

Small Business News & Notes

Small Businesses Empowered By Free Integrated Web-Based Business Services

(NAPS)—Small business owners know it can be a “jungle” out there when it comes to turning a profit.

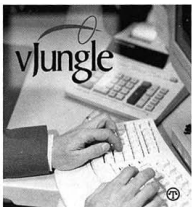
However, there's now a new kind of jungle that may actually help small businesses stay competitive, even against larger firms.

A new Application Service Provider (ASP) called vJungle provides entrepreneurs a platform of integrated basic business services—such as accounting, company-wide e-mail, Web site creation, file sharing, time management aids and virtual conference rooms. Additionally, for a small fee, vJungle offers enhanced business services that also “talk” to each other, such as e-commerce and electronic bill payment. Provided over the Internet, these secure, easy-to-use tools help small businesses streamline operations.

OpenEX, the first technology platform of truly integrated applications available to date, allows users to log on from only one interface. The integrated applications “talk” to each other so users don't need to flip back and forth between different Web sites and applications, nor use other sites or vendors to accomplish tasks.

All user files are secure and can only be accessed by company employees and authorized third parties, such as vendors. Information stored, processed or communicated over the Internet via the site is encrypted and password-protected.

The brainchild of Deepak Amin, one of the four original engineers who designed Microsoft's Internet Explorer, vJungle can help growing organizations save and manage time, energy and money—the three most valuable resources to a small business.



Business-to-business spending jumped 138 percent in the first quarter of 2000 to reach an annual total of \$45.2 billion.

The target companies for vJungle's services and applications are small businesses with 100 or fewer employees—which describes well over 75 percent of all U.S. businesses. Small business B2B (business-to-business) spending jumped 138 percent in the first quarter of 2000 to reach an annual total of \$45.2 billion, according to a recent report by Cyber Dialogue.

Hewlett Packard recently partnered with vJungle to offer secure, Web-based communications, collaboration and finance applications. HP chose vJungle's OpenEx platform because it's easy-to-use, integrated, and secure. For example, users only have to enter data once across portal functions and features, effectively increasing the productivity of communications and workflow. These offerings empower growing businesses to compete in today's global economy.

To learn more, visit the Web site at www.vjungle.com.