



For Investments in business-critical Software: Source Code Escrow

Escrow describes the faithful manual keeping of the source codes * of software products by an independent third party. If the software manufacturer becomes insolvent, does not meet his contractual liabilities, or adjusts the product, the deposited good (the source code, incl. documentation) will be submitted to the user or buyer. The conditions of the delivery of the source code are regulated in an Escrow agreement. The buyer of software ensures the further use of the software in case of emergency. The business secrets of the manufacturer remain protected from abuse.

Process Escrow

The software manufacturer submits the source code and corresponding documentations (in the following "material") to a neutral depository/Escrow agency. The agency deposits the material faithful manually. Under certain prerequisites (e.g. insolvency of the manufacturer, breach of contract etc.) the depository submits the material to the licensee. With the material - the regular mode of company processes, - the further use and - the maintenance of software products can be executed for continuity purposes.

Escrow benefits

If no source code deposit is agreed in case of e.g. enterprise take-over or insolvency of a software manufacturer, the software in use has to be replaced speedily in most cases. Usually, the costs for new software, the required implementation, training and migration of data are not budgeted. In addition a loss of production, delay in shipment and the damage of the image are possible.

On the one hand source code escrow is a protection of investments and software supported business processes; on the other hand escrow supports software manufacturers at the positioning and delivers a decisive selling point.

Products - performances - costs

Elementary (€950 p.a.)	Basic (€2,300 p.a.)	Standard (€3,700 p.a.)	Secure (€5,800 p.a.)
Deposit: Source code and product documentation	Deposit: Source code and product documentation	Deposit: Source code and documentation of the development / compiler environment	Deposit: Source code and documentation of the development / compiler environment Documentation of processes
Check: Readability of the data carriers	Check: Completeness in accordance with Delivery note Readability of the data carriers	Check: Compiling on manufacturer system test completeness readability of the data carriers	Check: Audit of software development process, programming guidelines and compiler environment Audit of code fragments, Compiling on manufacturer system test completeness readability of the data carriers
Limited for simple and high-speed solution for software with low license value or temporal use (conditionally business-critical).	The solution of simple Escrow requirements of the licensee (business-critical software).	Technical system and product escrow at higher Escrow claims of the licensee (strongly business-critical software).	Source code audit and quality certificate at high escrow requirements of the licensee (extremely business-critical software).