

# PPM for PM: Mind Your Ps and Ms

## *How Project Portfolio Management (PPM) Tools Help Advance Careers and Minimize Stress for Project Managers (PM)*

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### *The Need*

Project Managers (PM) face challenges in providing on-time delivery of IT projects while providing transparency and governance to the organization. PMs must be able to answer line of business requests such as:

- ✓ ***Which projects are approved and why?***
- ✓ ***How will this program be staffed?***
- ✓ ***What is the current status of projects and programs across the organization?***
- ✓ ***Was this a successful project?***

Today, Project Managers face these and other challenges with a set of tools ill-suited to the changing business landscape. Many project portfolio managers struggle with manual processes that are not scalable. Some shops do planning via Excel, which is not dynamic. Often existing individual solutions are not integrated with organization-wide processes.

Project Managers have always been tasked to do more with less, but trends such as Digital Transformation (DX) dramatically increase this expectation. IT budgets only rise slightly while the composition of the IT portfolio has shifted from programs designed to maintain the infrastructure status quo to those supporting DX, cloud computing, social media, and more. More than ever, Project Managers need to ensure that the proper projects are being approved, properly managed, and provide reporting transparency and governance.

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### *The Solution*

Project Managers need to leverage the benefits of an end-to-end Project Portfolio Management (PPM) solution even if their focus is only at the project level. By utilizing the capabilities of a PPM solution, PMs can see all projects across a portfolio as well as emerging issues. PMs can take corrective action that benefits the overall portfolio and thus the organization.

A top-down view of resource utilization across projects allows the PM to proactively make adjustments and even solve multiple resource issues at once. Finally, project performance transparency can be automated and distributed to the line of business via self-service reporting tools, allowing the PM to focus on managing the projects vs. delivering status reports.

An intuitive PPM tool will provide a PM with the following important capabilities:



### *Project Approval*

Project Managers need more powerful tools to ensure that projects presented for funding are selected using methodologies that align with corporate strategies and portfolio goals.



### *Timesheet Management*

Maintain cost and expense data within a centralized solution and allows easy input via web-based templates.



### *Resource Allocation*

Top-down project status views and milestone tracking allow PMs to manage initiatives with the portfolio view in mind.



### *Top-down Reporting*

Allow all data - from project selection criteria to actual vs budgeted results - to be accessible in a variety of charts and dashboards across the enterprise.

## *The Return*

The benefits to improved PM performance include quantitative results such as:

- ✓ *improved project success rate*
- ✓ *financial return*
- ✓ *cost savings*

as well as qualitative results such as:

- ✓ *less time spent doing manual tasks*
- ✓ *improved organizational success*
- ✓ *support to formalize and develop a Project Management Office*

All these Project Portfolio Management capabilities contribute to the PM role being viewed less as a facilitation role with limited organizational value to a management role with demonstrable impact towards achieving strategic goals.

Interested in seeing Projectric in action?

Request a demo