

The Difference between Browser and Windows Applications

By Gustav Oberholzer
Business Management Software Consultant, Mirror Business Solutions
gustavo@mirrorsa.co.za
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Owing to this wonderful thing we call the Internet or Cloud Computing, we can deploy systems that drastically change and improve the way we conduct business and organize ourselves.

For instance, Universal Office Automative Solutions (www.uoas.co.za) recently launched a new stationery ordering service to its clients. Via a dedicated Windows App(lication) called *UOAS Client Self-Service*, orders are now received that seamlessly integrate with UOAS's on-premises ERP system.

This Windows App was developed within two weeks only. Had the user interface been a Browser App, it would have taken much, much longer, and the end-result would have been a less convenient experience for the client. As the Windows App's programming logic is pre-installed, the app is very responsive because only data has to be transmitted to the user – Browser Apps require data and programming logic to be transmitted, and as a result, are less responsive. This effect is amplified especially in South Africa where broadband is still a far cry from the Internet Nirvana available in the USA and Europe.

Even with say a thousand users, the “inconvenience” of a client first having to install a dedicated Windows App, is minimal. A single installation file, less than 1MB, creates a desktop icon, and from there on, the user has the luxury of an application that can exploit the full range of ergonomical benefits offered by the Windows operating system that are difficult or impossible to achieve in the Browser environment.

Browser development is very difficult and costly, whereas Windows development can be standardized more easily, and you can introduce *source code automation*.

The UOAS solution and various others, such as the Jurgens CRM system and Mirror Streamline ERPM, are based on the Simplistic Architecture: a framework and source code automation technology developed by local company Mirror Business Solutions (www.mirrorsa.co.za). The Simplistic Architecture focuses on optimal simplicity and standardization over all aspects of system design, development, deployment, use and maintenance. As such, the complexities and associated costs of Browser Apps are sidestepped.

We do need Browser Apps for publishing static information and to be visible to the general public who might “Google” us. But when it comes to specific, more-than-static solutions with a regular user base, the benefits offered by Simplistic Architecture Windows Apps become obvious when you talk to UOAS customers who now prefer to buy office stationery in a new and optimally convenient way.