

Software ... the simple solution

Remote access technology is making furniture and joinery software accessible Australia-wide.

AN article in the September edition of Australian Joinery Magazine on Simple Software Solutions programs for quoting, scheduling and purchasing sparked a huge response, particularly from regional areas. Businesses in country areas are often isolated from learning about new developments; it's time-consuming and expensive for sales representatives to cover the distances to demonstrate new products. Buying software also brings the added problems of installation, training and support for busy people.

Brendan Hanna from Simple Software Solutions has solved these problems by using the Internet to demonstrate programs to interested clients. He arranges demonstrations at a convenient time and location, on either the client's office or home PC, requiring only an Internet connection and a telephone line.

The user can try out the software under Brendan's guidance. He also uses the

Internet to install the software on the user's PC and network, to train users on their own system, and to provide any required support.

"These remote access tools allow us to provide a comprehensive personalised service to our clients, overcoming the difficulties associated with remote areas and busy people's time constraints," Brendan says.

"We are available as and when required without the expense of travelling to the site. This keeps the cost of our software very affordable."

Brendan has combined his 35 years in the furniture industry with his sister Gerri's 20 years as a software developer in small business systems to develop their software. Their system includes:

- QuikQuote for quoting and price listing, produces accurate client-ready quotes from components and materials with minimal data entry. It can add quoted items into a

customisable price list that can be updated automatically as costs rise. It also stores cutting lists and bill of materials.

- SuperSchedule provides complete scheduling and progress tracking for all production orders through each stage of the manufacturing process. Workload reports show time and dollar value for each stage and allow jobs to be rearranged to suit altered conditions.

- PowerPurchase creates orders to suppliers, linking each item to its factory job number and tracking the status and value of all orders placed.

Companies can buy each system separately or can integrate them to share information and minimise data entry. As its name implies, the software is simple to use but flexible enough to cover a wide range of different work situations, making it ideal for clients without a lot of time or computer skills.

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