

Corinthian and Horizon Q & A

April 2005

Q: Why did Dynix create Corinthian as a separate product from Horizon?

As part of our commitment to serve the evolving needs of all our customers, we collaborated in great depth with the academic market in developing our Horizon 8.0 architecture. In fact, many of the technologies and features included in our 8.0 architecture were driven by the leadership of the academic market. We created Corinthian as a separate brand from Horizon, using the same 8.0 codebase, to demonstrate our commitment to academic and research libraries while changing the perception that we are primarily focused on public libraries.

Corinthian and Horizon 8.0 share the same underlying 8.0 architecture but contain some important differences that are designed to better serve academic and public libraries. All of our customers—including academic, public, K-12, and special libraries—will benefit from the unparalleled levels of security, integration, flexibility, and scalability found in our 8.0 architecture.

The Corinthian brand will enable us to call out certain benefits of special importance to academic and research libraries. For example, Corinthian offers native Oracle support and includes numerous advanced technologies that work in concert to significantly raise the standard of ILS technology, including LDAP, uPortal, Kerberos, Shibboleth, eCommerce, Linux, Unicode, and Java/J2EE architecture. Many of these technologies will also be important to our public, special, and K-12 customers and will be included in Horizon 8.0, with Horizon continuing as the brand name we use in serving those library types.

What does this mean for the future of Horizon?

Whether you use Corinthian or Horizon 8.0, your future is safe. Two years ago we informed our customers that Horizon was the future, and this is still true. Corinthian is actually built on the same technology platform as Horizon 8.0, but it has been customized with special workflows, modules, and interfaces for academic users. The launch of Corinthian in no way jeopardizes present or future Horizon development. Updated functionality in both products will be available to all customers. Both products use Java-based code for end-user and back-office functionality. Both products support multiple databases, multiple operating systems, and multiple hardware platforms. We have simply customized each product to match the workflows, interfaces, and modules relevant to the market it serves. By separating our ILS offerings into the Horizon and Corinthian brands, we will be better able to serve all our customers.

Q: Will it be burdensome for multi-type consortia to run both Horizon and Corinthian?

In both Corinthian and Horizon 8.0, our 8.0 architecture provides an administration tool that will enable you turn on and off features and functions you have paid for, including the look-and-feel of Corinthian or the look-and-feel Horizon. This functionality is ideal for multi-type consortia, where some libraries will run Corinthian and others will run Horizon. Additionally, a library might initially elect not to have ERM and then later decide they need it, at which point they would just pay for it, get an authorization code, and turn it on.

Q: How will the new software versions be numbered?

As we have discussed over the past year, the next-generation version of Horizon will be called Horizon 8.0. Corinthian will be built on the 8.0 code base, however, it will simply be called “Corinthian Integrated Library System” or “Corinthian” in our communication with the library community.

Q: Will development, support, and sales now be divided?

Our new Academic Solutions Group will work with the sales team in helping them to meet the specialized needs of academic librarians. The differentiation between Corinthian and Horizon will help our support team to more quickly understand customer needs when fielding support issues, but support and development will not be divided.

Q: Is there a plan to name/market any other segments with special names?

Moving forward, Corinthian will be our product for the academic library community, while Horizon remains our product for public, K-12, and special library customers. All of these library types can move to Corinthian or Horizon 8.0 with complete confidence.

Q: What databases and operating systems do Corinthian and Horizon 8.0 support?

A library can choose Oracle, MS SQL, DB2, or Sybase—Horizon 8.0 and Corinthian support all four. As well, both products are database independent and can run on Linux, Windows, Mac, and UNIX operating systems. A library can decide which database works best for its overall IT infrastructure. Many public and most academic libraries have already moved to Oracle, so our native Oracle support will be of great benefit to those markets.

Q: What upgrade advice would you give your current customers? Should we upgrade to Horizon 7.4 or go directly to Corinthian or Horizon 8.0?

Dynix has designed a smooth upgrade path that will help libraries absorb changes in manageable chunks. Horizon 7.4 features the new Horizon Information Portal 4.0 (based on uPortal) and introduces a great deal of new functionality and customization options for library patrons. However, the back-office interface for library staff will still look very familiar to Horizon 7.3. This will free up librarians to help library users explore the exciting new features available to them.

As a second step, Corinthian and Horizon 8.0 will feature the same portal included with Horizon 7.4 and add a great deal of new functionality for librarians and staff. The upgrade to Corinthian or Horizon 8.0 will be invisible to end-users, leaving library staff free to incorporate the new features into their management processes. These two phases will enable libraries to transition to a thoroughly modern ILS that serves librarians and end-users more effectively.

Q: Are Corinthian and Horizon 8.0 considered an upgrade for existing customers?

Yes, customers already using Horizon will be able to move to Corinthian or Horizon 8.0 as part of the normal upgrade process. Customers on Dynix ILS will pay for the upgrade, just as they presently do when migrating to Horizon.

Q: Are Horizon 8.0 and Corinthian a complete re-write of the software?

We have re-engineered all the capability of current, feature-rich systems while adding new features and benefits. More than 80 percent of the system is complete

today. Some ILS vendors have attempted to bolt on new technologies to old code bases, resulting in systems that provide limited security and limited database access, while also being very difficult and costly to support and maintain. Conversely, our new Java/J2EE platform is based on open systems, industry-standard APIs and protocols, and the latest, most advanced security and scalability technology. All this is provided in an environment flexible enough to keep up with the constantly advancing world of software and hardware technology.

Q: What is the target release date?

Corinthian and Horizon 8.0 will undergo beta testing this fall and will be ready to ship near the end of December 2005. We completed the foundation code base for the new system, including functionality like full and independent relational database support, state-of-the-art security, industry-standard directory services via LDAP, and Web Services support for interoperability. All this has been shipping since October 2004 in our next-generation inter-library loan product, URSA 4.0. We completed the end-user interfaces, Corinthian Information Portal and Horizon Information Portal, in April 2005.

Q: Have beta sites been selected?

Some sites have been already selected, and we are in the process of selecting more.

Q: Has the testing process been improved to ensure the product will be stable when it is released?

Corinthian and Horizon 8.0 will follow the same comprehensive testing and release cycle of HIP 4.0 and Horizon 7.4.

Q: Will there be dedicated sessions during CODI for Horizon 8.0 and Corinthian?

Yes, we will have many "how-to" sessions at CODI and would encourage all customers to attend this important conference.