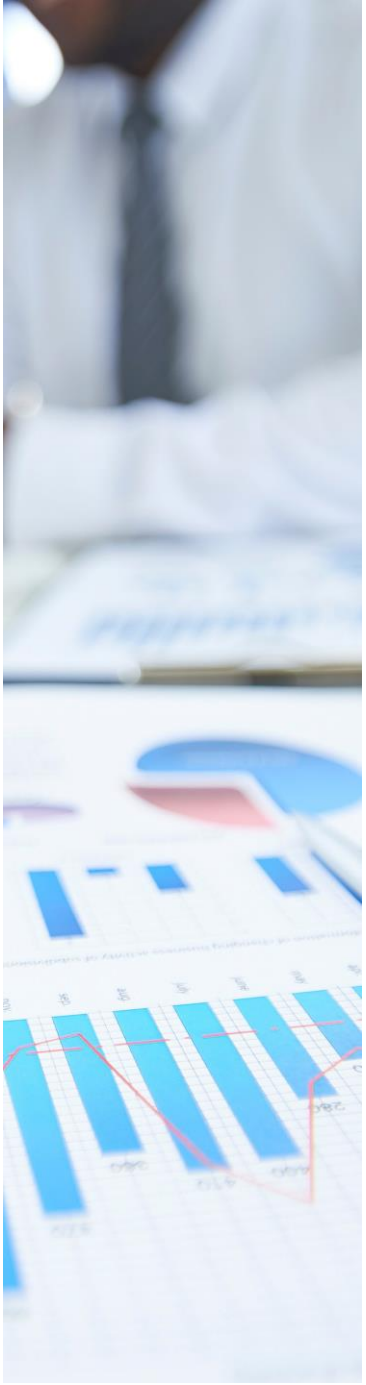

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Understanding The Real Cost Of Open Source

Free software (or freeware) is great – it's definitely affordable and usually very customizable. But as the old saying goes: You get what you pay for. Not many freeware providers offer help desk support or other useful assistance when inevitable problems arises. Furthermore, who pays for the security of your freeware, or rather, the lack thereof?

You do.

Initially, you will save money by using freeware, but the cost of doing business will catch up and surpass that savings in the long run. There are several very important considerations when selecting software vendors. Will the vendor stand behind the product and the implementation over time to ensure the security of your software and updates? We have all been approached by our security team to ensure that important communications over the internet are secured with HTTPS/SSL. Have you considered what your software does with its important communications behind the scenes?

Recently it came to the attention of the security community that several free CMS platforms perform their software update downloads over HTTP. This leaves them vulnerable to a series of attacks that could be devastating to the security of your content management system and integrated applications. With a well-crafted man in the middle attack, the attacker could swap the valid install with malicious software that may go completely undetected. With the recent focus on how healthcare information has become a high value target to hackers and the repeated vulnerabilities uncovered in open source content management systems, can you trust your data to a CMS that doesn't have an organization to back their security claims?

The open source CMS platforms are in general backed by a community of developers with honorable goals of helping other developers and users. In order to protect themselves they release their software under the umbrella of some standard legal agreements that state the person using the software cannot hold the developer community liable for the use of the software they publish. This leaves the organization utilizing the CMS holding the liability.

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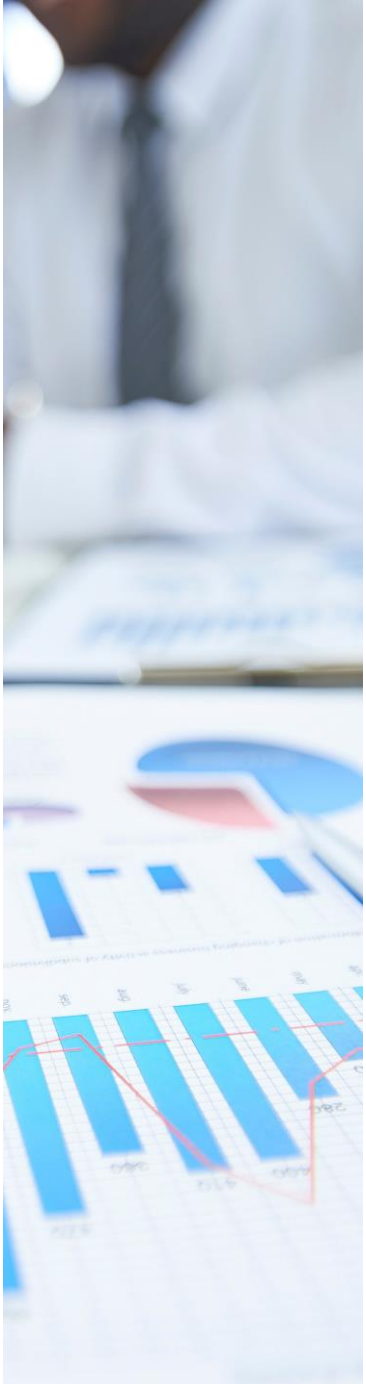

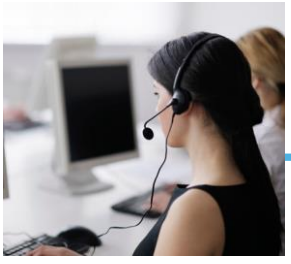

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You may say "Well, my vendor assured me that this software is secure and they are liable in terms of a breach." Do you have the business agreements to back up those claims? Do you have 24x7x365 support contacts in the event of a serious breech or concern? Do you have a team of developers who have been trained in secure coding practices and are knowledgeable of the complete package to provide a timely fix in the event of a breach?

With CareTech the answer to those questions are "Yes".

CareTech understands and is fully compliant with the HIPAA Security Rule, the HITECH ACT of 2009, and the HIPAA Omnibus Bill of 2013. This compliance includes our Data Center Security Requirements, and our CMS Application and Web Hosting Security Standards.

That said, your hosting environment and our hospital data centers are American Hospital Association endorsed, fully HIPAA-compliant and audited annually against SSAE-16 SOC 2 standards. And with our CareTech CMS you have the peace of mind of knowing that all of your information is safely secured in our Tier 3, AHA-endorsed data center that meets all HIPAA and PCI requirements.

When it comes to CareTech products, you can rest assured that we stand behind the security of our products. CareTech has developed a comprehensive information security program to address the security needs of our clients. Appropriate controls are in place to safeguard confidentiality, integrity, and availability of systems and data. Furthermore, CareTech has experienced, certified and credentialed security professionals on its staff.

So what can you do to protect the valuable data that you have collected? Work with CareTech to tailor a strategic plan that provides you with the security balance that is right for your organizational objectives.

Sources:

- http://www.csoonline.com/article/3020069/security/drupal-sites-at-risk-due-to-insecure-update-mechanism.html#jump
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- http://www.caretech.com/

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