



Key Functions for Comparison

	V7 FormTrap	V8 FormTrap	Other System?		Comments
				Key	
Server (Enterprise Edition) under Windows Server 2008-2016, includes ALL functions					
VM Partition	Yes	Yes			How-FormTrap-Server-works.ppsx
64-Bit	No	Yes			V7 is 32-bit programs run in a 64-bit Server
Does not poll, entirely INACTIVE in the absence of data	Yes	Yes		*	
Fully recoverable (unless printing overlaps with data transmission to the printer)	Yes	Yes		*	
Special CMD mode for huge volume jobs, effectively check point recovery	No	yes, ask		*	This is specified, customer or prospect required
Program (Small Business Edition) under Windows					
Runs as a program, rather than Server, identical functions, layout, menus					
Cheaper, however email, archive are charged as options (vs included no charge with Enterprise)					
Linux Implementation, Red Hat or Debian (for system vendors only)					
	yes, ask	yes, ask			V8, system authors only
Input Methods, use any to all of these, in combination					
LPR/LPD as a virtual printer	Yes	Yes		*	
Shared Folder	Yes	Yes			
Pipe	Yes	Yes			
Quick Data Entry Session submission to FormTrap Server (QDE - see further down)	No	Yes		*	V8, QDE are auto-generated .net data entry sessions that feed FormTrap forms
Input Formats to FormTrap XML (XML is the FormTrap intermediate format)					
No changes required to your output (we have yet to be stumped)	Seldom	Yes			V7 handles most inputs, filter if not
XML Conversion to FormTrap XML	No	Yes			
Text files - any format, to FormTrap, incl:	Seldom	Yes			V7 handles most inputs, filter if not
Linux, Unix, Windows	Yes	Yes			
AS/400	Yes	Yes			V8 processes directly incl. CC controls
Mainframe files	Yes	Yes			V8 processes directly incl. CC controls
From PDF via PDF to Text interpreter	No	Yes			
Regular Expression (RegEx) logic is applied across all input data recognition functions	No	Yes		*	You have programming ability DIRECTLY WITHIN forms
Type of Document (FormTrap Server handles mixed document files)	No	Yes			V7 requires a file with common documents
Elimination of subsequent page headers and inter-page connectors	Basic	Yes			V7 does this, separate function
Record type within a document	Basic	Yes		*	V7 does this, one records required per optional area
Areas within a record (allows "sometimes there, sometime not" areas, incl. comments)	No	Yes			V8 has areas within records, meaning all data handled in one record
Formatting of data fields from original to XML, dates with month literals, amounts	Basic	Yes			V8, ICU (International Conventions for Unicode), includes translation
Inclusion of arithmetically defined variables and formula (muParser)	Yes	Yes			V8, full-featured, powerful arithmetic muParser included
Case conversions (lower to UPPER and vice versa)	No	Yes			Full case control
Optionally concatenates repeated data (header comments, comments, serial numbers)	No	Yes			V8, outstanding for Comments and Serial Numbers
Intermediate format					
XML as an intermediate format	No	Yes		*	Huge impact as this allows FormTrap to move with your system
Identical XML files from varying inputs for different version and supplier input files	No	Yes			Common format REGARDLESS of the input version or vendor
Can send .XML to recipient (statements, POs) to re-process	No	Yes			On a change in Vendor, ONLY the data extract is impacted
					Sending XML allows receiver to re-use your data for comparison and update
Forms and Formats					
Runs in UTF-8, handles any language data incl. Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Thai	Yes	Yes		*	One system for ALL of your markets, from one site
ERP and Accounting systems have these as features of their forms				*	V8, many of these will be missing in competitive systems
Background (all pages)	Yes	Yes			Define common content - your logo, company name, doc. No.
First Page Header (optionally different to subsequent pages)	Yes	Yes			Full "other party" and "common for the document" details
Header Comments (optional)	Yes	Yes			These appear on the first page header "above" details
Subsequent Page Header (Page 2 to last, optional, normally less data - context only)	Yes	Yes			These save space, use just for context (eg just Ship To Name)
Document Page Footer (last page only - Totals)	Yes	Yes			Reserve space for totals only on the last page
First page totals (optional, often with Checks/Cheques and remittance tear-off)	Yes	Yes			First page total for a check (cheque) and for Telco bills
Duplex (with optional Page 2 footer opposite the Check/Remittance tear-off)	Yes	Yes			Checks (cheques) and other have a part-printed initial page
Intermediate Page Footer (see below - Carried Forward)	Yes	Yes			Something like "Continued on Page 2"
Multiple detail records	Yes	Yes			
Carried Forward (with running totals)	Yes	Yes			Running total(s) may be calc'd. and printed
Brought Forward (with Running Totals)	Yes	Yes			Running total(s) may be calc'd. and printed
Multiple Detail Header (Bill section)	Yes	Yes			Telco bills have multiple sections, each with their own header ...
Multiple Detail Footers (section totals)	Yes	Yes			... and trailer, which may include section totals
Variable height (any of the above except Background)	No	Yes			V8 allows for "sometimes there" data (eg Header Comments)
Details may split across pages - clauses, serial numbers, other long text items	No	Yes			V8 splits "deep" data across pages (eg serials, comments)
Optional Leading Page(s) (e.g. Fax Header) containing document data	No	Yes			V8 allows any number of additional leading pages
Optional Trailing Page(s) (e.g. Terms and Conditions) containing document data	No	Yes			V8 allows any number of additional trailing pages

Totalling Reports							
	FormTrap will do these, provided Running Totals are defined	No	Yes			V7 can do this, harder to do	
	Graph your reports and display as bar or pie graphs	No	Yes			V7 does not do this	
Bar Codes - output a PDF, print to any Barcode printer using a free Seagull Driver					*	V8 competes effectively with Bartender - no extra charge	
	All of the regular barcodes, we'll build if you don't find what you require	No	Free				
	Outstanding routines for UPS/EAN-128 (SSCC Codes)	Yes	Yes		*	Automatic compression, AI's evaluated, doesn't print if wrong	
	PDF417 - optional control over Security Level, Columns and element size	Yes	Yes				
	QR barcode - optional control over Version and Error Checking, and Scale	No	Yes			V7 does not have QDE barcode	
	Use QDE (Quick Data Entry) to form "manual" barcodes instantly	n/a	Yes			Equivalent of a GUI barcode program, or via FormTrap Server	
	FTLabelPrint (separate program) available if PDFs or Windows Prints required	Yes	Yes			Runs inside the FormTrap server as well as a Windows app.	
	Send the PDF to your supplier and have him print and apply to YOUR goods	Sep. prog.	Yes			V8, PDFs directly from FormTrap Server	
Insurance and Contracts					*	Justify, indent, multi-fonts/sizes/colors/highlights, page split	
	Letter writing - AS/400 inputs	Yes	Yes				
	Handles user-set direction to a printer for each document	Yes	Yes				
	Contract formation - load your clauses into the Lookup Tables, format as required	Yes	Yes			V7, each clause in a substitution file	
	Clauses multi-level indented, justified, include data elements into a clause	Yes	Yes			V7, substitution file has set indents	
	Split contract clauses over page boundaries	No	Yes				
	HTML letter with PDF copy, renewals, linked web references & renewals	No	Yes		*	V8, HUGE printing and postal savings available, for ever	
Promotions and Web Selling					*	New funding sources and ROI	
	HTML Email with Web References	No	Yes			V7 has no HTML facilities	
	Structured (table-type) outputs of specials and products	No	Yes				
QDE (Quick Data Entry) - automated data entry screen from FormTrap Form design		No			*	Stand-Alone or integrated V8 function for ANYTHING keyed	
	Remote/Stand Alone @ \$US 150 per computer per year	No	Extra Cost				
	Email Express - use for standard emails, promotion, customer kudos and complaints	No	Yes			Appears as a fully-constructed response, in seconds	
	Debtors letters, any other ultra-rapid letter formation, invoices, orders, etc	No	Yes				
	Full arithmetic for calculation, extension, discounts, GST/VAT calcs.	No	Yes				
	Numeric variables (eg GST or VAT Rate) from external Lookups	No	Yes			Allows inter-country or inter-state or inter-city variation	
	Full lookups for paragraphs, products, suppliers, ship to etc.	No	Yes				
	Output is an identical XML files to FormTrap - use with or without FormTrap Server	No	Yes			Use FormTrap Server for guaranteed delivery and archive,	
Outputs - Formatted documents							
	All languages, including Chinese, Japanese	Yes	Yes		*		
	Includes formatted month names in any language conversion, amounts to any convention	No	Yes		*	V8, International Conventions for Unicode Dates, translate	
	Includes amounts to any convention (eg €1 234,56)	Yes	Yes		*	V8, International Conventions for Unicode Amounts	
	One text object may contain many fonts, sizes, colors, highlights, styles	No	Yes			V8 full "word" style formatting, down to single characters	
	Suppression of missing data and data literals	No	Yes			V8 suppression based on a single flag or individually via RegEx	
	Conditional color selection and highlighting via RegEx	No	Yes			V8 fixed as well as Conditional selection via RegEx	
	RegEx formatting of output using complex, multiple rules	No	Yes		*	V7, simple rules	
	Alternate value for Output based on RegEx rules (eg Lookup-up Product Description, if present)	No	Yes		*	V8 RegEx for complex conditional printing (eg saluation)	
	Print PCL5	Yes	No			Version 8 drops PCL5 (many vendors no longer provide PCL5)	
	Print PCL6 (PCLXL) and PostScript	Yes	Yes				
	PDF (direct, searchable), these special version outputs available:	Image	Yes		*	V8 formats a searchable PDF	
	PDF/A (embedded fonts)	n/a	Yes			V7 formats a PDF image	
	PDF of minimum size that reads with Gmail, iPhone/iPad, Android	n/a	Yes		*	V8 has options allowing small, searchable PDFs	
Lookups and Substitutions							
	Single lookup file (XML), maintenance program for lookups	No	Yes		*	V7 uses individual .txt files, V8 has Lookup file & Prog.	
	Issuing company details (including logo) from a single source	Yes	Yes				
	Replace system product description from lookup (only if a lookup exists)	Yes	Yes				
	Use for translation (eg unit of measure to Chinese from English)	Yes	Yes				
	Use for delivery (eg customer number to Email address)	Yes	Yes				
	Contract clauses from short descriptions or codes, output indented, justified	No	Yes		*		
	Variables may be included in lookup entries	No	Yes		*	Allows looked-up paragraph or clause to include data	
	HTML coding (bold, font, color, size, etc.) may be included in lookup entries	No	Yes		*	Ideal for HTML output	
	Split details across page boundary (contract clauses, serial numbers, products, comments)	No	Yes		*	V8, essential for contract clauses	
	Email, plain text and/or HTML	Plain	Both		*	V8 has outstanding Email formats, incl. HTML tables	
	MAPI	Yes	Yes				
	SMTP (incl. Exchange)	Yes	Yes				
	Gmail, Yahoo, others (TLS/SSL)	No	Yes		*	V8 includes TLS/SSL Email to Gmail, Yahoo, others	
	Include other print or email documents automatically (typically product data sheets)	Yes	Yes		*	V8, build the entire document set, including covering letter	
	Fax						

	Windows Fax Service	Yes	Yes				
	e-Fax	Yes	Yes				
	(proprietary fax - extra cost)	Extra Cost	Extra Cost				
	Delivery logic (multiple RegEx rules based on examining data for selective output)	Simple	Yes		*	V8, RegEx for delivery decision making, based on data content	
Archive							
	Folder (multi-level, auto-built, eg ..\RB Smith\Accts\2018-19\Inv 175661 2018-06-13.pdf)	Yes	Yes		*	Builds required folder structure with a nominated master folder	
	FormTrap Archive, extra cost, (may also be used outside of FormTrap, user-set indices)	Extra Cost	Extra Cost			Both have auto FireBird archive, use to archive outside of FT	
Your Own Programs run in FormTrap Server		Yes	Yes		*		
	Any programming language that runs on the FormTrap Server computer	Yes	Yes				
	Input Filter (modifies input)	Yes	Yes				
	Output Filter (e.g. stapling)	Yes	Yes				
	Application (your program) runs as a service in FormTrap Server	Yes	Yes		*	Does not return control to FormTrap Server	
On-Going Development		No	Yes			V7, bug fixes and changes due to Windows only	
	FormTrap has been in continuous development for 20 plus years					V8, development is ongoing to remain always current	
Available soon and in Development							
	QDE from part constructed FormTrap XML files, allowing manual intervention at production time	No	Yes			V8, Debtors Letter paragraphs based on Statement data	