

Microsoft Office Enterprise Project Management Solution Overview

Microsoft® Office Project Professional 2003, Microsoft® Office Project Server 2003, and Microsoft® Office Project Web Access

The Microsoft Office Enterprise Project Management (EPM) Solution is ideal for organizations that need strong coordination and standardization between projects and project managers, centralized resource management, and higher-level reporting about projects and resources.

Products and Technologies

The EPM solution consists of the following Microsoft Office Project 2003 products and technologies:

- **Microsoft Office Project Professional 2003** is the Microsoft enterprise project management program that is used with Microsoft Office Project Web Access and Microsoft Office Project Server 2003. Project Professional 2003 provides all the core scheduling tools in Microsoft Office Project Standard 2003, plus powerful portfolio and resource management capabilities when connected to Project Server 2003. Project Professional is used by project managers who need to schedule projects, assign team members from a central resource pool to project tasks, and save their information centrally to Project Server 2003 to share with others.
- **Microsoft Office Project Web Access** is the Web portal that enables people to connect to the project and resource information in Project Server. Team members, executives, and resource managers—in other words, anyone who needs access to Project Server information but does not require the scheduling capabilities of Project Professional—use Project Web Access through a Web browser to view and update information. Project Web Access users require a Project Server client access license (CAL), a Microsoft SQL Server™ CAL, and (if using Microsoft Windows® SharePoint™ Services capabilities) a Microsoft Windows Server™ 2003 CAL.
- **Microsoft Office Project Server 2003** is the platform that supports the project and resource management and collaboration capabilities in the EPM solution. Users connect to Project Server through Project Professional and Project Web Access to save, retrieve, and interact with Project Server data.

Project Server 2003 requires SQL Server 2000 as the server database for full enterprise project and resource management capabilities.

Project Server 2003 requires Microsoft Windows 2000 Server (or later) as the operating system. Project Server 2003 integrates with Windows SharePoint Services for document management and project-related issues and risk tracking. Windows SharePoint Services is a component of Windows Server 2003 that enables users to create Web sites for information sharing and document collaboration.

Benefits

The Microsoft Office EPM Solution helps organizations, departments, and teams better analyze, manage, collaborate, and administer projects.

Business Insight

Gain visibility into your work portfolio across your organization for better analysis and decision making.

- Monitor consistent business metrics through a customizable scorecard view of projects across your portfolio and drill into the details as needed.
- Evaluate and model schedules, resources, and cost data over time and across projects to identify trends and address problem areas.
- Integrate key Project Server views into your dashboard view of all your critical business information.

Work Management

Better manage your work, establish repeatable processes, and optimize resources across your organization to help reduce costs, improve quality, and shorten time to market.

- Effectively assign people to projects, and track and manage them across your organization with skill-based resource assignment tools.
- Verify that your organization has the right people and the capacity to take on future projects with resource availability graphs.
- Improve project management processes by establishing standards and best practices across your organization.

Collaboration

Enhance information sharing and coordination to empower team members to participate in projects, report progress, and collaborate on projects.

- Reduce administrative work while maintaining up-to-date, accurate status on project schedules and budgets through Web-based time reporting and Microsoft Outlook® Calendar integration.
- Improve coordination across teams through a Web portal and automated notifications for a more efficient and effective workforce.
- Centrally store, link, and share project-related information such as issues and risks for better tracking and resolution.
- Collaborate effectively with document management capabilities such as check-in/check-out and versioning through the integration of Project Server 2003 with Windows SharePoint Services.

Extensible Platform

The architecture of the Microsoft Office EPM Solution provides flexibility and enhanced security technology so you can customize the solution to align with your business processes, share data with other systems, and scale as your business needs grow.

- Compile up-to-date portfolio-related information through better integration with existing systems using industry-standard Extensible Markup Language (XML).
- Customize and integrate Project Server 2003 data through extensive API connectors, Microsoft Visual Basic® for Applications (VBA) or object model changes, and an improved Project Guide.

Administration

The Microsoft Office EPM Solution has been improved to facilitate the administration of setup and database partitioning.