Hi all,

I was recently in the position to look at both OC and REDCap for a registry project at our institution. Here are some thoughts in case anyone gets into the same situation.

Disclaimer: Some statements are observations from following the respective mailing lists and might be biased.

environment:

OC:  JAVA, tomcat, PostgresSQL 8.4, GNU/Linux and Windows

REDCap: PHP, MySQL, Apache, GNU/Linux and Windows

setup:

OC: Setting up is fairly straightforward for an experienced admin.  database created automatically (once configured properly)

REDCap: Really easy. Nice webbased, tutorial-like installer (a website, checking requirements, db connection)

updates:

OC: WAR-based bundle replacement

REDCap: webbased , tutorial-like update feature

authentication:

OC: in-OC-based user management, supposedly LDAP

REDCap: in-app-user management, stable LDAP support, some more sign-on solutions

code/licencse:

OC: code free to obtain, license permits and encourages changes

REDCap: free (as in beer) to obtain after signing agreement with Vanderbilt University, code changes discouraged (supposedly for stability reasons)

updates:

OC: stable updates every couple of months. Some errors know but (seems like) no fixes until next stable release

REDCap: stable releases and active releases every Friday (!)

code quality/product stability:

OC: some (few) long standing  bugs (I think)

REDCap: A handful  of bugfixes in each weekly stable release, extreme open and visible feedback on bugs/issues discovered by users

community involvement (biased):

OC: nice group in user mailing list and developer mailing list, many technical discussions by professionals, many questions and answers by commercial support companies. Few core-app enhancements. A number of add-on apps (import/export)

REDCap: mostly and many (by policy) admins from universities around the world.

Mix (more) of end user questions (study design) and (few) setup questions. A good number of core-app enhancements (plugins) and active study specific material sharing (CRFs)

study setup:

OC: (mandatory) combination of webbased and data dictionary (xls) study setup.

Manageable for professionals. No end user (development) mode. No online webbased CRF designer.

REDCap: fully (!) webbased and/or data dictionary study setup inside REDCap.

Online editor for CRFs. Feature to have investigators develop their own projects/studies without admin involvement

regulatory compliance:

OC: FDA21part11 compliance

REDCap: not officially FDA21part11 compliant (as far as I know)


data import:

OC: webservice based, no direct Excel-based import (planed for OC 3.2 I think)

REDCap: data transfer service based, Excel-based (important for end-users)


data export:

OC: HTML, Tab-delimited, ODM, sql (enterprise), SPSS

REDCap: XLS, SAS, R, SPSS, no CDISC-ODM


data integrity checking:

OC: set up rules, raise queries

REDCap: no rules feature, range-checking only, no query feature, data integrity checker (checking for e.g. empty fields)



In essense it comes down to REDCap having a university backing and uptake

while OC seems to have commercial backing and uptake. When you want paid-for

support you can only go with OC. Users looking for an easy to use, just-for-

data-collection tool (many smaller research groups or individuals) will often

go for REDCap if they are university based. Product stability is hard to

judge.


Personal opinion: If OC wants to tap into the smaller research groups (for

data collection instead of full fledged studies) it should need to get a XLS-

based data import added. A fully webbased online designer for CRFs would be a

nice plus. In the end it boils down to having a system where a (trained)

investigator would be able to set up a new data collection project him/herself

inside the webapp.

Best regards,

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