

Top 10 Reasons to Use CARA

[CARA](#) from [Generis](#) is a web-based user interface to Documentum providing an alternative option to Webtop. CARA is built on top of the Generis [DocConfigurator](#) product that provides a wide range of configuration options both for the UI and the back end.

The Top 10 Reasons to Use CARA:

- 1. Performance** – Three major aspects of the way CARA is built contribute to performance that is measurably faster performance than the native platform UI (in some cases 4-5 times faster for the same action):
 - a. CARA is built using the Google Web Toolkit (Ext GWT) which is a very fast, stable web application.
 - b. CARA has been architected to pass the minimum amount of information in small fragments (rather than entire HTML pages) back and forth between the browser and the application server.
 - c. CARA has also been built to allow operations asynchronously, so users do not have to wait for one thing to finish before doing something else.
- 2. Ergonomics for users** – CARA was designed from the outset to provide a truly ergonomic, easy-to-use experience. We have reduced the number of mouse-clicks and separate screens required to perform a task or see information, and built the layout of the application to look and feel like using Windows Explorer. This greatly improves user adoption of CARA.
- 3. Maintenance cost** – CARA does not use any of the native platform UI components and thus allows customers to upgrade the back end of the system without impact to the CARA layer. As an example, the same version of CARA works on Documentum versions 5.3, 6.0, 6.5 and 6.6. This significantly reduces the cost of maintenance.
- 4. Configurability: zero customization** – CARA has been designed to provide a very high level of configurability around everything in both the UI and the server end. CARA was developed using a “*zero customization*” policy, where customer requests for additional functionality are always included as configurable extensions to the product, rather than customization. This ensures that customers will not be left with unsupported parts of the code, or customer-specific implementations. Currently there are more than 50 configurable areas of the system, and this is growing all the time.
- 5. Built-in portal** – CARA provides not only complete functionality within the main application, but also a built-in Portal with reduced functionality such “anonymous” search, viewing, and some limited functions once logged in (Create/Import, Edit, Delete documents). This portal is particularly useful for public access or third party/customer access.



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6. **Widgets** – CARA offers a unique “Widget” panel. These widgets allow users to display:
 - a. Up to five Default Widgets – *properties, locations, renditions, relations* and *versions*.
 - b. Custom Widgets defined by the system administrator which are built using
 - i. *Query Statement*
 - ii. *Web Service*
 - iii. *URL*.

This allows instant and very easy “integration” with third party applications and data sources, something which is impossible to do without considerable custom code in the native UI.

7. **Dimensions** – CARA offers a unique “Dimensions” panel where each user can define his/her own desired view of the repository structure, by selecting which attributes to use for each level of the tree. So if users do not like the standard folder structure, or prefer to view data in a different way, they have a completely flexible “3-dimensional” capability of displaying the data differently.
8. **Behavior not by type but by classification / category** – In CARA, behavior is defined not based on the traditional document management approach of “per object type” but on a combination of *classification* (any taxonomy the customer defines, up to 9 levels) and *category* (any query statements the customer defines to create a collection of documents). Thus, customers can end up having fewer (even a single) object types, which greatly improves performance and maintainability of the system, while allowing behavior rules to be defined down to the level of individual documents.
9. **Works in any browser** – The Google Web Toolkit ExtGWT is certified on any of the major browsers, and should work on almost any browser. The ones certified include Internet Explorer v6+, Firefox v1.5+, Chrome v4+, Safari v3+ and Opera v9+.
10. **Multiple platforms** – CARA is unique in that it leverages CMIS (the new Content Management Interoperability Services) in order to work on any platform that supports CMIS. Therefore, customers can switch the back end between any of the supported platforms without having the UI, and therefore users, impacted. This gives customers independence from the platform and the ability to move with the most appropriate platform at any particular stage.

