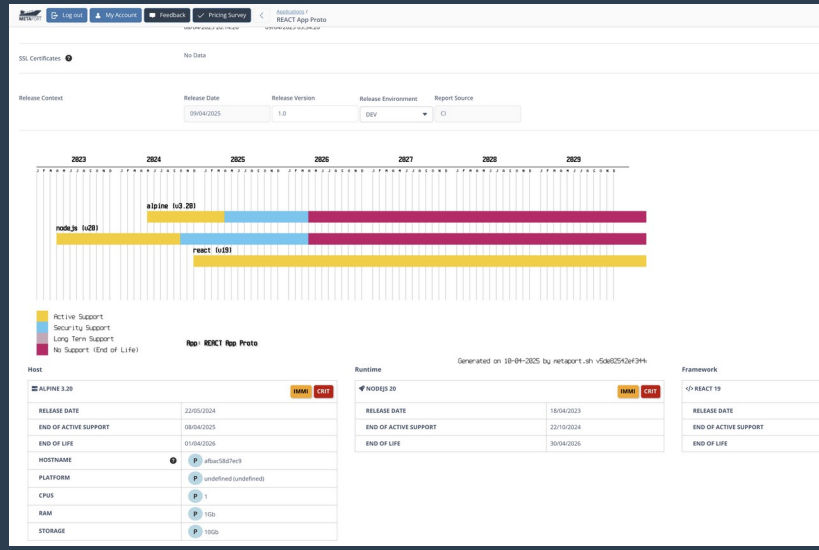
METAPORT

Creating clarity out of chaos for web application delivery teams.



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What is Metaport?

Today there remains a gulf between **engineering orientated** tools, and **project management** systems.

Engineering and operations tools are powerful but they're designed for technical users, while traditional project management tools focus on scheduling and task management, but lack the high-level technical insights which Project Managers really need:

- End-of-life (EOL) and end-of-support (EOS) dates.
- Security vulnerabilities and dependencies.
- SSL certificate expiries.
- Affected apps within a portfolio.

Metaport is a product from **Dcentrica Solutions** which provides Project Managers with the data they need to **plan and budget with stakeholders** effectively **without consulting developers**.

With Metaport, Project Managers get the insights into dependencies and vulnerabilities they need, and can track EOL and EOS dates **autonomously**. With improved planning comes improved communication with clients and stakeholders.

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The Metaport Advantage

- **Auto-Generated Gantt Charts & Calendars**
  Metaport gives Project Managers direct access to lifecycle data for project components in their portfolio, including planned upgrade windows and EOL dates, so they can plan upgrades **months** or **even years in advance** without any developer involvement.

- **Proactive Planning**
  Using Metaport, Project Managers initiate upgrade discussions and budget planning well in advance ensuring efficient resource allocation and smoother transitions for clients. This means reactive and last-minute scrambles in upgrades and patching becomes a thing of the past.

- **Visibility and findability**
  Metaport's powerful search feature empowers Project Managers to find which apps in their portfolio might be affected by a particular vulnerability or rely on a dependency at a particular version. Developers become more **productive** because they're relieved of manually consulting codebases - Project Managers can elicit the information themselves.

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Spend: Cross-project end-of-life component planning

Without Metaport, businesses cannot accurately plan upgrade work with clients where budgets and timelines are agreed in advance. Determining dates when core components of clients' solutions will be out of support is the difference between **reactive and proactive businesses**, where the former needs to spend **un-budgeted time** convincing clients why urgent upgrades are necessary.

- **Estimated time:** 10 hours per project annualy comprising:
  Client comms (PM)
  Research and investigation (Developer)
  Context switching (Developer, PM)
- **Hourly charge-out rate (USD):** $75–$150/hr. *
- **Annual savings across 10 projects:** $7,500–$15,000.

  * source: coder.dev

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Spend: Cross-project vulnerability review & risk analysis

Without Metaport, even businesses which actively seek to maintain a minimal level of risk among projects, still persist with ad-hoc, unstructured, and manual processes when locating vulnerabilities across projects.

- **Estimated time:** 1 hour per project, per week comprising:
  Requests for information from developers (PM)
  Dependency version checks and changelog reviews (Developer)
  Project and codebase searches (Developer)
  Context switching (Developer)
- **Hourly charge-out rate (USD):** $75–$150/hr. *
- **Monthly savings (USD) across 10 projects:** $3,000–$6,000.

  * source: coder.dev

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Savings and revenue: Reduced churn and increased trust

Businesses with a portfolio of **20 projects** and which is usually active in the remediation of security, end-of-life, and software dependency issues, may be able to sell **additional maintenance retainers** and/or **security packages** with confidence to existing and new clients.

- **Estimated price of a 20h monthly retainer (USD):** $650-$2,500 **
  Client comms (PM)
  Research and investigation (Developer)
  Context switching (Developer, PM)
- **Proactive use of Metaport** to monitor projects, contributes **one additional retainer** per 10 projects: $1,300-$5,000 **annual revenue boost**.

** source: digisavvy.com

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How Does it Work?

Using an **agent** installed as a dependency of each app in your team's portfolio, Metaport receives frequent updates about your clients' web-app and website components such as frameworks, runtimes, and hosting environments, as well as software dependencies and vulnerabilities.

Agents only send data over **HTTPS**, or for those more sensitive apps, data can be sent instead using **SMTP** using an encrypted attachment.

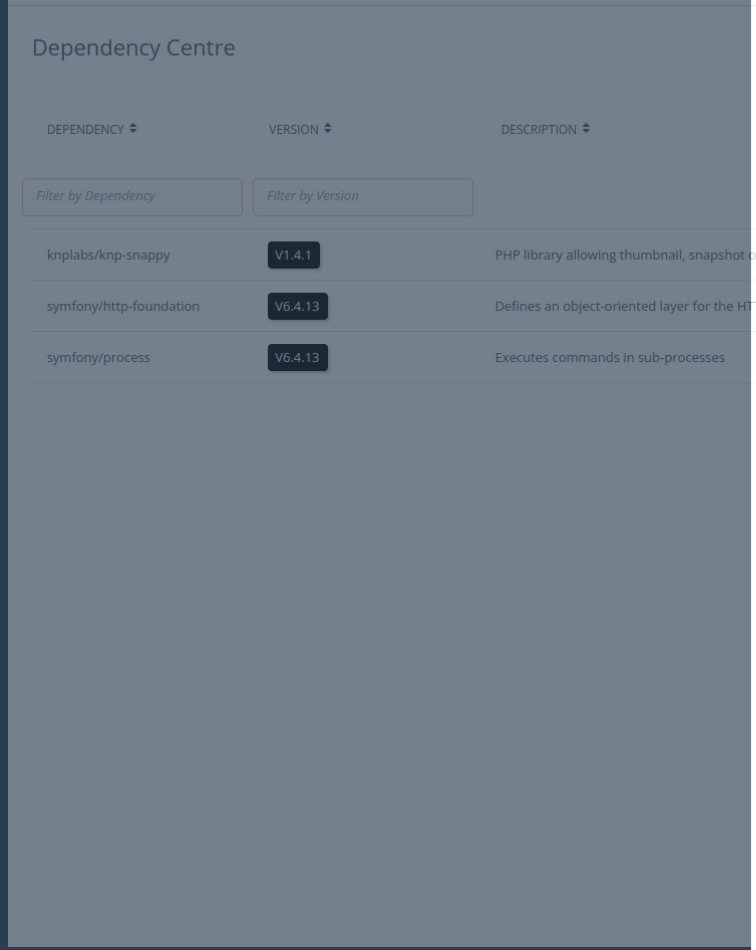
Metaport is **language agnostic**. Data from your NodeJS apps is processed in the same way as from apps written in **PHP**, **Python** or **Ruby**.

Scenarios - RFPs: Promises vs Reality

We all know how RFPs like to tell a compelling story about how well the proposed solution will be monitored and maintained post-launch, and about how well upgrades, patching, and planning will be managed. However, these promises are often very high-level and leave prospective clients and buyers with little clarity on how the work will **actually** be planned and executed.

The reality is that BAU and maintenance work is traditionally very **reactive**, **ad-hoc**, and **manual**. Project Managers are heavily dependent on developers to identify and supply information about EOL and EOS components, outdated dependencies, and security vulnerabilities.

But with Metaport, PMs and RFP authors have this data to-hand, and can use it to tell a story to prospective clients of exactly **how** and importantly **when** updates, upgrades and patches will be needed and performed.



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Scenarios - RFPs: With Metaport

Authors can **authentically** explain the advantages of visualising software lifecycles, as a core part of the management of the proposed solution.

Using Metaport's automatically generated gantt charts and calendars, RFP authors have authoritative data to reference so that schedules and budgets can be **accurately** proposed.

With an emphasis on **proactive planning,** RFPs can accurately depict Project Managers working together with their clients in the planning of upgrades, budgets, and resource allocations, all while maintaining visibility over the entire project portfolio.

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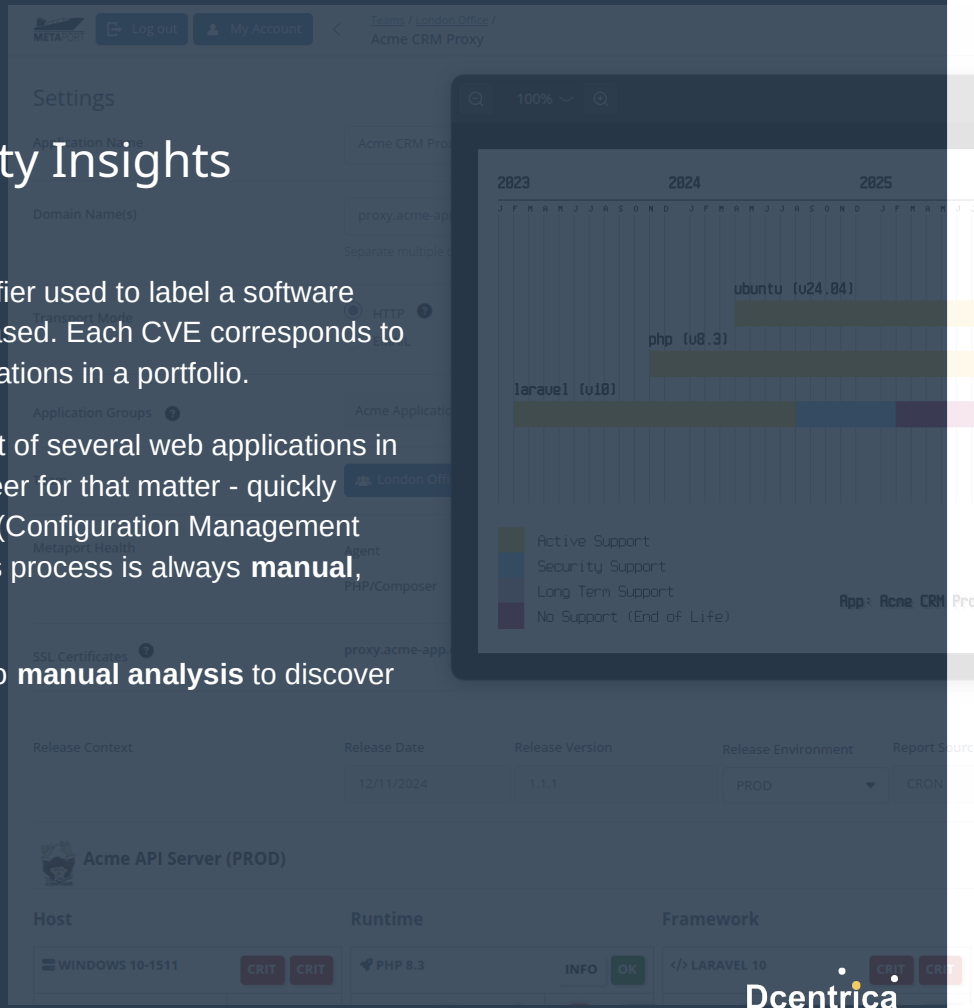
Scenarios - CVEs: Portfolio-wide Security Insights

A CVE (Common Vulnerabilities and Exposures) is a unique identifier used to label a software security vulnerability which has been discovered and publicly released. Each CVE corresponds to a security issue with the potential to affect multiple software applications in a portfolio.

Now imagine a CVE issued against software which is a known part of several web applications in your team's portfolio. How would a Project Manager - or an Engineer for that matter - quickly determine which of those apps are affected? Assuming no CMDB (Configuration Management Database) or some alternative way to query a project portfolio, this process is always **manual**, **inefficient** and potentially **error-prone**.

In the absence of the appropriate tools, teams necessarily resort to **manual analysis** to discover which projects are vulnerable and which dependencies are at risk.



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Scenarios - CVEs: With Metaport

Using Metaport, Project Managers can comprehensively query across their entire portfolio of applications and sites to gain timely insights for use in backlog creation, for answering client queries and for related planning activities.

Project Managers can now get answers to such questions as:

- Which of our apps is vulnerable to CVE-123?
- Which of our apps is dependent on library 'X' at version 'Y'?
- Which of our apps contains EOL component ‘Z’?

Because developers no longer need to drop everything to answer ad-hoc questions from Project Managers, about a project they may not have worked on recently, developers remain focused on billable work while Project Managers communicate the security and maintenance aspects to stakeholders **independently**.

The Bigger Picture

With Metaport, Project Managers can take control of maintenance and upgrade planning without relying on developers. And because they're less reactive, budgetary conversations happen sooner and stakeholders have the breathing space needed to seek and allocate that budget.

Better planning, proactive scheduling, and tracking all mean teams allocate resources more efficiently, reducing last-minute scrambles, optimizing project timelines and keeping clients, and stakeholders in the loop.

Developers benefit too by staying focused on billable work with now reduced interruptions, while Metaport handles the provision of application specific data to Project Managers.

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Try Metaport Today!

- Visit getmetaport.com to download and install Metaport.
- Watch our promotional video to see how Metaport helps teams plan better.
- Review our resources to get a clear picture of how Metaport fits into your organisation.
- Explore the documentation to see how Metaport works.
- See the code repository to help develop Metaport.
- Visit our Slack channel for support.

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We are **Dcentrica**

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