

POS SubCommittee meeting

February 27, 2008

In Attendance: Julian Egelstaff (FreeForm Solutions), Filip Haderer, Andrea Rosen, rolf struthers, Herb Vanden Dool

7:00 pm at Karma

Agenda:

1. What systems do we expect FreeForms to investigate?
2. Discussion of latest findings of members' research on various POS systems being used by various coops in Canada and the US
3. FreeForms letter of engagement
4. Freeforms requirements from us if any

Julian asked what systems do we expect FreeForms to investigate? We listed the following systems:

- Open Bravo
- Ledger SMB
- COPOS
- Catapult
- IS4C

Julian was unsure if they could research and test all five systems. It was agreed he should concentrate on open source systems first specifically Open Bravo and Ledger SMB.

Filip presented a one page summary of his discussion (research) with Ed Zielinski of Lexington Coop, PA. Basically he described the co-op's move from IS4C to Catapult because IS4C could not do many of the back office functions they required. [Is this correct?] (Summary attached) Ed mentioned that IS4C requires a higher level of technical expertise on site whereas Catapult requires a lower level of technical expertise to operate. Catapult-- does not have a member labour module. IS4C does not have a member labour module.

Through discussion we realized that we needed to pinpoint for Julian the modules that are essential and those that we regard as important but not essential to an initial POS system.

The essential components, we agreed, include:

- POS which includes the option to add an additional 10% during each transaction for nonworking members
- inventory
- financial reporting
- an ability to export information into a bookkeeping package such as QuickBooks

The non-essential but important components, we wish to have include:

- membership, which can be divided into
 - 1) member labour tracking and
 - 2) membership fees (annual fee, building fee, loans)
- IOU tracking
- Shopping List tracking
- Accounting

Jullian mentioned that he would keep in mind these important components and how easily they can be added on after the fact.