

Below are the answers to the main questions that we've been asked, which should give you enough information to help with your decision making.

What are the software requirements for Informs?

The software requirements are quite straightforward. You will need:

apache2.x web server

mysql 5.x

perl with mod_perl-2.0.2

What server platform does Informs run on?

Informs currently runs on Solaris 10. Although you can run apache and Perl with mod_perl in a Windows environment, there are reasons not to, such as apache stability and thread safety with Perl. Consequently, we would recommend a Unix environment.

Can we run Informs from a cloud computing platform, e.g. EC2?

Yes. Informs is, effectively, running in the cloud right now as a shared service. You will need to install the software to run Informs on your platform of choice.

What will be included in the Informs release?

If you decide to install Informs locally, you will get the perl code, database dump, your tutorials, your objects (including images) and sample config information.

How much server space will we need?

It's difficult to estimate this, as it will depend on the number of tutorials you have, the number of images etc. contained within them, and how many students will be accessing the tutorials.

However, we estimate that 30 gigabytes of server space will be sufficient for most installations.

What support will Mimas offer to help us install Informs?

If you contact us before December, we can support you through the process, and technical staff will be on hand to offer advice and answer any questions. We can't install the software for you, but we will help if you have any problems.

What do I need to do next?

We'll be contacting you individually in October to arrange for the transfer of the data and software. In the meantime, if you have any other technical questions, or would like to clarify anything, please contact Andy Priest at andrew.priest@manchester.ac.uk and he'll do his best to answer.