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# 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)***

| Area | LAMP | ASP.NET | J2EE |
|---|---|---|---|
| Licensing cost | • No licensing cost | • Expensive licensing cost | • No licensing cost |
| Support options and cost | • Free support via community<br>• Paid support options available | • Free support via community<br>• Paid support options available | • Free support via community<br>• Paid support options available |
| Platform(s) | • Multiple | • Windows only | • Multiple |
| Hardware Costs | • Runs on very inexpensive servers | • Requires slightly more expensive servers | • Requires expensive servers |
| Staffing | • Somewhat difficult to find qualified people | • Very easy to find qualified people | • Reasonably easy to find qualified people |
| External Hosting | • Widely available and inexpensive | • Widely available, but more expensive | • Not widely available |
| Security | • Very good | • Historically very bad, but improved recently | • Good |
| Performance | • Very good | • Often requires more expensive hardware to perform well | • Often requires substantial configuration and expensive hardware |
| Scalability | • Scales very well | • Can be difficult to scale | • Scales well when configured properly |
| Administration | • Difficult: Often requires reading documentation and editing text files | • Easy: Often can be done through point and click interface | • Moderate: Sometimes can be done visually |
| Configuration ease of use | • Can be difficult to configure properly | • Easy to configure | • Moderately difficult to configure |
| Configuration flexibility | • Extremely flexible | • Not very flexible | • Moderately flexible |
| Framework(s) | • Many available – often difficult to choose | • One standardized framework | • One standardized framework |
| Components | • Widely available | • Widely available | • Widely available |
| Compatibility | • Very good: New versions usually backwards-compatible | • Moderate: New versions often break functionality | • Bad: Many problems between old and new versions |

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