

Wintix version 5 upgrade for Wintix version 3 and 4 users

Wintix version 5 is the first rework of the Wintix/Webtix/Tixsales/Mintix set of programs in seven years. Wintix and Tixsales have been overhauled and Webtix has been re-built from scratch.

The emphasis is still on serving your customers in the most efficient way possible, but with better speed and performance. Wintix v. 5 saves you time and money, increasing your profitability.

Major benefits of upgrading:

- Superior data handling capability.
- No more corruption. No more re-indexing.
- Finely detailed security. You can allocate permissions down to a single field on a single table for both remote and local users.
- Truly unlimited: publicity, mailing list groups, event types, and general ledger codes.
- Ability to interface with lots of other web site software.
- No more SeatRelease.
- Remote access is easy. All you need is the IP address.
- Updated integration with FundRaiser Software (testing of integration is in progress).

Get more power, security and reliability with the new back end – MySQL.

- **You will not overload it.** Our informal estimates indicate that a MySQL server will handle about five times the transaction load of the older dbf files. If you are a Yahoo, Google, or Ticketmaster (all of whom use MySQL) there are strategies here. You can add more equipment to handle the load. Want 99.999% reliability? You can do it.
- **Index corruption is a thing of the past.** No more “corruption detected,” C0000005, 1010, 1012, or “Windows internal consistency” errors.
- **Security is much tighter.** You can limit any user to a security setup as you need. This is in addition to the Wintix and Tixsales permissions.
- **MySQL is the most popular database in the world.** If you want to learn more, there are many resources. A search on Amazon.com for MySQL returned 48 books.
- **Remote access is much easier.** In fact, a simple connection is all you need.

Wintix and Tixsales still work the same but have many improved features.

- **Unlimited publicity codes.** Even though version 4 had 729 codes possible, they were organized in menus of nine items. With version 5 you can have as many as you want on each menu.
- **Unlimited event types.** These are kept in their own list rather than being part of each show.
- **Really unlimited groups in the mailing list.** Version 4 was limited to about 120 mailing list groups. Any of these groups can be sent directly to a dbf, csv or spreadsheet.
- **New menu choice to list all shows.** This was done for central box offices that have several hundred shows on sale at once.
- **The General Ledger code report allows unlimited codes with long names.** If you need to have accounting codes like "The 2008 Dixieland Festival" with 50 different shows, it is easy to do.

Webtix has been rewritten to include many advantages

Our internet ticketing module, Webtix, has been re-written using PHP. These are some of the major advantages:

- PHP produces a snappier, more responsive website.
- You get the source code. PHP is an easy-to-use language. It's the 4th most popular language in the world. That means there are lots of people and tools to help you maintain your website. Do you need some special situation addressed? It can be done relatively easily. Don't like the colors? Just change the style sheet.
- Your customers can choose their own seats. And Webtix will still move them if they try to leave orphaned seats.
- Want to have a variety of theatres and arenas download their sales records and import them automatically? Webtix can do it.

You can have your website at one ISP and Webtix on a local machine.

This makes a lot of sense for organizations that use a lot of graphics. They keep their site at a local ISP on top of a large pipeline with lots of bandwidth. The Webtix computer usually has a lower bandwidth requirement and can be kept locally. All the customer sees is a button that says, "Click here to purchase tickets."

Webtix can be put on the same server as your database however:

- Serving web pages consumes a lot of processing power - especially with an SSL site certificate. You will notice your network slowing down.
- If you are keeping credit cards, you are at risk. This will not be approved under PCI regulations. A computer with card information must be separate from the rest of the network and the internet.
- You must have a firewall with stateful packet inspection separating that computer from the rest of the network.

System requirements for Webtix:

A standard LAMP stack and a static IP.

You need Apache 2, PHP 5 and MySQL5.

A 256K DSL connection is fine unless you have a lot of graphics. A 1.5 GHz computer with 2G ram is the minimum.

If you do not want to host your own server for Webtix, then:

Center Stage Software can provide you with space on our server - or you can get a GoDaddy.com virtual server. The cost is \$30-\$45 a month. We will be happy to set it up for you (it's included in the price). GoDaddy.com does all the server maintenance. Bandwidth is very, very good. They even supply an SSL certificate.

You can also rent Webtix at an affordable price

Instead of purchasing the full Webtix license (\$5000), you may rent the Webtix online ticketing module for only \$2.00 a day with a 60-day minimum subscription. You may subscribe for as long as you need to and renew anytime.

Other things that are handy to know for Webtix full license owners:

- You will want a firewall with ports 3306, 80 and 443 open.
- You will want a site certificate. You don't need it for Webtix to function but lots of people will want you to have it (including your bank). This certificate is what gives you the little lock on the bottom of your screen. These things are \$125 to \$250 and are available from companies like Comodo.com, Thawte.com, RSA, Verisign, Geotrust, etc.
- Handling credit cards puts you at risk. You must follow the guidelines of the PCI standard. If you don't, you can be put out of business in a matter of minutes. The specifications are at <https://www.pcisecuritystandards.org/tech/index.htm> Among other things, you need a firewall with "stateful packet inspection," anti virus software, security procedures, and a policy manual. AmbironTrustWave has a short list at <http://www.atwcorp.com/pciDataSecurityStandard.php>
- Complying with the PCI regulations is difficult and penalties for non-compliance are high. A service like Authorize.net or MerchantPlus.com makes a lot of sense. You avoid the regulations by not keeping the card numbers on your computer or in your office.