

Hello, InvoicePlane!

I recently got an E-Mail from my invoicing software provider, saying that they will be discontinuing their 5.95€ per month rate and in exchange will put me on the 9,95€ per month rate with additional features I didn't actually need.

That was enough pressure to make my rounds on the open source market for invoicing software again.

After browsing through some rather old, rather incomplete or rather „*It's FREE and OPEN SOURCE!!! (...)* unless you really want to work with it.“ software, I found **InvoicePlane**. InvoicePlane is basically the Old Open Source foundation of the commercial software „FusionInvoice“. I didn't add a link there, because FusionInvoice has closed its doors in the meantime.

So I tried the demo of their 1.5 version and immediately saw the potential there: A nice, responsive UI made with a stable framework (although it's PHP-based, meh). However, I had to turn it down, because it was missing an expenses-feature.

But as I saw the potential, I didn't give up right there. They also had an alpha version of a 2.0 branch. It seems, as if the guy behind FusionInvoice was quite an okay guy, because just before closing down on FusionInvoice, he opened the complete source code of the then-current version of FusionInvoice and the guys at InvoicePlane took the chance to adopt it for the 2.0 version.

And it had the expenses feature! And even a REST Api.

So I tried to install it on my server, but it seemed to require PHP  $\geq 7.1$  and my server was running on 7.0. After some tests I finally made a **dockerized solution**, which works quite nice.

I tested the software and it had all the required features except for two reports I needed.

So I dived into the addons implementation of InvoicePlane, which was hard, because there was no development documentation and no example I could derive from.

After some hard work, I finally created an **income/expense report** and a **report for the german UstVa tax form**.

With all these things done, I finally could write my invoice software provider to cancel my contract.