



### Fast Facts

**Customer:** Microsoft Corporation

**Web site:** [www.microsoft.com](http://www.microsoft.com)

**Customer size:** 63,000+ employees

**Country or region:** United States

**Industry:** High tech electronic manufacturing

**Partner:** Project Assistants

**Partner Web site:**

[www.projectassistants.com](http://www.projectassistants.com)

### Customer Profile

Based in Redmond, Washington, Microsoft Corporation is the worldwide leader in software, services, and Internet technologies for personal and business computing.

### Software and Services

- Microsoft® Office Enterprise Project Management Solution
  - Microsoft Office Professional Edition 2003
  - Microsoft Office Project Professional 2003
  - Microsoft Office Project Server 2003
  - Microsoft Office Project Web Access
- Microsoft Windows Server System™
  - Microsoft Windows Server™ 2003 Enterprise Edition

### Hardware

- Dell PowerEdge 6650 server computer
- Dell Precision Workstation 670 desktop computers



## Microsoft Gains Efficiency for Xbox 360 Launch with Project Management System

“Using the Microsoft Office EPM Solution absolutely made the Xbox 360 launch more successful. It would have been extremely difficult to deliver the product so quickly without it.”

Tim Hargraves, Release Program Manager, Home and Entertainment Division, Microsoft Corporation

### Business Needs

Microsoft undertook an aggressive schedule in order to launch the next generation of the Xbox 360™ video game and entertainment system worldwide in time for the December 2005 holidays. Because more than 90 functional groups needed to work together, the usual method of maintaining independent schedules and relying on personal networking to keep information up-to-date clearly was not going to work.

The company needed a consistent way to:

- Track project schedules.
- Establish dependencies between groups.
- Collaborate to support launch events.

### Solution

To help meet its timelines, Microsoft worked with partner Project Assistants to customize a Microsoft® Office Enterprise Project Management (EPM) Solution to coordinate nearly 100 group schedules. Components include:

- Microsoft Office Project Server 2003, which is used by managers to roll up

executive summaries and track schedules against the master plan.

- Microsoft Office Project Professional 2003, which is used by 82 schedule owners to update their project schedules.
- Microsoft Office Project Web Access, which is used by 1,100 employees to view real-time information across groups.

### Benefits

Using the EPM Solution promoted efficiencies and helped Microsoft successfully launch Xbox 360 on time:

- Cost savings—a slipped production date would have cost more than U.S.\$7 million a day
- Better business intelligence through quick identification of milestones in jeopardy and potential obstacles
- A reduction in staffing needs equivalent to three full-time employees
- Fewer and shorter meetings because teams could focus on new issues only

