



## Project Assistants Newsletter

April 2008

### Tips from the Chief

#### ***Evolve or Die: How Organizations Use Project & Portfolio (PPM) Management to Adapt to Change***

Darwin's Theory of Evolution, rather than Intelligent Design, remains the widely accepted scientific theory for how organisms adapt to their environment. Darwin's theory, however, is not how businesses must adapt to an ever changing business environment. While the Theory of Evolution defines how randomness can drive change, PPM brings to the business environment the Intelligent Design required by organizations to successfully adapt to change and to thrive with that change.

According to Gus Cicala, Project Assistants' CEO and a frequent author and speaker about current PPM topics, a well-defined approach to PPM is the key to successfully adapting to change; this well-defined approach must include the following components:

- Deep understanding of Project, Program, and Portfolio Management best practices
- Phased adoption plan to move toward best practices
- A well-defined Project Portfolio – the specific initiatives required to implement the strategy (process of adaptation)
- Projects must be managed for health against universal rules (ROI)
  - Unhealthy projects do not survive
  - Successful projects lead to successful adaptation/change for the

### Solution Spotlight: PMO Productivity Portal and Tool Box

Are your project managers spending more time in meetings than actually managing their projects? Are they forced to access multiple systems and tools in order to perform their jobs?

Project Assistants' **PMO Productivity Portal and Tool Box** solution solves these and other common project management problems by providing project driven organizations a comprehensive collaboration portal for all of their project process, planning, execution and reporting needs.

As a Microsoft Gold Certified Partner and Microsoft Project Premier Partner, Project Assistants develops and deploys project, program, and portfolio management solutions using familiar tools that are quickly deployed and easily adopted. We invite you to [contact us](#) for a solution concept demonstration which showcases these and other **PMO Productivity Portal and Tool Box** capabilities:

- Personalized interface to key applications and tools required to manage projects & programs – Financial, Project Management, IT, HR, CRM
- Executive dashboard reporting across multiple systems, programs and projects
- Automated standards and methodology integration, maintenance and delivery
- Streamlined workflows for approval of work requests, deliverables, change management
- Robust document management and team collaboration capabilities

organization

To learn more about how to make these necessary changes *stick*, consider attending our next webinar – [Making It Stick: The Project Management Adoption Challenge](#).

### Offering Spotlight: Project & Portfolio Staffing Services

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

Project Assistants' core focus on Project & Portfolio Management and extensive professional network has helped build a large pool of the most talented project and portfolio management professionals available. 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.

Please [contact us](#) for more information about our Staffing Services options, which can help supplement particularly during growth periods or periods of change in your organization. And, if you have an existing need for a project and/or portfolio manager, [contact us](#) today – we can help!

### Project & Portfolio Management Webinar Series

**Topic:** Making It Stick: The Project Management Adoption Challenge

**Date:** Wednesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** 12:00 pm EDT

Project Assistants is pleased to announce registration is open for the second webinar of our 2008 Webinar Series. On May 14th at 12:00 PM EDT, Project Assistants CEO Gus Cicala will address ***Making It Stick: The Project Management Adoption Challenge***.

Driving adoption is a critical, and often underestimated, component of any project management improvement initiative; simply put, changes have to *stick* to realize the return on your investment.

During this webinar, Mr. Cicala will focus on a critical component of the Adoption Process – the necessity of creating and effectively auditing an organizational adoption/change management process. You will gain an understanding of the following:

- Key elements that define the scope of an effective change management/governance plan
- How to implement this governance plan to ensure adoption occurs

This webinar, which is offered at no cost, will last for one hour and will include time for questions and answers. Please contact us at [webinars@projectassistants.com](mailto:webinars@projectassistants.com) with any questions. Visit our [website](#) for more information about our 2008 Webinar Series.

At Project Assistants we are THE EXPERTS in Project and 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.

Founded in 1996, Project Assistants is headquartered in Wilmington, Delaware with international delivery capability. A leading Microsoft Gold Certified Partner and Microsoft Office Project Premier Partner, Project Assistants was recently recognized in Inc 500 as one of "America's Fastest Growing Private Companies." On average, each member of our consulting team has over 20 years of project management and related business experience. The team also includes a significant number of published authors of the best-selling Microsoft Project publications and other leading Project Management publications. For more information about Project Assistants, Inc., please go to [www.projectassistants.com](http://www.projectassistants.com) or call us at 1-800-642-9259.

