



Project Assistants Newsletter

December 2011

View from the Top

Happy Birthday Project Assistants: Reflections on 15 Years of Focused Project Management Consulting

Project Assistants was founded in 1996 with the mission of providing unique, leading edge Project and Portfolio Management (PPM) solutions that enable organizations to deliver better, faster, more cost-effective project-based results. As we look back on 15 years of providing solutions focused on four key dimensions – people, process, technology and organizational structure – we’ve continued to adjust and update our practice based on some significant developments that have occurred in the marketplace, specifically:

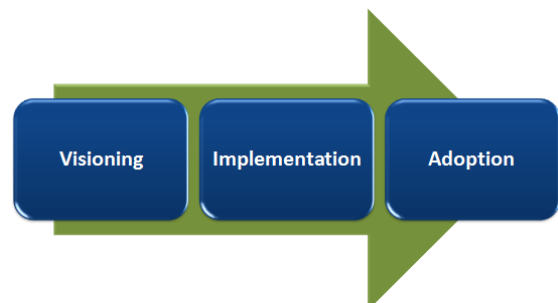
- **People:** The Project Management Institute’s (PMI) introduction of A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK) has provided a foundation for project management training and PMI’s Project Management Professional (PMP) certification has provided a path for improving skills (including the requirement for ongoing experience-based training). Additionally, the training world has changed as web-based training opportunities have become more prevalent.
- **Process:** Project management methodologies such as PMBOK and PRINCE have provided a foundation for Project Management processes.

Offering Spotlight: Microsoft Project Server 2010

Creating a Project Management Vision for your Organization

For as long as Project Assistants has been helping clients deliver better, faster and more cost-effective project-based solutions, clients have viewed technology as an enabler to meeting their goals.

Even before the widespread acceptance of enterprise project management, when project management technology was primarily desktop based, it was obvious that the approach of using technology to enable project management success depended upon an initial vision to create a path to success. In response to this need Project Assistants developed and continues to offer our three-phased approach to delivering the promise of improved project outcomes (better, faster and more cost-effective project-based solutions).



The cornerstone of Project Assistants’ approach is the Phase 1 Visioning offering. Due to our significant experience with this offering, as well as feedback from our customers, we are proud to announce we

These methodologies have been supported by the development and maturation of program and portfolio management methodologies, as well as supporting lifecycle methodologies such as SDLC, drug development, Agile, NPD/PLM (New Product Development/Product Lifecycle Management) and others.

- **Technology:** We've seen a significant transformation in the use of PPM technology as web-based systems are now often deployed across an enterprise rather than solely as stand-alone workstation-based instances. Use of PPM technology throughout the organization supports the need to provide transparency, accountability and timeliness of information.
- **Organizational Structure:** The concept and use of Project Management Offices (PMOs) has matured to the point that PMOs are now a staple in project-based organizations. Businesses are more apt to invest in PMOs because their value has clearly proven itself over the past 15 years.

So what do these changes in People/Process/Technology/Organizational Structure mean for the future of PPM? Stay tuned for our 2012 newsletters as we explore each of these dimensions individually and discuss what these developments mean for the future.

Please contact us at info@projectassistants.com to share your thoughts on this topic.

2012 Webinar Series

Topic: Leveraging Business Intelligence: Realize the ROI of your Microsoft Project Server EPM Investment

Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2012

Time: 3:00 pm EST

Project Assistants is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the first webinar of our 2012 Webinar Series. On

have enhanced our Visioning offering to more effectively meet the demands of today's organizations. Highlights of this updated offering include the following:

- We've improved our project and portfolio management maturity model to include processes that were not previously considered, particularly those that relate to portfolio and enterprise resource management. We've also improved this model by separating the definition of each maturity level into two dimensions: (1) level of rigor in the process; and (2) level of adoption of that process. It's the combination of these two dimensions that ultimately drives the assessment of the current state as well as the ability to become more specific about the definition of the desired future state.
- We've enhanced the process of defining the future state through the introduction of a Visioning Workshop. This workshop provides an optimal forum for integrating our fifteen years of project management improvement experience with our clients understanding of their unique situation and needs for improvement.

If you're tired of trying to find your way in the dark when it comes to improving your project management capabilities and project outcomes, Project Assistants can help. Please contact us for more information about our Project Management Visioning Offering.

Project Assistants Opportunities

In the ever-changing world of business and technology one thing has remained constant -- the need for cost-effective, quality talent. Project Assistants' ability to provide staffing solutions for clients' professional, technology-related resource needs has also remained constant.

Project Assistants has built a pool of talented project and portfolio management

February 28 at 3:00 PM EST, Project Assistants' CEO Gus Cicala will address ***Leveraging Business Intelligence: Realize the ROI of your Microsoft Project Server EPM Investment.***

Whenever we discuss Project Management, at the core we're really asking how to transform (project management) input into (project management) output. Business Intelligence (BI) is much more than just "pretty dashboards"; instead, BI implies a significant understanding of what it takes to collect this intelligence/input. If intelligence lacks value, it doesn't matter how detailed or dramatic the dashboard is.

Organizations must be willing to make the appropriate investment (people, process, technology, organizational structure) to enable efficient input gathering. Although the process for gathering the necessary data may seem relatively straight forward, the ultimate responsibility for doing so resides with the project managers who must gather and place the right information into the system, and executives who must ensure there is appropriate accountability for this process.

During this webinar, Mr. Cicala will offer insight about the following:

- Why you need to care about BI.
- The importance of adopting rigor on the input side.
- The ROI of BI and how Microsoft Project Server facilitates data collection, development and presentation. We'll also review several sample dashboards.

This webinar, offered at no cost, will last for one hour and will include time for questions and answers. Please contact us with any questions; you can register for this webinar by clicking [HERE](#). Visit our website for more information about our ongoing Webinar Series.

professionals. Project Assistants' successful track record of providing proven professionals who get it right the first time has provided clients with the confidence to call us first.

Current Project Assistants staffing opportunities include the following:

- *Microsoft Project Server consultants:* Project Assistants has ongoing needs for Project Server/EPM experts. We anticipate additional contract opportunities as the new year begins and we appreciate any referrals!
- *Department-level project manager – Philadelphia, PA:* Project Assistants has an immediate need for a department-level Project Manager for a 6-8 month contract opportunity based in Reading, PA.

To learn more about these and other Project Assistants opportunities please visit the Careers page of our website or send your resume to careers@projectassistants.com

Project Assistants' Ongoing PPM-focused Webinar Series

As we begin the 5th year of our very successful Webinar Series we want to remind you that recordings of our previous webinars are available for you to download and review at your convenience. Please visit our [website](#) to access these recordings, and don't hesitate to [contact us](#) with any questions.

Executive Track

- What Keeps a PMO Director Awake at Night: Selling the Value of Project & Portfolio Management (PPM) to your Executive Team.
- Evolve or Die: How Organizations Use PPM to Adapt to Change
- Making It Stick: The Project Management Adoption Challenge
- Executive Transformation: What Your Executive Team Needs to Know about PPM
- Resource Management: The Keystone to

Successful PPM

PPM Strategy Track

- Which Came First: The Project or the Portfolio?
- Achieving Your Business Objectives: Best Practices for Integrating Portfolio Management Strategies with Project Management Excellence in Execution
- Building a Strategy for Integrating Program, Project, and Knowledge Management
- Our Project Management Maturity Assessment is Complete. What Now?
- Acquiring the Best Talent for Crucial Leadership Roles

PPM Technology Track

- Documents, Portals and Dashboards: Using SharePoint Technology to Bring Order to Chaos
- Best Practices for Integrating Portfolio, Project & Knowledge Management by Leveraging the Microsoft EPM & MOSS Solutions
- Enterprise Project Management: Best Practices for Optimizing Resource Management
- Rescuing Your EPM Technology Implementation
- What's New in Microsoft Project 2010: Delivering Project Success

At Project Assistants we are THE EXPERTS in Project & Portfolio Management, devoted to effectively creating, enhancing and supporting our clients' project management infrastructures – the people, processes and technology that work together to help you reach your organizational goals.

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

