

# Comparison of Version Control Softwares

## *Visual SourceSafe(VSS), CVS and Subversion (SVN)*

Author : Nitin Bhide

Mar 24, 2009

**Note:**

*These ratings and weightages are from my point of view. It is possible that your ratings and weightages will be entirely different than mine*

	Feature	Weight	VSS		CVS		Subversion (SVN)	
			Score	Weighted Score	Score	Weighted Score	Score	Weighted Score
1	<b>Basic Version Control Features</b>							
	Support for text files	5	5	25	5	25	5	25
	Support for binary files	4	5	20	2	8	5	20
	Support for file rename/directory rename (with rename history tracking)	4	2	8	1	4	4	16
	Support for moving files/directories (with history tracking)	4	0	0	0	0	4	16
	Branching and Merging (critical to support customer customization on top of basic version)	5	1	5	3	15	4	20
2	<b>Security/Authentication</b>							
	Client/Server (users should not have direct filesystem access to version control database)	4	1 [1]	4	3	12	4	16
	Active Directory/LDAP authentication support	3	0	0	1 [2]	3	4 [3]	12
	Access Control	5	5	25	2	10	4 [4]	20
3	<b>User Interface</b>							
	Integration with IDE (Visual Studio, Eclipse etc)	5	4 [5]	20	3	15	4 [6]	20
	Platform support	2	2 [7]	4	4 [8]	8	4	8
	Windows explorer integration	3	0	0	4 [9]	12	4	12
	Availability of Reporting and Analysis tools	4	1	4	3	12	4	16
	Availability of Integration with other third party applications	3	1	3	3	9	3	9
4	<b>Customization</b>							
	Scripts based customization	3	1 [10]	3	3 [11]	9	4 [12]	12
5	<b>Cost</b>							
		4	2 [13]	8	5 [14]	20	5 [14]	20
6	<b>Customer support</b>							
		3	3 [15]	9	3 [16]	9	3 [16]	9
	<b>Total Score</b>			<b>138</b>		<b>171</b>		<b>251</b>

1. Available with thirdparty applications
2. CVSNT supports SSPI (windows) authentication
3. Supports all Apache authentications
4. Directory level access control
5. Excellent integration with Visual studio
6. Available with AnkhSVN
7. Windows only client and server
8. Client and server available on Windows and Unix
9. With TortoiseCVS
10. Using VB/VBScript. Has to be done for each client
  
11. Serverside hook scripts
12. Server side hook and client side API available
13. Commercial application user license need to be purchase
14. Open source
  
15. Email support
16. Community support and large amount of information available on web