

Chapter 8, Page 387, Exercise Number 3.

Using your favorite search engine (bing.com), find at least 2 companies that provide technical support for users of the Apache Web Server software. Learn what services they provide and, if possible, what they charge for that service. Review their Web sites to learn more about their companies and summarize your findings.

First, let's discuss this information...

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/donmuir/2026/02/04/300-billion-evaporated-the-saaspocalypse-has-begun/>

Type the following into bing.com and this is the AI response you receive...

the saaspocalyse

Bing AI response:

The SaaS Spocalypse refers to the February–March 2026 market collapse in SaaS stocks triggered by AI agents replacing human workflows, undermining the traditional per-seat subscription model.

What Happened

*The term "SaaS Spocalypse" describes a dramatic selloff in software-as-a-service (SaaS) company valuations that began in early 2026. In a matter of weeks, billions of dollars were wiped from the market: estimates range from \$285 billion to over \$600 billion in lost market capitalization. The selloff was not a typical market correction but a structural revaluation of SaaS companies, driven by the realization that AI agents could perform tasks previously done by multiple human employees, reducing the need for per-seat software licenses.*

Causes

*The primary catalyst was the release of advanced AI tools such as Anthropic's Claude Cowork and Claude Code, which introduced "agentic" capabilities—autonomous AI that*

*can manage complex workflows, interact with APIs, and even write code without human intervention. This accelerated the phenomenon known as seat compression, where a single AI agent can replace the work of multiple employees, directly threatening the recurring revenue model that underpins traditional SaaS pricing.*

Other contributing factors include:

- *Enterprises reallocating budgets from SaaS subscriptions to AI infrastructure and private large language model (LLM) clusters.*
- *The rise of low-code and AI-native internal tools, allowing companies to insource software capabilities previously purchased from third-party vendors.*
- *Investor recognition that SaaS companies relying on per-seat pricing were structurally overvalued in an AI-driven productivity landscape.*

Financial and Market Impact

- *Major SaaS ETFs, like the iShares Expanded Tech-Software ETF (IGV), fell over 20% year-to-date.*
- *Individual companies such as LegalZoom and Thomson Reuters experienced declines of nearly 20% in days.*
- *The market is now bifurcated: companies providing AI-driven intelligence layers or demonstrable productivity gains are commanding premium valuations, while legacy SaaS providers are being valued more like utilities with limited growth potential.*

Broader Implications

- *The SaaSocalypse is comparable to the early 2000s shift from on-premise software to the cloud, but the AI-driven disruption is occurring much faster.*
- *Regulatory and policy considerations may emerge, including potential AI taxes or labor protections, as AI-driven displacement affects white-collar jobs.*
- *The event has also sparked discussions about mergers and acquisitions, as lower valuations create opportunities for strategic consolidation in the SaaS sector.*

Key Takeaways

- *Recurring revenue tied to human seat counts is no longer a guaranteed safety net; AI agents are fundamentally changing the economics of software licensing.*

- *Investors and companies should monitor metrics like seat counts and AI-driven revenue contributions to assess resilience in the post-SaaSocalypse environment.*
- *The future of SaaS will favor companies that can integrate AI effectively, demonstrate measurable productivity gains, and transition away from per-seat pricing models.*

OK. With all of the above being quoted about the SaaSocalypse and software and so on, I will provide information about companies which offer support for Apache Web Server. It should be known that at work the PHP website that I support runs on Apache. I am expected to do all my support myself. This has meant in the past that I would use things like [stackoverflow.com](https://stackoverflow.com) and/or other similar web information. Quite frankly, I hear that the traffic on Stackoverflow has all but dried up since the AI revolution started in 2022 to 2024.

Further, it should be noted that when I used Bing to search to companies that offered support contract for Apache Web Server, and some of the links in the top 10 results went to a 404 webpage, like <https://www.altnix.com/software/apache> when this website is attempted to be reached directly from Bing search results it gives a webpage not found message, when accessing it here from the link in this document, it does work. Well anyway this is not one of the Apache support companies I am going to use for reference and information.

Finally, it should be noted that Apache Web Server is from [apache.org](https://apache.org) which is one of the oldest and most cited Free Software sites known on the internet. Further, all the documentation about Apache Web Server is available for free from this URL <https://httpd.apache.org/docs/>. I use Apache 2.4 at work which was originally released in 2012 (over 14 years ago). While it still has regular patches performed on it, this ancient software has been superseded by <https://tomcat.apache.org/> for which a history of Tomcat server may be found at <https://moldstud.com/articles/p-exploring-the-history-of-apache-tomcat-unveiling-its-fascinating-origin-story>. We can see from this quote on the Tomcat origin story that 2012 was such a pivotal time for Apache Web Server, “In 2012, Tomcat 7 reached a new milestone with its final stable release, solidifying its status among enterprise applications. Adoption rates soared, with estimates suggesting that over 40% of Java web applications utilized Tomcat as their primary server”.

With all the above being provided as information, which 2 companies did I choose to say that they would support Apache Web Server for customers...

- 1) Bobcares at <https://bobcares.com/apache-hosting-support/>
  
- 2) ATeam Systems at <https://www.ateamsystems.com/services-support/web-server-support/apache-server-support-2/>

First: Bob Cares.

URL: <https://bobcares.com/apache-hosting-support/>

Bob Cares has plans for Apache that start at \$75 per month for 24/7 end user support, then the next level up of \$29.60 per hour to help with setting up new servers and installing the software to get everything running, up to finally, \$39.00 per hour for emergency pro support to deal with an outage or other major catastrophe.

Bob Cares provides services for auditing, performance evaluation and optimization, security, and daily routine tasks up to and including being your administrator and/or being the hosting provider for Apache Web Server. They provide updates with patching services and upgrades of the software and components. They also provide development services for your custom applications and configurations.

I still need to understand the differentiation between that I can get from Bob Cares and what an AI assistant could provide for perhaps much less cost. But only a pocketbook and a business case could truly answer these questions.

Finally, is ATeam Systems.

URL: <https://www.ateamsystems.com/services-support/web-server-support/apache-server-support-2/>

Quite frankly it looks very similar to what Bob Cares offers, so I won't repeat myself with that information. Two things I notice right off are that ATeam Systems provides no in your face dollar amounts, which means it is behind a paywall like most of those trucker things we researched in the past week or so. They won't tell you how much it will cost you until

they know you have a serious business case for even asking in the first place. I'm reminded of a camper and RV show I attended years ago when upon seeing the super deluxe camper, I asked the salesman how much it costs ( because I could not find any of that information being presented like the other competitors on the show floor ), and he responded to me, "If you ask that question you cannot afford it."

The second item is a promise that the ATeam Systems support people are based in the USA. Bob Cares offers no such promise which I could find.