

Open Source ERPs vs. Tally ERP

Sl. No.	Feature	Open Source ERPs (e.g. Adempiere, Odoo, ERP Next, Dolibarr etc.)	Tally ERP 9
1	Target Clientele	Process driven mid and large size organisations with best GRC practices	Small size, family managed, individual centric conservative businesses with poor GRC practices
2	USP	Standardisation of the Enterprise-wide business processes and efficiency in management control & decision making	Ease of operations for the clerical staff and cooking books of accounts for tax filing only
3	IFC / ICoFR (C.A. 2013) / SOX / Clause 49 (Listing Agreement) compliant	Can be configured for global best practices (COSO / CoBIT) in ITGC and Automated Application Controls (ITAC)	Since main focus is on ease of use for the clerical staff and cooking books of accounts for tax filing, controlling features are very weak.
4	Application Architecture	Industry standard Modern 3 Tier Architecture (Frontend - Application Logic - DBMS)	Single Tier proprietary architecture, developed in 80's
5	Development Environment & DBMS	Industry standard open source development environment (HTML, Java Script, PHP, Java, Python etc.) & DMBS support (e.g. MySQL, Maria DB, PostgreSQL, Oracle etc.)	Proprietary development environment (TDL) without any separate DBMS
6	User Interface (UI)	- Modern Web based GUI with several appealing themes - Multiple windows of the same application or other applications can be opened simultaneously	- Out-dated text only UI developed in 80's for DOS based PCs - User can work on single window at a time. Other applications can not be opened without minimising Tally
7	Support Eco-system	Supported by a strong worldwide community of open source evangelists with brilliant technical & domain expertise	Supported by the small-time hardware vendors without any technical or domain expertise
8	Application Licencing	Based on GNU Public Licencing	Heavy upfront licence free and AMC / add-on charges
9	Operating Environment	Supports Linux and Windows based servers and workstations	Supports only Windows based servers and workstations
10	User Profile	Loved by the professional with past experience in tier I ERPs and SOP driven professionally managed MNCs	Non-qualified user base in family owned conservative organisations never exposed to industrial best practices and professionally managed MNCs
11	Updation	Application and the supporting environment (i.e. DBMS, development framework etc.) are continuously improved by the community	Monopolistic profit-oriented corporation only focus on bringing tax-compliance features
12	Speed and data handling	- Based on power of Apache web server and leading DBMSs which can handle any amount of transaction volume / data size / no. of users - Application and database servers can be separately installed.	- Based on the proprietary single tire source code & DBMS which slows down with transactions volume, data size, no. of users etc. - Application and database servers can not be separate.
13	Installation base	World-wide installation base including developed countries	Presence in India and undeveloped Asian & African countries only
14	Data Sharing	Easy & real-time two-way data-sharing any other business applications like HRMS, CRM, POS, Web-stores etc. via ODBC, JDBC, Jboss, Web services etc.	One-way manual flat file based data sharing can be created via proprietary TDL programming only
15	Interface with other applications	Easy & real-time interface with any other business applications like HRMS, CRM, POS, Web-stores etc. via simple and open API	Manual interface with other applications can be created via proprietary TDL programming only
16	Customisation / Enhancement	Easy customisation through freely available source code	Customisation can be done by the authorised partners in separate developer's edition only
17	Pricing	Entire Application and its source code is free	Differential pricing on the basis of the version, no. of users, add-on etc.
18	Cloud installation	Can be installed on any public or private cloud having web server, PHP and DBMS facility	Cloud feature can be obtained through Tally only
19	Access Controls	- Role based high-level access controls can be implemented - Administrator and technical staff's access on the business transactions & reports can be restricted	- Very basic user based access control - Administrator's and technical staff's access can not be restricted
20	Deletion of transaction	Transactions can only be deleted with verifiable trail in system	Transactions can be deleted easily without any trace
21	Audit Trail on the transaction	Audit-trail on the transactions can be maintained with user ID and time stamp	No transaction-wise user trail available
22	Portable devices access	Can be accessed via any Android / Apple OS based devices (e.g. Smartphones, Tablets etc.)	Available on Windows based PCs
23	Application installation on workstations	No installation on workstations. Can be accessed via any web browser	Application front-end needs to installed on the user workstations
24	Period / Financial years wise restrictions	Complicated period / financial year based restrictions can be implemented	Only very basic back date restriction is possible
25	Backup and Restore procedure	Easy SQL file based backup and restore procedure	Complicated corruption-prone backup and restore procedure with proprietary format
26	Mass data input	Mass data can be imported internally via CSV import or direct DBMS import	Mass data input is not supported