities and administration staff will take care of data security, network access, server patching, service and software upgrades, disaster recovery, service monitoring and off-site storage of backups. All of this will be part of a fully managed service.

Chorus is your LMS as a Service, available now, deployed in the cloud, fully managed by Capita in our dedicated and secure data centres; your library system as on-demand software with all system administration

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evolving into a next generation discovery interface, as a fully hosted "SaaS" application. Since then our customers have enjoyed the benefits of what SaaS gives them: a fully managed service, deployed in Capita data centres, administered entirely by Capita with a regular feed of new feature releases. This differs considerably from the on-premise deployment architecture of its predecessor, Prism 2, which required customers to have hardware installed in their data centres, a need for dedicated local system administration and a less frequent release cycle of new features.

more modules were added to the system the user interface was presented on Terminals. In line with the PC revolution the system then evolved into Alto as a sophisticated desktop application.

This generation of the Capita Library Management System, Alto, is now following this trend as we move it into a cloud based service, Chorus. Customers will still enjoy all of the benefits and features previously delivered by the mature Alto library management system, with the added benefit that Capita will fully host the system, removing the costs that

overhead undertaken by Capita without the need for any local server hardware on your premises. Exciting times are ahead...

(1) (InfoWorld, "What cloud computing really means." Eric Knorr/Galen Gruman, Jan. 21, 2011)

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