

Cool Tools

Projects@Work

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Cool Tools

Projects@Work (September 28, 2006)

Here's our September roundup of the latest technology solutions for project managers, teams, executives and organizations, including tools for connecting the PMBOK Guide to real-world project management ... linking the workforce with back-office systems ... enterprise-wide capacity planning ... web collaboration ... agile software development ... and more.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Connecting PMBOK concepts with real-world projects, and guiding project managers through the process.

GanttHead.com, the online community for IT project managers, has launched Project HEADWAY, a project management process that takes the time-proven JPACE methodology and ties it to the industry-standard PMBOK Guide from the Project Management Institute.

Project HEADWAY is the latest iteration of a project management process (JPACE) used on tens of thousands of projects since 1981. It supports the PMI standard by aligning JPACE with specific areas of the PMBOK Guide. Each activity in the process links directly to the relevant section of the Guide, so project managers can see how the official standard relates to the task they're working on. ganttHead provides further support for each task by linking to specific templates and relevant articles from its library of thousands of project management resources, and providing advice on risk considerations and project size-specific WBSs downloadable in MS Project format.

During its initial launch phase, Project HEADWAY was available to subject matter experts and industry analysts, who were impressed and excited about the product's upcoming release. Much of the feedback praised the flexibility of the process, which allows users to integrate with their project management software and customize the WBS with project-specific tasks.

Enterprise licensing for up to 300 seats is currently offered for \$30,000. Training and integration services are also available. For more information:

www.ganttHead.com/projectheadway.

WORKFORCE MANAGEMENT

Bridging the gap between the project workforce and back-office systems.

Tenrox's has introduced Release 9 of its Project Workforce Management software, which combines project/workforce management and financials to replace the spreadsheets and internally developed systems many companies currently use for cost and revenue planning, tracking and management reporting.

Available on-demand or on-site, Release 9 is designed to help companies with a decentralized workforce manage resources and projects, and measure their financial impact in real-time. The solution allows companies to standardize key project workforce processes, but also to quickly make changes through a graphical workflow interface. Promising implementation flexibility, automatic policy enforcement, point-of-entry controls, and auditing capabilities, the system seeks to address the risks and inefficiencies inherent in custom-built in-house applications cobbled around back office systems.

Among several enhancements, a new Collaborative Workforce Planning module can align shifts in demand with the current available pool of human capital. A new user interface and

navigator self-guide tool reduces training time and allows user to access information in fewer steps. And dashboards now enable users to summarize, consolidate and view data from other .NET-based applications.

Pricing starts at \$100 per module per seat, a hosted version is available from \$10 per user per month, and volume discounts and enterprise-licensing agreements are also available. In addition, Tenrox offers add-on products and out-of-the-box connectors to popular financial applications and project management software. For more information: www.tenrox.com.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Addressing the organizational quest to manage resources beyond the task level.

eProject has introduced PPM6 Resource Management and Capacity Planning, which offers real-time visibility into an entire corporate pool, enabling executive-level managers to plot and estimate workflow and resources as projects and priorities evolve throughout the organization.

Web-based PPM6 features workflow-driven team and role-based modeling, role and team scheduling, resource assigning, utilization feedback, "what-if" modeling and analysis, and standardized reports. Managers can evaluate resource capacity based on Hours or FTEs (Full-Time Employees), or compare aggregate project requests against overall capacity. Data can be printed as a PDF or exported to Excel to objectively and strategically optimize the project mix.

The solution automated a number of tasks and processes, include role scheduling, resource assignment, resource utilization, time logging, resource tracks, summary task-level planning, and developing skill pools with competency levels. For more information: www.eproject.com.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

Providing a clear project picture to everyone from executives to individual contributors.

Drawing on user feedback and suggestions following its major product release in May 2006, AtTask has introduced @task 4.02, an on-demand or self-hosted enterprise project management solution that feature a number of new tools to help organizations get work done. Key enhancements for @task 4.02 include new export file formats (PDF, Excel, TSV); cross-project collaboration among dispersed teams that allows task dependencies among different projects; e-mail integration to bring people into project discussions who normally don't use @task; one-click access to support with documentation, training videos and community forums; and power search of the @task framework, and past and current projects, to create comprehensive reports and project portals.

@task is browser independent with a pluggable architecture, which allows companies to integrate any application on any OS platform using the Java-based application program interface (API). @task can also be quickly integrated into an organization's network, allowing users to start mapping projects in a matter of days, rather than weeks or months.

Pricing for @task is based on the delivery model and number of users. For more information: www.attask.com.

WEB COLLABORATION

Democratization of data helps organizations harness their collective intelligence.

MindTouch has introduced DekiBox, an on-site "smart appliance" designed for companies of all sizes to create, capture and share user-generated content. Self-managed and powered by a service-oriented XML platform, the offering provides straightforward functionality and can be installed within minutes for immediate use. Accessible through common Web browsers, it allows team members in any location to exchange files, post images, share emails, and create wiki pages in a shared space.

MindTouch DekiBox combines the remote accessibility of online applications with the security and control of housing data behind the corporate firewall. Business continuity is maintained through remote management including automatic software upgrades and security releases, encrypted, off-site data back-ups and proactive hardware monitoring. The appliance also features a connector for Microsoft Outlook for publishing messages and attachments directly into wiki pages.

MindTouch DekiBox is available for pre-order. Introductory pricing starts at \$995 with flexible service plans available. For more information: www.mindtouch.com.

AGILE SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

Supporting rapid, iterative and incremental release schedules through adoption of agile methods, tools.

Rally Software Development Corp., has released its latest version of Rally Enterprise, designed to help organizations simplify the enterprisewide adoption of agile software development. Rally Enterprise includes full requirements versioning and traceability, agile product management and the flexibility of both on-demand or on-premise deployment options.

In addition, Rally has launched its new Agile Accelerator services, which map a field-tested, incremental and results-oriented path to agile adoption. Team Accelerators focus on adopting agile practices that can be learned and implemented in less than 60 days; Program Accelerators help organizations expand agile practices to multiple teams and projects by identifying necessary cultural change and increasing programwide visibility; and Enterprise Accelerators provide management with a roadmap, performance metrics, scorecards and agile best practices for the enterprise.

Rally Enterprise complements the company's existing on-demand solutions, Rally Team and Rally Program. New release features formal requirements management and traceability, including hierarchical requirements management to support the feature definition and corporate compliance needs of large projects; executive dashboards and reporting that show release-level status and schedules across the entire software lifecycle; and on-premise deployment.

Though pricing for Rally Enterprise is not yet available, Rally Team starts at \$19/user/month Rally Program starts at and \$39/user/month. Accelerators are available through the company's services team. For more information: www.rallydev.com.

PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT

Increasing visibility, hands-on control to strategically align projects and maximize value.

SAP's updated xApp Resource and Portfolio Management (xRPM) provides a consolidated view into enterprisewide portfolios and delivers new capabilities that help organizations identify and assign people, equipment and financial backing to initiatives that best support business goals. Leveraging this composite application, companies can evaluate scenarios and conduct project comparisons to identify the most optimal use of resources.

"Enterprise resources are very costly to allocate passively or 'on the fly,'" says Matt Light, research director at Gartner. "Utilizing automated tools, integrated with an enterprise systems framework, can significantly improve a company's ability to maximize the value of the portfolio by providing visibility, alignment with business priorities and optimized allocation of enterprise investments."

xRPM provides a single application for portfolio management across different functional groups. Users can score portfolio items based on aggregation of both qualitative and quantitative criteria, such as risk, feasibility and commercial value. Specialized templates and configurations support operational groups, including new product development, IT, enterprise asset management and Six Sigma. Flexible portfolio hierarchies are also available, allowing users to group portfolio items into strategic buckets.

Pre-built integration between SAP and non-SAP applications speeds up implementation times and reduces total cost of ownership. xRPM also leverages SAP NetWeaver Business Intelligence to produce intuitive graphical reports detailing project cost information, financial forecasts and other performance indicators. More than 170 customers globally are leveraging xRPM, according to the company. For more information: www.sap.com.

ESTIMATING AND SCHEDULING

Optimizing planning, scheduling and workflow through automation and analysis.

Management Software has expanded the capabilities of its built-in estimating and scheduling tools in the company's flagship software, JobOrder 12.9, which is designed for project-oriented organizations, including advertising agencies, architects, consulting companies, and design and engineering firms.

JobOrder's Workplan, Prioritizer, and SmartScheduler tools provide project managers with easy-to-use interfaces for job scheduling, costing and managing priorities. This built-in functionality automates numerous activities to coordinate people, schedules and jobs, while simplifying the steps involved in costing projects. The workflow engine also provides project managers with an analytical dashboard to help analyze scheduling and planning. Additionally, with JobOrder's Notification Rules, project managers are able to spot problems and trends in overlapping jobs.

A single user license costs \$1,095. The JobOrder Accounting Module starts at \$895. Volume and concurrent user pricing options are also available. For more information: www.JobOrder.com.

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Sponsored Announcements and Special Offers

True Portfolio Management Made Easy

Portfolio Intelligence simplifies project portfolio management and resource management, provides a full process workflow and decision methodology and offers an affordable solution with easy implemented in 1-2 weeks. [Take our product tour today!](#)

Software Training Week - Oct & Nov dates still available for specialized one, two & three-day training courses. Looking to improve software quality? Having trouble simplifying your software processes? Improve your skills and help your organization increase its performance through SQE's targeted high-value training. Save an additional \$200 when you use code **PAWT** during registration. [Register Now!](#)

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