



## Comparison of NetSuite's Shipping Estimator and Explore's Shipping Estimator

### Introduction

With its 2010.2 upgrade, NetSuite has released an enhancement to the pre-existing shipping estimator in the NetSuite shopping cart. Explore Consulting has also offered a Shipping Estimator product as a NetSuite Web Store add-on since 2008. We have been approached by many of our customers asking what the differences are between NetSuite's new functionality and Explore's Shipping Estimator. An explanation of the two products and the similarities and differences follows.

### NetSuite Shipping Estimator

Prior to the 2010.2 version, NetSuite's shipping estimator was limited to providing information on only the default shipping item in NetSuite. If a customer offered both UPS and FedEx options, only the default item (i.e., UPS Ground) would be displayed. This prevented customers from determining the price of expedited shipping until they were several steps into the checkout process.

As part of the 2010.2 upgrade, additional options for shipping estimation are provided by NetSuite. Once activated, this more advanced shipping estimator allows customers to provide address information and choose from all available shipping options.

The NetSuite advanced shipping estimator is part of a new feature called the "Extended Cart" which is an expansion of the existing NetSuite shopping cart and it includes several features. The additional features include coupon code and gift certificate application from within the shopping cart. In order to use the advanced shipping estimator, the coupon code and gift certificate application must also be available.

### NetSuite Shipping Estimator Features

- Estimates for all shipping options in the cart
- Customer entry of address information
- Shipping appears as a line item in the cart
- Included (no add-on required)

### Explore Shipping Estimator for NetSuite

Explore Consulting developed the Shipping Estimator for NetSuite add-on to address similar needs while offering greater flexibility and customization. Our product provides a real-time shipping estimate within the NetSuite cart using SuiteScript code to make calls to each shipping provider estimated. The functionality is much the same as NetSuite's advanced shipping estimator. However, our product offers the ability to customize the presentation of information in ways that NetSuite's solution cannot.

<b>Estimate Shipping</b>	
Postal Code	<input type="text"/>
Country	United States <input type="button" value="v"/>
<b>Estimate Rates</b>	
<b>Estimated Shipping Rates</b>	
FedEx Priority Overnight	33.13
FedEx Standard Overnight	29.39
FedEx 2Day	14.01
FedEx Express Saver	11.43
FedEx Ground	7.05
USPS Express Mail	28.92
USPS Priority Mail	6.04
<b>Change Location</b>	

Complex business logic for shipping pricing and rules is very common. These rules can be very difficult or impossible to implement using NetSuite's built-in shipping options. The NetSuite advanced shipping estimator can't accommodate custom logic. For example, if a customer sells items that are shipped by freight, or items that ship free to certain states but not to others, estimation of the shipping price can be even more important to prevent surprises to the customer during checkout. Explore's solution can handle these needs as well as providing full control over the display of the shipping estimate information. We can even provide multi-step shipping estimation wizards that guide a customer through the process all within the shopping cart page.

**Explore Shipping Estimator for NetSuite Features**

- Full flexibility
- Customizable display
- Handles complex business logic
- Can access customer, item, or other fields to make decisions regarding shipping pricing

**Which Shipping Estimator do you choose?**

With both of these options it can be confusing for a NetSuite customer to determine which is the best path.

*Use the NetSuite Shipping Estimator if:*

- Price is more important than functionality
- No shipping rules are used for estimation
- No control over the displayed content is acceptable

*Use Explore's Shipping Estimator for NetSuite if:*

- Flexibility of display is required
- Multiple factors are used to determine appropriate shipping
- Shipping prices depend on more than just the weight of an item
- Numerous exceptions to otherwise standard shipping rules exist
- Communication with a carrier not currently supported by NetSuite is required

**About Explore Consulting**

Based in Bellevue, Washington, Explore Consulting was founded in 2001 and is a professional services company dedicated to providing innovative and cost-effective solutions for their customers' database and IT systems needs. Having specialized in SaaS solutions for more than 8 years, Explore Consulting is the largest and most experienced NetSuite reseller and solution provider in the Northwestern United States. Not only is Explore a licensed reseller of the NetSuite product suite, but an experienced NetSuite implementation and integration partner. Whether you are looking for assistance with your NetSuite purchase and implementation or needing to integrate your NetSuite account to any external data source with our

industry-leading CloudConnect™ service, we are your one stop NetSuite service provider. Explore Consulting is well-known as a leader in NetSuite customization, integration and extensibility. While NetSuite can run most businesses using out-of-the-box functionality, we're experts on adapting the product to meet your specific business requirements. Explore Consulting was recently included on the Inc. 5000 list of fastest growing privately owned companies in the U.S. for the third year in a row as well as the Puget Sound Business Journal's 100 Fastest Growing Private Companies. Explore has also been a 5-time NetSuite Star Performer and is well recognized as a leader in integration and mobile solutions for NetSuite. For more information, visit [www.exploreconsulting.com](http://www.exploreconsulting.com).