ACROSS THE TABLE

BUSINESS CONSULTING

APP COMPARISON 12 · SOS SIGN OPERATING SYSTEM

SOS Sign Operating System vs shopVOX, Corebridge and Cyrious

The established sign-shop platforms run the shop. None of them handle the permit — and the permit is what delays the job.

Knowledge Article C12

AI Stack Series · acrossthetable.biz

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BEFORE YOU READ THIS

This guide compares SOS Sign Operating System against three other products that do a similar job. SOS Sign Operating System is my own. I build it, and I make money if you buy it.

That is exactly why this guide names the places where one of the other three is the better buy, and says so plainly. A comparison that found my own product best at everything would not be worth your time, and you would be right not to believe it.

> **NOT FOR SALE YET**
> SOS Sign Operating System is listed as "Coming soon" on acrossthetable.biz. You cannot buy it today. The other three products in this guide are available right now, and if you need this job done this month, one of them is your answer.

WHAT SOS SIGN OPERATING SYSTEM DOES

SOS Design Assistant, SOS Permit Assistant and SOS Build Assistant in one login, sharing one job record from start to finish.

The SOS Sign Operating System joins three parts — SOS Design Assistant, SOS Permit Assistant and SOS Build Assistant — into one login with a single job record, so nothing is re-entered as a project moves from drawing to permit to installation.

Permitting is the centre of it: capturing what the city sends back, interpreting redlines, and routing each correction to whoever is responsible for fixing it.

What is in it:

- Design, Permit and Build in one login
- One job record, nothing re-entered
- One branded customer page
- One board for the whole team

Price: Pricing not published yet.

THE THREE IT IS UP AGAINST

The established products in this market are shop management systems. They are mature, they are good, and they are solving a different problem: quoting, production scheduling, proofing and invoicing inside the shop.

What none of them do is the permit. That is not an oversight in this guide — it is the documented gap this product exists for, and the sources at the end state it plainly.

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Product	What it is	How it charges	Who it suits
SOS Sign Operating System (mine)	Design, permit and build in one login, sharing one job record end to end	Not published yet	Sign businesses whose jobs stall at the city, not at the shop
shopVOX	Cloud shop management for sign, print and apparel shops	Monthly per plan plus per additional user, with paid add-ons and onboarding fees	Sign shops that need quoting, production and invoicing joined up
Corebridge	A full business management platform for sign and print companies	Monthly, typically billed annually	Established shops wanting an all-in-one platform
Cyrious Control	A long-established on-premise management system for sign companies	Substantial upfront licence rather than a monthly fee	Larger shops that want to own the system and run it themselves

Prices move. Every figure for the other three comes from the source listed at the end of this guide, with the date it was published, so you can see how fresh it is and check it yourself. The figures for SOS Sign Operating System are its own published prices.

WHAT EACH ONE IS ACTUALLY GOOD AT

shopVOX

shopVOX is the best-known cloud platform for sign shops. Quoting that works the way the trade prices work — square footage for signage — plus a job board, online proof approval, invoicing and payments, syncing to QuickBooks, Xero and Sage.

A June 2026 review listed Express at $109 a month plus $29 per additional user, and PRO at $249 plus $49 per user with onboarding packages from $499, with add-ons for e-commerce, inventory and service jobs on top. The same review estimated a mid-size shop could reach $700 to $900 a month, and noted users reporting increases over time.

That same review did not mention permitting anywhere in its coverage of the product.

Pick this one if: you run a sign shop and your problem is quoting, production and getting invoices out.

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Corebridge

Corebridge is shopVOX's closest full-platform rival, described in the same June 2026 review as starting around $189 a month billed annually.

It covers the same ground — estimating, production, accounting integration — for a sign and print business.

As with shopVOX, it is organised around the shop's internal workflow rather than around the external approvals a sign project depends on.

Pick this one if: you want an established all-in-one platform and you are comparing it directly against shopVOX.

Cyrious Control

Cyrious Control is the veteran of this market, installed on your own servers rather than rented monthly, with a four-figure upfront cost per the same June 2026 review.

Shops that run it tend to run it for a very long time, and it is deeply capable at the estimating and production work it was built for.

It predates the cloud era in its architecture, which is a trade-off: more control, more responsibility, and a different answer on remote access.

Pick this one if: you are a larger shop that prefers owning software outright over renting it.

WHERE SOS SIGN OPERATING SYSTEM IS THE WRONG CHOICE

If any of these describes you, buy one of the others instead. You will be happier and I would rather tell you now than take your money.

- Your problem is quoting, production scheduling and invoicing. That is what shopVOX, Corebridge and Cyrious are for, and they do it well.
- You want a proven system with years of sign shops behind it. All three of these have that; SOS does not yet.
- You need it now. SOS Sign Operating System is listed as coming soon. The Permit Assistant is in beta and the other two parts are not finished.
- You do not deal with permits. If your work is interior signage or non-permitted installs, the central advantage here does not apply to you.

WHAT ACTUALLY MAKES SOS SIGN OPERATING SYSTEM DIFFERENT

The difference is the permit, and it is not a marketing distinction. The leading review of shopVOX — the most comprehensive platform in this market — covers quoting, production, proofing and invoicing and says nothing about handling permit applications or compliance. The shop systems manage what happens inside the shop.

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For a commercial sign project, the thing that actually delays the job and burns the margin is usually outside the shop: the city comes back with redlines, and the correction has to go to whoever is responsible — the designer, the engineer, the electrician — and then back to the city. That round trip is typically run on email and memory.

The second difference is the single job record across design, permit and build. In the normal arrangement, the design system, the permit paperwork and the install schedule are three places, and the same information gets typed into all three.

The third is who it is built for. Those platforms assume you own a sign shop. The SOS model is built around a network of vetted vendors, so a salesperson or broker can sell and deliver a project without owning manufacturing.

The honest limit

Most of it does not exist yet. SOS Permit Assistant is in beta; the Design and Build Assistants are listed as coming soon; the combined product is a plan. Everything above describes an intended design, and you should weigh it as such.

There is no published price, which means you cannot compare total cost against shopVOX or Corebridge from the website. That is a genuine gap while you are evaluating.

And it does not replace a shop management system. A shop that makes signs still needs quoting, production and invoicing. The honest positioning is alongside one of these products, not instead of it.

HOW TO DECIDE

Answer these about your own business. The answers point at one of the four.

- How many of your jobs are delayed at the city rather than in the shop?
- What does a week of permit delay cost you, across all your live jobs?
- Do you own manufacturing, or do you broker the work to vendors?
- Do you already have a shop management system you are happy with?
- Can you wait for something that is not finished, or do you need a product today?

YOUR QUICK REVIEW

- ☐ I know how much of my delay is permitting versus production.
- ☐ I know what a week of delay costs me.
- ☐ I have a shop management system, or I know I need one.
- ☐ I know which parts of SOS exist today and which do not.
- ☐ I have asked for pricing before planning around it.

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WHERE THESE NUMBERS CAME FROM

Everything stated about the other three products comes from the sources below, on the dates shown. Nothing here is from memory and nothing is estimated.

- Makerstack, "shopVOX Review (2026): Pricing, Features & Honest Verdict," published 14 June 2026 — shopVOX pricing and features, Corebridge and Cyrious Control positioning and pricing, and the absence of any permitting capability in shopVOX.
- SOS Sign Operating System status and scope: acrossthetable.biz/sos-sign-os/, read from the site's own published product data.
- Permit requirements for commercial signage are set by each local jurisdiction. No software changes what a city requires.

Pricing pages change without notice. Before you buy anything in this guide, including mine, open the vendor's own pricing page and check.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Product	Where to find it	What it is for
shopVOX	shopvox.com	Sign shops that need quoting, production and invoicing joined up
Corebridge	corebridge.net	Established shops wanting an all-in-one platform
Cyrious Control	cyrious.com	Larger shops that want to own the system and run it themselves
SOS Sign Operating System	acrossthetable.biz/sos-sign-os/	Sign businesses whose jobs stall at the city, not at the shop
Across the Table AI Assessment	acrossthetable.biz/#assessment	Fifteen minutes. Tells you which job to fix first, before you buy anything.
The Scaling Edge	acrossthetablebiz.substack.com	Weekly newsletter for owners without a business background.

CONTINUE LEARNING

The knowledge article on handling contracts covers the document side of commercial projects.

The Across the Table AI Assessment starts from the jobs your business performs.

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