

project
assistants



Project Assistants Newsletter

August 2012

View from the Top

Using Portfolio Management to Keep Up with the Pace of Business

Our modern age—where a decade's-worth of changes may happen in a single year—is exposing the inefficient nature of structuring project selection around an annual budget cycle (or even a quarterly cycle). As the world evolves at an exponentially quicker rate, gaining an edge over competitors becomes increasingly more difficult. This makes the ability to be adaptive and nimble paramount for an organization to be able to survive, much less gain the upper hand in the marketplace.

As a result, organizations are recognizing more and more the need to be dynamic in how they bring their ideas into and out of the portfolio. Not only does portfolio management set forth an optimal plan based on the current environment, it keeps the portfolio optimal by continually re-evaluating it within the ever-changing realities of this “New Normal” Age.

To learn more about improving Portfolio Management within your organization, [contact us](#) and/or register for our upcoming webinar where we will illustrate how to optimize your portfolio.

Offering Spotlight: Portfolio Management Consulting

Though organizations generally have a formal structure to how they run projects, the process for selecting the right projects to enact in the first place is often less formalized. Since Portfolio Management involves the interaction of disparate departments and considerations for mission alignment, risk, constraints and so forth, optimizing the entire process can be extremely daunting.

This has made Project Assistants' ability to streamline all of these complexities with the business processes of an organization one of our most valuable and relevant offerings. And it's not solely about the methodology; as Project Server experts, we configure custom software and workflows so that the best technologies are aligned with your business approach.

Effectively implemented portfolio software is critical to supporting this data-intensive process. Without the technology and the appropriate processes for assessing optimal resource management, a business cannot keep up with competitors who are properly equipped to adapt to today's increased rate of change.

[Contact us](#) to learn more about Project Assistants' Portfolio Management Consulting services.

2012 Webinar Series

Topic: *Optimizing Portfolio Management: Integrating Portfolio Process with Microsoft Project Server 2010*

Date: October 2, 2012

Time: 3:00 PM EDT

[Click](#) here to register.

Project Assistants is pleased to announce that registration is now open for the third installment of our 2012 Webinar Series. On Tuesday, October 2 at 3:00 PM, Project Assistants' CEO, Gus Cicala, will address *Optimizing Portfolio Management: Integrating Portfolio Process with Microsoft Project Server 2010*.

In our last webinar, we outlined how projects are the executable initiatives that get us to the organizational mission. For the purpose of that demonstration, we emphasized the importance of doing projects right, but now we will zoom in on the other half of the equation: how do we pick the right projects in the first place?

In this webinar, Mr. Cicala will respond to this inquiry by demonstrating how to optimize the processes of portfolio management. He will also provide specific guidance on syncing technology with these processes, including a demonstration on the default workflow in Microsoft Project Server 2010.

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.

Case Study

Improved Resource Management for the Federal Government

One of Project Assistants' most notable successes this year has been improving the product development process within a government environmental research agency. We were engaged to partner with

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

- Burn the Ships: Driving Commitment to Change
- 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

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

this client to improve the processes surrounding resource management. A core issue was the challenge of having different departments keep track of where each of its resources were being used while supporting a wide range of projects.

This is a very common obstacle and a costly one as well. The Theory of Constraints holds that if all of the resources that are necessary to perform a project are not available, then the ones that are available go to waste until the conflict of constraints is resolved. As a colloquial analogy: without nails, wood planks will never be held together as a shed, and thus without nails, any investment in wood planks is wasted. During our engagement with this Agency, we successfully configured and implemented the necessary technologies and associated processes in order to enable their organization to accurately forecast their resource demands, which has served them to more consistently meet their deadlines and budgetary limits.

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.

