



The Technology behind the Firefly Point-of-Sale System

When choosing a point-of-sale system, there's a lot to consider: ease of use, reliability, functionality, security. And that's just the software. You also want to ensure that the system's underlying technology is stable, powerful, fast, and long lasting.

"Browser-based" Technology

Firefly Point-of-Sale was designed as a "browser-based" or "Web-enabled" application, using the same programming tools for developing Web sites. This means you can use your Firefly system from wherever you have Internet access: from home, the office, or the road. But, unlike some Web-based systems, Firefly does not depend on an Internet connection. All the software is loaded on your server and runs within your store's network with or without an Internet connection (except for a few optional features such as credit card processing and mapping). And, of course, Firefly is optimized to be secure in a Web environment.

FireFly offers the latest, most durable hardware for your restaurant, such as this space-saving, all-in-one touch terminal.



Granbury
Restaurant Solutions

"Firefly is an extremely reliable system that uses a Linux server. Since installing it, Firefly Point-of-Sale has run flawlessly with no downtime."

— TOM MOLOUGHNEY, NAUNA'S BELLA CASA, MONTCLAIR, N.J.

Outfitting your store with a broadband Internet connection allows you to access your system from home or wherever else there's an Internet connection. This connectivity also provides our support team with instant access to help troubleshoot, configure, and update your system.

Linux-powered Servers

Because Firefly is based on Web technology, the logical choice for our server operating system was Linux® with Apache Web server. Linux is an "open-source" operating system available for very low cost compared to other server products. Linux is widely regarded as a superior operating system for Web servers because of its incredible reliability and smaller price tag. Companies such as eBay or Amazon.com, who rely on their servers to process millions of transactions non-stop with no downtime, have switched to Linux.

"Windows or Linux Workstations - Your Choice"

Since your POS terminals should be reliable workhorses that you can count on, we recommend the Linux operating system behind the scenes for your workstations as well. But if you prefer the familiarity of the Microsoft Windows environment for your workstations, that's your choice. All your configuration can be done from any of your workstations.

MySQL Database

Firefly uses the leading open-source database, MySQL. With more than 8 million installations, MySQL is viewed as an excellent choice for high-volume, business-critical applications. Unlike other database formats, which can easily experience data corruption when multiple computers access their records or slow down once they get filled with data, MySQL is highly reliable and offers built-in features to manage millions of transactions per month. Because MySQL is a very open database, it is easy to customize reporting or other advanced interfaces that may be needed by a larger or more sophisticated operation.

Hardware Options

For most restaurant operators, buying hardware and software from a single source makes the most sense. We are able to configure your

hardware and network to work optimally with the Firefly system. And if there are any problems down the road, a single source helps you avoid the finger pointing that can occur between hardware and software vendors.

We care fully selected hardware, which will work in the restaurant environment and will provide the proper ports for printers, cash drawers, touch screens and other hardware peripherals.

Fault tolerance is critical in the restaurant business. You don't want any individual computer component to have the potential to bring your system down. That's why we've configured the Firefly system to give you extra protection. While the Linux server is the heart of your system, all your data is instantly mirrored to your other workstations, so that you have a current backup at all times. If the station running the Linux server fails for any reason, one of your workstations can easily take over as a server to keep you up and running. All this occurs with powerful mini-PCs with touch screens that offer a compact footprint.

For those times when a critical component goes down, we'll overnight you a replacement rather than wait for you to send your equipment in for repair.

Moving Forward

The Firefly Point-of-Sale system was designed from the ground up to take advantage of today's latest technological innovations. While older systems are tied to their outdated technical limitations, Firefly is poised to let you make the most of all that is available today.

"MySQL [open-source database] continues to have a very high adoption rate across several industries and is known for its reliability, ease of use, and performance."

— NOEL YUHANNA, FORRESTER RESEARCH ON WWW.MYSQL.COM

Call or click for a free online demo today!

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