



Project Assistants Newsletter

September 2009

Tips from the Chief

Real World Observations

I'm often asked to share my observations about the state of Portfolio Management in the *real world*. I've seen a growing trend in recent months toward a more integrated approach toward Portfolio Management, most certainly because organizations need the flexibility to innovate in order to respond to rapidly changing economic conditions.

Unfortunately the traditional annual portfolio review cycle doesn't allow organizations to efficiently respond to changing market conditions. There are usually few objective project selection and cancellation criteria and the review process is too infrequent, so it's often difficult to ensure that the organization is doing the right projects at the right time.

Simply stated, executives are looking at how to do Portfolio Management better. They are working on evolving from the rigid and somewhat unresponsive traditional approach to more of an ongoing process that effectively integrates the Portfolio and Project Management (PPM) planning and governance processes. Are you interested in learning more about how to improve Portfolio Management effectiveness in your organization? [Contact us](#) to learn more.

Offering Spotlight

Resource Management Challenges?

Is your organization struggling with any of these challenges?

Difficulty tracking documents

Scattered team communication

Geographical dispersion

Manageability/Administration

Information overload

We have in-depth experience with the design, installation, development, configuration, training and deployment of Microsoft SharePoint-based collaboration solutions, including Microsoft Windows SharePoint Services (WSS) and Microsoft Office SharePoint Services (MOSS).

Project Assistants' collaboration solutions are focused on connecting and integrating people, processes and information to optimize your organization's ability to achieve its goals.

Lately we've helped many clients who had been struggling with configuring their SharePoint solution to better fit their needs, particularly with regard to structuring the way content is stored, managed, and presented to users.

2009 Webinar Series

Topic: Resource Management: The Keystone to Successful PPM

Date: November 16, 2009

Time: 3:00 pm EST

Project Assistants is pleased to announce registration is open for the final webinar of our 2009 Webinar Series. On November 16th at 3:00 PM EST, Project Assistants CEO Gus Cicala will address ***Resource Management: The Keystone to Successful Project & Portfolio Management***.

Organizations generally employ one of two separate and distinct approaches to resource management: a less rigorous, less effective schedule-focused approach or a more rigorous approach that includes management of resource capacity versus resource demand. Bridging this gap is a huge challenge for most organizations, but a willingness to make this investment is also a critical requirement for building an effective PPM culture.

During this webinar, Mr. Cicala will first demonstrate how Resource Management really is the linchpin that allows you to successfully integrate the project and portfolio management processes. Then, we'll introduce the concept of evolving your organizational leaders from schedule users to efficient resource managers through the development of a well thought out strategy and detailed supporting plan.

Visit our [website](#) to learn more about our [2009 Webinar Series](#).

Here's what one client had to say about our work: *"Project Assistants implemented a SharePoint Portal Server solution for our IT department that is the foundation of the collaboration of our project teams and is driving the adoption of standards and streamlining communications on our most important business initiatives."*

You can learn more about Project Assistants' specific SharePoint offerings on our [website](#), or [contact us](#) directly.

Do you qualify for free SharePoint Services delivery?

Project Assistants is an authorized provider of Microsoft SharePoint Deployment Planning Services (SDPS). Through this program we provide authorized customers (those participating in Microsoft's Software Assurance benefit) free SharePoint consulting to help them achieve the optimal return on their SharePoint investment. [Contact us](#) to see if you qualify!

Consultant Spotlight

With an average of 20+ years each of project management and related business experience, Project Assistants' consultants are recognized experts in the field of Project & Portfolio Management. They frequently contribute to periodicals and books dealing with their areas of expertise.

On our [website](#) we maintain links to many of our consultants' published material – topics range from Microsoft Project *help* guides to subject matter dealing with leadership principles and portfolio management strategies. Please take a look and [let us know](#) if you have any follow-up questions.

For more information about Project Assistants, Inc., please go to www.projectassistants.com or call us at 1-800-642-9259.

