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EXPERT INSIGHTS

Report on Project Management



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Why Companies are Making the Switch to “Software as a Service”

Imagine looking for new software and seeing, “System Requirements: Internet Access.” Ever-expanding Internet capabilities are allowing organizations to expand the traditional view of software as an off-the-shelf product, purchased, installed and run on your computer’s hard drive. Web-based Software as a Service (SaaS) runs entirely through your Internet connection.

Web-based applications leverage the capabilities of the Internet. Creatively using web 2.0 technologies like AJAX gives web-based software a quick and responsive feel like that expected from desktop applications. Choices in the SaaS category are growing as aggressive

software developers harness the capacity of the model to serve the growing demands of the business marketplace.

Project and Portfolio Management (PPM) and Customer Relationship Management (CRM) industries are especially progressive in their use of SaaS. Implementing a SaaS solution in this environment is often faster, easier on the budget, and more portable than a desktop installation.

Consider implementation where a quick online setup (about as complex as buying a book from Amazon.com) is all that’s required to purchase software licenses and get full collaborative functionality—much faster than deploy-

ing IT staff across the company armed with installation CD’s or lengthy download instructions. Teams can be working together in a new application in no time.

SaaS providers typically charge a monthly or annual license fee. The hefty cost of purchasing desktop software, setting up internal server exchanges, evaluating each workstation for hardware requirements, and performing individual installs is replaced by a more manageable recurring payment.

SaaS tools are very portable. With the proliferation of Wi-Fi Internet access, managers and executives get the functionality of their applications through wireless-enabled devices like laptops and PDAs. Think about it—minutes from now, you could be managing projects that span the globe from the comfort of your blackberry.

To read the full report, go to www.expert-insights.com/attask.asp



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