

# Freedom Logistics Software

“...groundbreaking  
logistics solution...”

“... top people to produce  
a leading system...”

“... operational suitability  
and technical lead...”

## Overview

Freedom was conceived in 1999 with the concept of creating a groundbreaking logistics solution, providing;

- A true windows look and feel GUI
- Intuitive ease of use
- Designed-in flexibility in all areas
- Stable and reliable data storage
- A solution suitable for one-user or thousands of users

The team of analysts, developers, project managers, trainers and support staff involved in Freedom were able to achieve these goals through having industry leading operational and technical skills - bringing together top people to produce a leading system.

## Lifecycle

Since it's first implementations in 2000, Freedom has built on its core strengths, being able to keep pace with changes in operating systems, databases and mobile data solutions. Freedom has consistently delivered

fully working technical solutions ahead of its competitors.

All Freedom users automatically join our lifecycle enhancement programme, with new revisions of Freedom being released every 3-months. Using this on-going release programme, Freedom develops organically to maintain it's operational suitability and technical lead and will therefore never become outdated.

## Flexibility

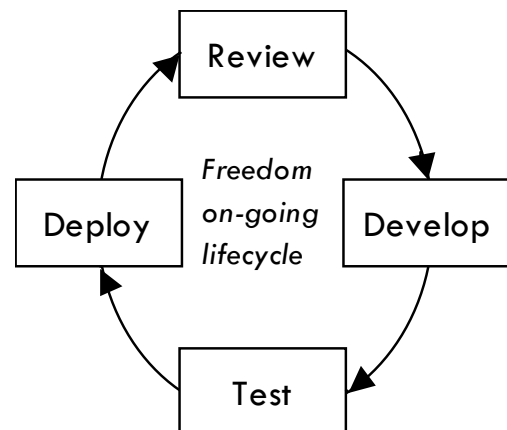
Freedom is all about flexibility, both for the user, and the developer.

Users can configure views and choose how they want to run their business.

Developers are able to work with a product that already has reusable objects developed and ready to run. This makes development of e.g. a mobile data interface much faster and reliable than traditional methods of software development.

## Support

A dedicated team of support professionals are able to deal with calls at all levels, they include infrastructure, web, geographical mapping and mobile data experts. A secondary support site is also maintained to provide fallback in the event of loss of power, telephone, email or web services.



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# Freedom Logistics Software

“... a client-server  
system...”

“... supports Oracle™ or  
MS-SQL™...”

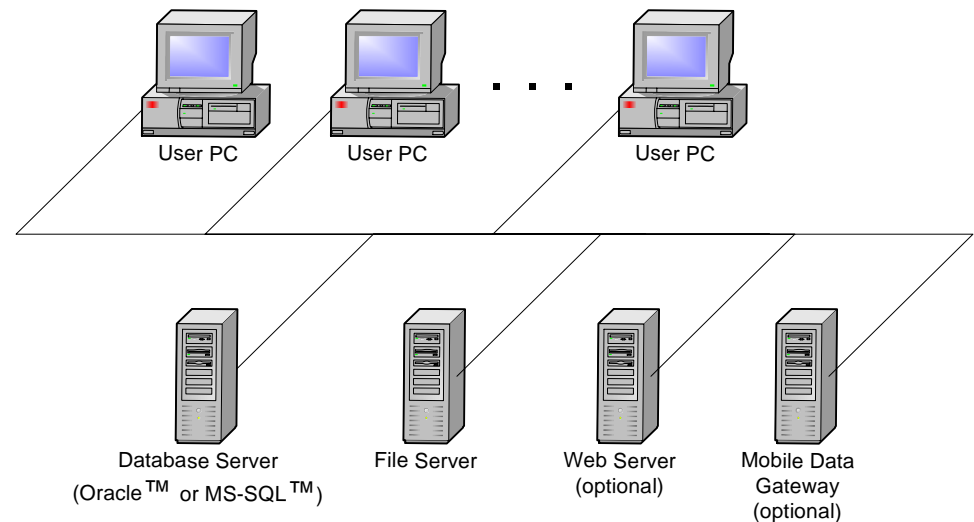
“... efficiently maintains  
all of your data ...”

## Hardware infrastructure

Freedom is a client-server system; with user PC's (the clients) talking to servers such as the database.

Although logically, each server is distinct, in many cases the server processes can be combined into a single computer, saving on hardware costs (both capital and maintenance).

In many cases, your company will already have all the hardware you need!



### User PC

This runs the Freedom software, obtaining files and data from the various servers.

### Database Server

This efficiently maintains all of your data. Using a database server greatly improves the reliability and security of data over the older file-based approach. Freedom supports both Oracle™ or MS-SQL™ databases, both of which support on-line backups with no interruption to the users.

### File Server

This stores the files required by the Freedom application. In wide-area networks, these can be downloaded to the user workstations to improve performance.

### Web Server

Required if you wish to provide your clients with a web booking and tracking facility.

### Mobile Data Gateway

May be required if you wish to integrate with a mobile data network, e.g. to allow mobile dispatch or tracking.



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# Freedom Logistics Software

“... job entry couldn't be easier...”

“... available for re-use later ...”

“... hierarchical rates facility ...”

## Desktop overview

### Job Booking

Job entry couldn't be easier, with account lookup by account reference, name or even a secondary reference. Each account can also have a password facility - which is required before a booking can be made.

Selecting an account will automatically default the tariff, contact name, pickup address, and method of payment.

You can enter any number of stopping addresses by postcode/street lookup (where installed), town name lookup or free-type address entry.

The booking references to be obtained from the contact can be setup against the account and Freedom can carry out different validation for each account.

A quoted price can be calculated at any time during job entry.

Once a job has been entered, you can select to have it repeated at regular intervals (based on a calendar), or make it available for quick

re-use later.

Powerful options are provided for finding, editing and copying job details - all coming together to provide one of the most flexible desktop booking systems available.

One of the most popular features of Freedom is it's on-going auditing of “who did what, and when” - an essential tool for customer service and analysis of productivity.

### Pricing and Charging

Freedom has a unique hierarchical rates facility.

To give a brief overview, Freedom allows the user to decide what they are to charge for, and how these items are to be calculated. The different items are initially set-up as global rates. Then, to provide maximum flexibility, Freedom allows each of the global items to be overridden or added to within pricing groups, tariffs and specific accounts.

The overall concept is for a system of rates that can be as detailed or as simple as the user decides - and stepping into detailed specific account rates only where it is completely necessary.

Freedom allows the same flexibility for calculating charges incurred from drivers. Again, driver charge/costs can be set-up as simple or as detailed as the user decides is necessary.



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# Freedom Logistics Software

“...our clients make their own bookings...”

“...jobs appear in Freedom real-time...”

“... clients' web layout customised ...”

## Web access

Freedom includes a powerful method of accepting jobs and providing tracking information via the Internet.

Freedom's web access component uses a mixture of HTML and Javascript® to provide a fast, but dynamic solution.

In effect, each page of HTML returned to a user is dynamically created by the Freedom web-server uniquely for each user and is therefore able to reflect current resource delays and information pertinent to each user.

Freedom's web access is truly dynamic and provides immediate feedback to the user. When booking a new job, the user is provided with the live Freedom job number immediately - where in many systems they have to wait for an email confirmation to arrive.

As well as job bookings, Freedom also allows your clients to maintain details of their own users (with usernames and passwords), and reference details for e.g. departments/cost centres that many be

required during job booking.

The Freedom web tracking not only consists of being able to view the status of previously booked jobs, but also provides your users with an impressive report writing tool - allowing them to produce their own management information based on what's important to them. When they write reports, these can be saved for later reuse.

If your clients want to provide a portal into your Freedom site from their Intranet, no problem! Each clients' web layout can be customised to meet their own corporate requirements.



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# Freedom Logistics Software

“... flexibility to model your own business...”

“... automatic real-time refresh...”

“... zoom to street level...”

## Interactive Planning

Design your own planning/controller windows by selecting the columns of data, sort order, keyboard shortcuts for regular tasks and even the colours to use for different types of jobs. Save your views for later re-use.

Multiple planning views can be opened at once, allowing a single controller to oversee several distinct groups of jobs and resources.

Where mobile data is implemented alongside Freedom, the planning views can include details of the status of jobs assigned to mobile data units and reflect status changes with text and/or colour changes.

Freedom includes the ability to soft-allocate drivers and hard allocate drivers and/or vehicle. After the allocation process, Freedom can track completion of individual pickups/drops within each job and allow a POD to be completed for each of these.

Freedom also allows assignment of jobs to trips that then become a consolidated load for a particular driver/vehicle combination. Trips can also include “instructions” - these are not jobs, but just ad-hoc requests

to perform a task at a certain time and (optional) location. Examples of trip instructions might be drivers breaks, or a visit to a depot to collect more goods.

### Planning by map

Using the Freedom mapping component, in association with mobile data, planners can track vehicles and match drivers to jobs visually. It's as simple as drag and drop!

The screenshot displays the 'Mappings: Single trip' window. On the left, a map of Sheffield shows a green route connecting various locations. On the right, a table lists jobs with columns for Job ID, Other Ref, Contact, Postcode, Step 1 (time), Cals, Required date/time, and Required Pln. Below the map, there are sections for 'Uncleared orders' and 'Open trips', each with their respective data tables.

Job	Other Ref	Contact	Postcode	Step 1 (time)	Cals	Required date/time	Required Pln
1	190240019370	MRS A HOLLE	S40 3EJ	Drop	30	07:03 08:50	12:00
2	190240019404	Mrs H RHODE	S40 2JW	Drop	50	07:03 09:00	13:00
3	190240019406	MRS SM FINE	S17 4DN	Drop	10	07:03 09:30	13:00
4	190270012956	MRS A WOOD	S73 9UC	Drop	10	07:03 12:00	16:00
5	190200009028	MRS S M FINE	S17 4DN	Pickup	10	07:03 09:30	13:00
6	190240019386	MRS SM BRCC	S12 3JN	Drop	30	07:03 09:00	13:00
7	190240019401	MRS S DEAR	S22 1DA	Drop	30	07:03 11:00	15:30
8	190200009183	MRS J BEELE	S23 3JL	Drop	55	07:03 13:00	17:00
9	190240019206	MRS PR REH	S17 3PR	Drop	35	07:03 10:00	14:00
10	190200012126	MRS S ELKIN	S22 5HG	Drop	15	07:03 13:00	17:00

The mapping component also provides for creation of trips and calculating driving time and distance, along with directions and plotting the complete trip on a map.



# **Freedom Logistics Software**

“...take away the  
simple decisions...”

“...focus on  
productivity...”

“...support user  
decision making...”

## **Dynamic Scheduling**

Freedom Scheduling provides for either automated building of schedules, or the more popular assisted allocation/appointment booking.

Freedom Scheduling includes configuration to compile schedules based on:

- Drivers shift profiles
- Start/end locations
- Ad-hoc appointments/instructions (floating or tied to a location)
- Control of inter-stop stem mileages
- Control of preferred appointments by time of day/day of week
- Maximum number of bookings per schedule
- Resource capacity (volume, weight, items, value)
- Service level agreements per booking

When operating in assisted mode, Freedom Scheduling is able to provide the user with a list of possible appointments, which have been pre-filtered to remove appointments based on maximum “cost” or customer requirements.

Where Freedom Scheduling has real-time vehicle tracking information, it can base decisions on live information, as well as reviewing progress.

The key to effective scheduling is providing flexibility to users, supporting decision making and enforcing business rules. These three requirements are the foundation for Freedom Scheduling.



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“... leading edge  
technology...”

“... communicate  
progress with  
messages...”

“... vehicle positions  
plotted on a map ...”

## Driver and vehicle communications

Freedom has been designed to enable leading edge technology to be integrated rapidly. This inherent flexibility has been used many times to provide customers with powerful solutions for communicating with their drivers and vehicles.

### Case study: Dispatch, Tracking and Sat-Nav

Working in conjunction with two market leaders in the fields of mobile data and navigation, we have developed a single solution, which provides mobile dispatch, tracking of vehicles and on-board navigation support.

A VDO Dayton satellite navigation unit is installed in the vehicle, integrated with a highly accurate GPS receiver, and a “mobidem” - a device for sending radio data messages.

At the HQ, a base station is installed for sending and receiving radio data messages.



### Dispatch

If planners allocate a job to a mobile data driver, the jobs details are sent directly to the in-vehicle unit. The driver uses a custom interface developed specifically for the VDO unit to view the job details and if necessary, choose to navigate to one of the addresses linked to the job.

Throughout the process, the planners back at HQ are kept informed of the actions taken by the driver, and can also see the vehicles progress plotted on a map. The mapping component can be configured to show the differing status of drivers with different images, colours etc., providing an immediate visual display of the situation.

Planners and drivers can also communicate using short free text messages.

### Tracking

The vehicle automatically sends back regular GPS position updates, which can be plotted on the map back at HQ, and are also stored for later review of chosen routes. Even when not in use, the vehicle automatically sends regular position updates - this facility that has already been used to recover stolen vehicles and highlight fraudulent use of company vehicles.

Planners can also use this location information to allocate new work on a “nearest vehicle” basis.



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