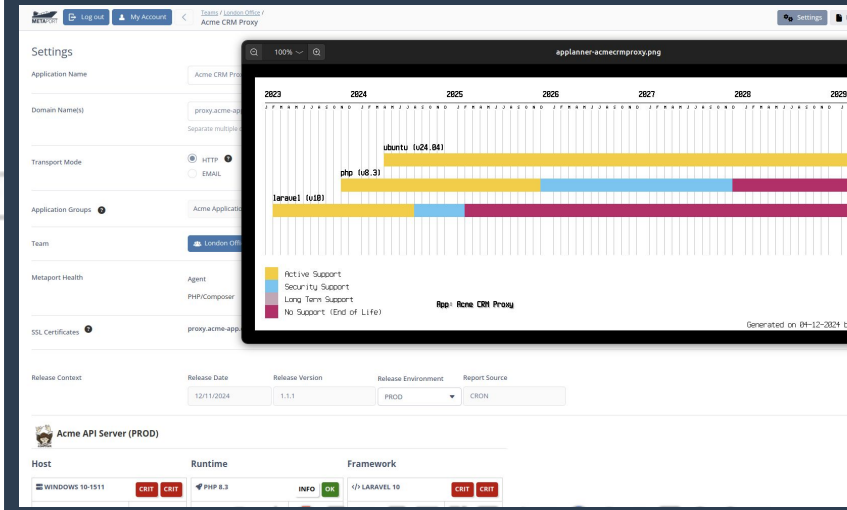
METAPORT

The Case For Metaport: Creating clarity out of chaos for web application delivery teams.



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What is Metaport?

There's a gulf between engineering orientated tooling and project and task management systems.

Engineering and operations tools are powerful but designed for technical users, while traditional project management tools focus on scheduling and task management but lack the high-level technical insights which **Project Managers** need such as:

- End-of-life (EOL) and end-of-support (EOS) dates.
- Security vulnerabilities and dependencies.
- SSL certificate expiries.
- Affected apps.

Metaport is a product from **Dcentrica Solutions** which provides Project Managers with the data they need to plan and budget effectively without consulting a developer.

With Metaport, Project Managers have insights into dependencies and vulnerabilities and can track EOL and EOS dates **autonomously**, and with improved planning comes improved communication with clients and stakeholders.

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The Metaport Advantage

What Metaport Brings to the Table

- **Auto-Generated Gantt Charts & Calendars**
  Metaport gives Project Managers direct access to lifecycle data for project components in their portfolio, including planned upgrade windows and EOL dates, so they can plan upgrades months or even years in advance, without any developer involvement.

- **Proactive Planning**
  Using Metaport, Project Managers initiate upgrade discussions and budget planning well in advance ensuring better resource allocation and smoother transitions for clients. This means reactive and last-minute scrambles in upgrades and patching become a thing of the past.

- **Visibility and findability**
  Metaport's powerful search feature empowers Project Managers so they can find apps in their portfolio which may be affected by a vulnerability or rely on a dependency at a particular version. Developers are relieved of manually consulting codebases, in favour of Project Managers eliciting this information themselves.

How Does it Work?

An **agent** is installed as a dependency of each app which sends Metaport updates about components such as frameworks, runtimes, and hosting environments, as well as dependencies and vulnerabilities.

Agents send data over HTTPS or SMTP for those more sensitive apps via an encrypted attachment.

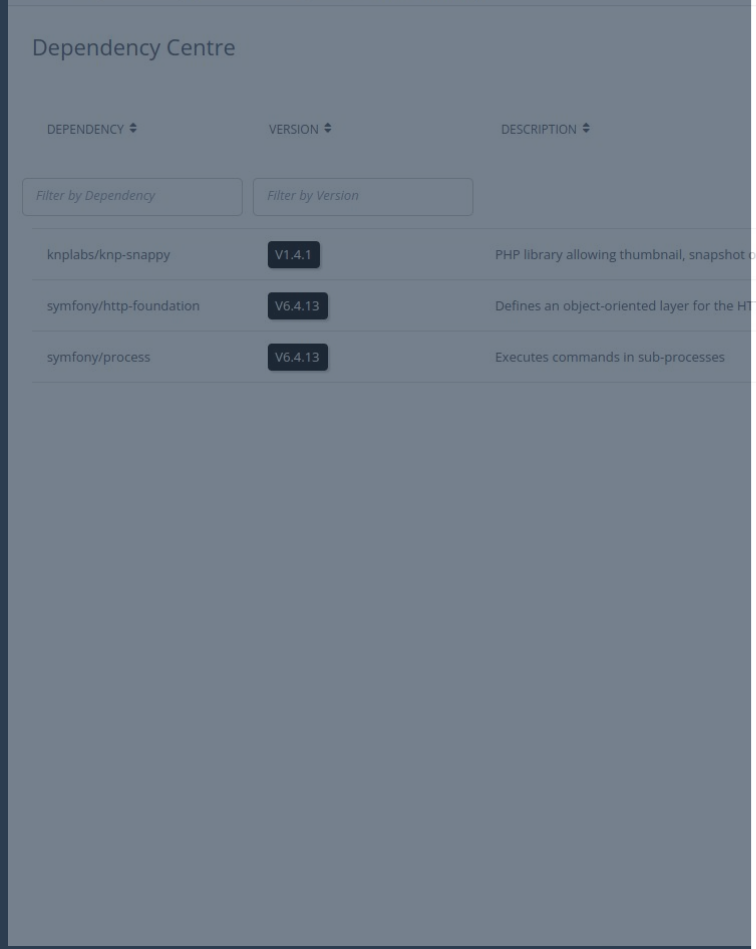
Metaport is **language agnostic**. Data from your NodeJS apps is processed the same as from a PHP, Python or Ruby app.

Scenarios - RFPs: Promises vs Reality

RFPs like to tell a compelling story about how well the proposed solution will be maintained post-launch, and about how well upgrades, patching, and planning will be managed. However, these promises are usually high-level and leave prospective clients with little clarity on how the work will **actually** be planned and executed.

The reality is that maintenance work is traditionally very reactive and ad-hoc, with Project Managers heavily dependent on developers to identify and provide information about EOL and EOS components, outdated dependencies, and security vulnerabilities.

With this data to-hand, authors of RFPs can tell prospective clients exactly **how**, and importantly **when;** updates, upgrades and patches will be needed and performed.



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Scenarios - RFPs: With Metaport

Authors can **authentically** explain the advantages of component lifetimes using a gantt style visualisation.

Using Metaport's automatically generated gantt charts and calendars, RFP authors have authoritative data to reference so that schedules and budgets can be proposed.

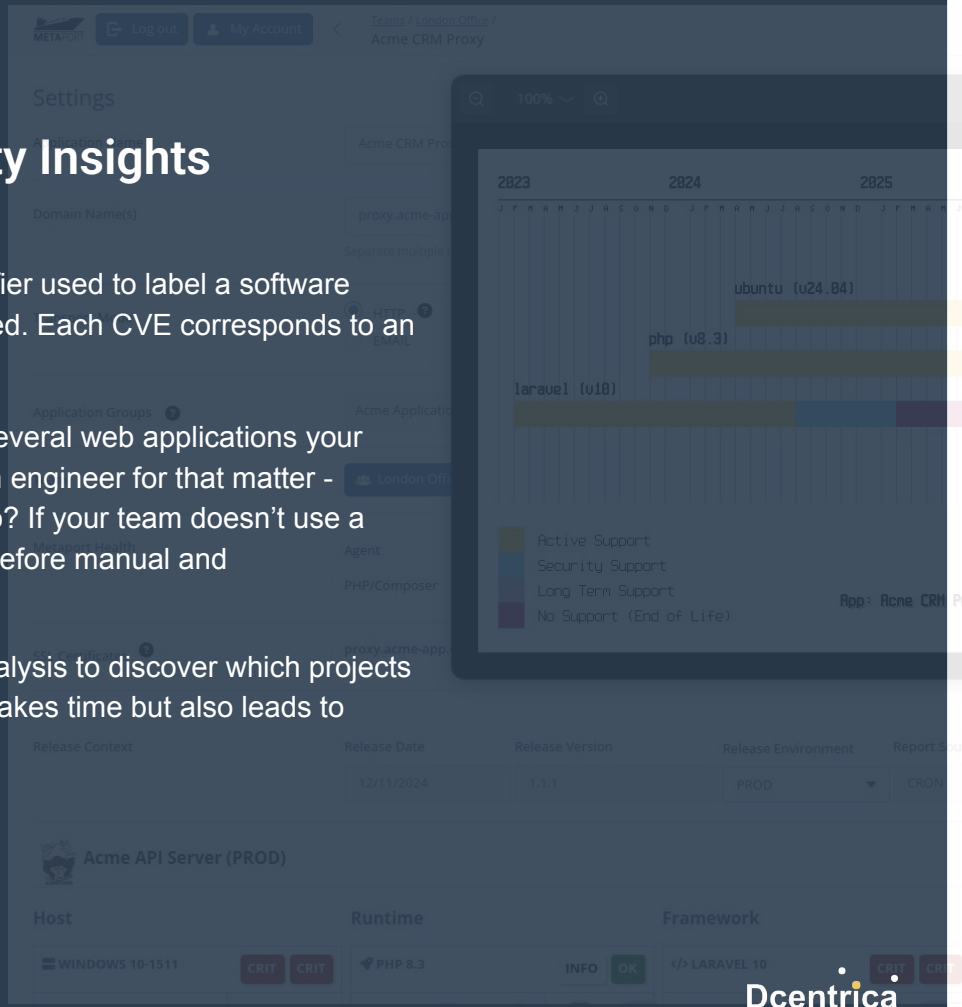
With an emphasis on **proactive planning,** RFPs can accurately depict Project Managers working with their clients to plan and finalise upgrades, budgets, and resource allocations, all while maintaining visibility over the entire project portfolio.

Scenarios - CVEs: Portfolio-wide Security Insights

A CVE (Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures) is a unique identifier used to label a software security vulnerability that has been discovered and publicly released. Each CVE corresponds to an issue that may affect multiple software applications in a portfolio.

Imagine a CVE issued against software which is a known part of several web applications your team manages for its clients. How would a Project Manager - or an engineer for that matter - quickly determine which apps are affected over the team's portfolio? If your team doesn't use a CMDB (Configuration Management Database), this process is therefore manual and time-consuming.

In the absence of the appropriate tools, teams resort to manual analysis to discover which projects are vulnerable, and which dependencies are at risk. This not only takes time but also leads to oversights.



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Scenarios - CVEs: With Metaport

Using Metaport, Project Managers can comprehensively query across their entire portfolio of applications and sites to gain timely insights for use in backlog creation, answering client queries and other planning activities.

Project Managers can now get answers to such questions as:

- Which of our apps is vulnerable to CVE-123?
- Which of our apps is dependent on library 'X' at version 'Y'?

And because they no longer need to drop everything in order to answer ad-hoc questions about a project they may not have seen for months, **developers** remain focused on billable work while Project Managers communicate the security and maintenance aspects **independently**.

Scenarios - Reminders: Keeping abreast of ongoing maintenance

Access to accurate and timely lifecycle information is crucial, but maintaining and tracking it over time, and across multiple projects and clients is a huge challenge for Project Managers.

In addition to their regular duties, also accurately keeping track of key lifecycle dates and staying on top of reminders is a challenge.

Project management needs to be continuous and shouldn’t suffer due to staff absences. Without centralised and easily accessible data, handovers are often inefficient and lead to costly mistakes.

Scenarios - Reminders: With Metaport

By importing product lifecycle information into planning calendars, Project Managers immediately have automated reminders to-hand and no longer need to manually track dates across multiple clients.

Use of a shared calendar ensures that team members, even interim or temporary staff, have access to the same information. This reduces the complexity of handovers and improves business continuity.

The Bigger Picture

With **Metaport**, Project Managers take control of their team's maintenance planning without relying on developers. And because they're less reactive, budgetary conversations happen sooner and stakeholders have the breathing space needed to negotiate and obtain that budget.

Better planning, proactive scheduling, and tracking, means teams allocate resources more efficiently, reducing last-minute scrambles and optimizing project timelines.

Developers benefit too by staying focused on billable work with reduced interruptions, while Metaport handles the provision of application specific data to Project Managers.

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Try Metaport Today!

- Visit **getmetaport.com** to download and install Metaport.
- Watch our **promotional video** to see how Metaport helps teams plan better.
- Explore **the documentation** to see how Metaport works.
- See the **code repository** to help develop Metaport.
- Visit our **Slack channel** for support.

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About Dcentrica

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