

Web Development: A Comparison of Three Major Platforms

A comprehensive look at Linux / Apache / MySQL / PHP (LAMP) vs. Microsoft's ASP.NET vs. Sun's Java 2 Enterprise Edition (J2EE)

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Area	LAMP	ASP.NET	J2EE
Licensing cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No licensing cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expensive licensing cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No licensing cost
Support options and cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free support via community Paid support options available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free support via community Paid support options available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free support via community Paid support options available
Platform(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Windows only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple
Hardware Costs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Runs on very inexpensive servers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires slightly more expensive servers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires expensive servers
Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Somewhat difficult to find qualified people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very easy to find qualified people 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasonably easy to find qualified people
External Hosting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widely available and inexpensive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widely available, but more expensive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not widely available
Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very good 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historically very bad, but improved recently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good
Performance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very good 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Often requires more expensive hardware to perform well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Often requires substantial configuration and expensive hardware
Scalability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scales very well 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be difficult to scale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scales well when configured properly
Administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Difficult: Often requires reading documentation and editing text files 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easy: Often can be done through point and click interface 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate: Sometimes can be done visually
Configuration ease of use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be difficult to configure properly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easy to configure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderately difficult to configure
Configuration flexibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Extremely flexible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not very flexible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderately flexible
Framework(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many available – often difficult to choose 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One standardized framework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One standardized framework
Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widely available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widely available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widely available
Compatibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very good: New versions usually backwards-compatible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moderate: New versions often break functionality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bad: Many problems between old and new versions

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