

# Tracking Your Fasteners

by:

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## Never Heard of Linux — Think Again

The authoritative technical website, [www.zdnet.com](http://www.zdnet.com), knows all about Linux. The site says, “There are over a billion Linux end-users in the world in 2014. Yes, that’s right, a billion.”

## Fedora Vs. Windows®

Fedora (formerly Fedora Core) is our choice for The Business Edge. Fedora is a Linux distribution developed by the community-supported Fedora Project and owned by **Red Hat**.

Fedora contains software distributed under a free and open-source license and aims to be on the leading edge of such technologies. Fedora has a reputation for focusing on innovation, integrating new technologies early on and working closely with upstream Linux communities.

## Linux is New

The Linux kernel was initially conceived and created in 1991 by Finnish computer science student, **Linus Torvalds**. Linux rapidly accumulated developers and users who adapted code from other free software projects for use with the new operating system. Windows® was announced by **Microsoft** in 1982.

## Windows is Monolithic

Windows has a monolithic approach to its software. Since it is proprietary, all core support ultimately comes from Microsoft. Conversely, Linux is Open Source, and changes, all the way down to the core support, are provided by the user community. Windows advances continue, but they tend to be slower and more complicated to use to the client’s advantage.

## Android is Linux

The [www.Zdnet.com](http://www.Zdnet.com) website also says, “With the rise of smartphones, Android isn’t just the top Linux end-user operating system, it’s on its way to being the top end-user operating system of all.”

## The Business Edge Linux Server

At **Computer Insights, Inc.**, we have chosen Linux as our server operating system for several reasons:

1. It fully supports our Agile Programming methods. We are able to provide our clients with continuous updates without interfering with their day-to-day operations.

The screenshot displays the 'The Business Edge' software interface, specifically the 'Product Inquiry Expert' window. The interface is divided into several sections:

- PRODUCT INQUIRY EXPERT:** Shows product details for '75C100CS S', including 'Brighton-Best Part Number', 'Product Description' (3/4-10 X 1" Hex Cap Screw SS), 'Classification' (CYW Fasteners), and 'Alternate Part Number' (45578-5871).
- Availability:** A table showing 'On Hand' (12,100 EA), 'Available' (11,200 EA), 'Branch' (1,200 EA), 'Going Out' (900 EA), and 'Coming In' (1,600 EA).
- Price & Cost:** Lists 'List Price' (5.00 C), 'Price Level' (1.000), 'Average Cost' (2.34 C), and 'Replacement Cost' (2.34 C).
- Inventory:** Shows 'Total Value' (283.14) and 'Branch Stocking Information' with various quantities and weights.
- Lot Tracking Detail:** A table with columns for 'Branch Name', 'Location', 'Lot Number', 'Tag', 'License Plate', and 'On Hand'. It lists locations like Brownsville, Memphis, and Mundelein.
- Open Documents:** A table listing document dates, descriptions, and quantities.
- Recent Product Sales:** A table with columns for 'Invoice Number', 'Inv Date', 'Customer Name', 'Due Date', 'Customer PO', 'Ord', 'Cost', and 'Unit Pric'.
- Recent Product Receipts:** A table with columns for 'Type', 'Document', 'Date', 'Line #', 'Vendor', 'Vendor Name', 'Received', 'Qty', and 'Co'.
- Alternate Product Codes:** A table listing alternate codes and their descriptions.
- Recent Product Tracking Sales:** A table with columns for 'Inv Date', 'Customer', 'Customer Name', 'Qty', 'UOM', 'Unit Cost', and 'Unit Pric'.

## User Designed Screens and Workflow

Each user can choose exactly what will be on his or her screen, the sequence and the field lengths. No programming is involved.

2. We are able to support any workstation that the client wishes to use. These include Microsoft PCs, Macs, Linux Workstations and a wide variety of mobile devices.

## Tracking Your Fasteners ...continued

**Availability**

On Hand	Available	Branch	Going Out	Coming In
12,100 EA	11,200 EA	1,200 EA	900 EA	1,600 EA

**Price & Cost**

List Price	5.00 C
Price Level	1,000
Average Cost	2.34 C
Replacement Cost	2.34 C

**Inventory**

Total Value	283.14
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**Branch Stocking Information**

Re-Order Point	100 EA
Max Qty to Stock	1,000 EA
Min Purchase Qty	100 EA
Packaging Qty	100 EA
Master Packaging Qty	1,000 EA
Bulk Packaging Qty	10,000 EA
Theoretical Weight	0.011000000 lbs
Buyer	

**6 Month Usage**

- Alternate Product Codes
- Bill of Materials
- Branch Stocking Values
- Branch Values
- Buyer Information
- Competitive Prices
- Customer Contract Prices
- General Ledger Information
- Lot Tracking Detail
- Open Documents
- Product Open PO's
- Product Open Quotes
- Product Sales History
- Product Usage by Branch
- Product Usage Totals
- Product Vendors
- Recent Product Lost Sales
- Recent Product Notes
- Recent Product Receipts
- Recent Product Sales
- Recent Product Tracking Sales
- Substitute Products

**Optional Information**

Vendor PO	Min	Entered	Time Entered	Phor
400.00	05-11-07	17:15:43	(800)	

3. It has enabled us to create our advanced User Defined Desktop design that provides each user with extensive control over his or her screen layout and workflow. This adds efficiency.

4. We do not have to force our clients to pay for annual license fees for their operating systems.

5. We have complete control over the security and our clients have no worries about breaches or intrusions. They don't have to pay extra for virus software and then apply all the patches constantly.

6. We have support of the entire Linux community and enough control over the environment that we can easily "tune" systems for each client's optimum performance.

### Many Programmers Prefer Linux

1. **Security.** Linux is extremely secure and since the security can be individually tailored, the programmer can tell exactly how the system is breached, if it ever is.

2. **Upgrade ability.** It is very easy to upgrade Linux to the newest release.

3. **Price.** Common, Linux is free. You may already have Windows, but how many programs for Windows are free?

4. **Experience.** Using Linux is like a revolution. The programmer gets complete control over the computer.

5. **Customization.** Don't like the programming environment? Change to another one. Each environment has

many customization options.

6. **Performance.** Linux uses less RAM and CPU than Windows or OS.

7. **Support.** Let's face it, Linux has awesome forums.

8. **Large selection of software.** The Linux community has a large selection of software. Computer science majors need compilers, libraries, multiple environments, etc., all of which are available with Linux (GNU/LINUX).

### Windows and Linux Both Have a Place

Neither Windows nor Linux has enough advantages that one should choose their ERP System based solely on the operating system. The true test of a proper choice for the company's complete software package lies in the capabilities of the software and the quality of the support provided.

Windows continues to be the dominant provider of desktop operating systems, but desktops are declining and being replaced by all sorts of mobile devices. Linux is the clear leader in mobile devices and at the server level, Linux has captured more than 70% of the Internet server market. Companies that are processing millions of transactions per second, e.g., **Google, Amazon, Com, Facebook** and even most financial institutions rely on the stability, security and performance of Linux. Each operating system has advantages and disadvantages. Don't let anyone tell you otherwise.

To find additional information, visit the Computer Insights, Inc. website listed below.

[www.ci-inc.com](http://www.ci-inc.com)



**Dennis, R. Cowhey, COB** – Started **Computer Insights** in 1981. He served for many years on the **Illinois CPA Society Computer Information Systems Committee**. He is a frequent author of articles for industry trade magazines. Before starting Computer Insights, he served as Central District Manager for a division of **Litton Industries** (now part of **Rockwell**), that offered inventory control systems to retailers. Prior to that, he was a Credit and Financial Analyst for National Credit Office division of **Dun & Bradstreet, Inc.** Cowhey received his education at **Chicago City College** and **DePaul University**.

Computer Insights provides The BUSINESS EDGE 2.0 software for efficient tracking of fasteners.  
[www.ci-inc.com](http://www.ci-inc.com)