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This Just In...

Projects@Work (June 10, 2009)

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Here's our June 2009 roundup of the latest technology solutions, services and training for project management professionals, including a simulation tool for requirements definition ... tracking and managing Scrum-based projects ... online project workspaces ... and more.

Abak Software

Time, billing and project management solution features new resource planning module and enhanced reporting visuals.

Abak Software has released version 7.0 of its time, billing and project management solution, including a new dashboard, electronic invoicing and enhanced reporting visuals. In addition, a new Resource Planning Module enables the scheduling of employees on multiple projects, by day and by hour.

By comparing scheduled versus actual hours spent on any given project, senior managers can determine the man-hour profitability of each project and assess the actual availability of each employee facilitating the assignment of resources based on project requirements. Other enhancements include **workflow module alerts** that notify users when a project's current status has been modified, and the option of viewing and printing reports in larger format.

Abak 7.0 now includes ASCII integration with Simply Accounting, joining other supported accounting such as ACCPAC, QuickBooks, Avantage, Fortune, 1000/Acomba and Virtuo. For more information: www.abaksoftware.com.

Borland TeamDefine

New requirements definition tool uses interactive simulation for collaboration, feedback and consensus on software projects.

Borland Software has introduced TeamDefine, a simulation tool that helps business analysts quickly translate initial software project concepts into working models through storyboards and interactive simulations, allowing team members to gain a better understanding of the features and functions before development begins. The interactive simulations "show" requirements, sparking conversations, feedback and consensus between business and development teams, while reducing rework and eliminating scope creep.

"Numerous studies conducted over the years on software project waste and failures have traced the roots to requirements," said David Wilby, senior vice president of products for Borland. "This makes requirements the greatest opportunity for improvement — a big fix here will yield exponential returns."

TeamDefine's browser-based simulation authoring environment enables team members to drag-and-drop screen elements and assemble connections to data and logic. The result is a functional simulation of the proposed application. Simulations use realistic sample data and business logic from the customer's organization, so user experiences resemble how the software will perform in real life.

TeamDefine can serve as a standalone product or with Borland CaliberRM, integrating all artifacts so that users can associate requirements to screens, data fields and process items. This enables customers to align downstream development artifacts and maintain traceability between simulations, requirements and related software assets. As part of its Open ALM strategy, Borland plans to provide integrations between TeamDefine and other leading Requirements Management solutions in future versions.

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RMC Project Management Rita Mulcahy, Founder and CEO

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June 2009:

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TeamDefine is available at \$3,000 per user with an unlimited number of free simulation reviewers. For more information: www.borland.com/us/products/teamdefine/index.html.

Daptiv Scrum

Collaboration solution's new capability provides insight into Scrum-based application development projects. Daptiv has launched an Agile solution for managing, tracking and measuring application development work. Daptiv Scrum streamlines the feedback process, providing management tools for the ScrumMaster, product owner and developer, while also giving executives and business stakeholders insight into how developers' scrum projects are mapping to the overall goals of the business.

Daptiv, itself a Scrum shop, tapped its experience with Scrum tools for developers to create Daptiv Scrum. "Initially, our developer team had implemented another Scrum solution, but after finding that it didn't adequately meet our needs, we decided to use the Daptiv platform to create a more efficient way to manage our Scrum projects," said Chris Lynch, vice president of engineering. "Before implementing Daptiv Scrum, our development work was isolated from the rest of the business, even though business was inextricably linked to that work. We feel we've really taken Scrum management to the next level by being able to tie our work back to the needs of the business and give executives a view of how our development projects are performing."

A common challenge in using Scrum or another agile methodology is that the business side can be left in the dark about the progress of Scrum teams. Because Scrum relies less on formal planning and documentation at the front end of the process than traditional or "waterfall" software development methods, the methodology actually requires more careful and explicit tracking on the back end in order to share progress with business stakeholders.

"We work with many organizations that are struggling with exactly the problems that Daptiv can help them solve," said Phillip Cave of Velocity Partners, which has partnered with Daptiv to provide **consulting services** on Lean and Agile development. "As organizations adopt Agile methods like Scrum or adapt to a blended agile execution model based on Lean principles such as Kanban, there is a need to think about the impact to the business portfolio and how to better share information with key stakeholders at all levels. Lean principles paired with Agile practices speak to creating the necessary visibility to make timely and informed decisions on the delivery of value. Giving Agile teams the tools within a robust PPM platform allows organizations to succeed in visualizing the flow and delivery of value from the Scrum team to the PMO and business."

Daptiv Scrum is available for \$35 per user per month. Current customers can Daptiv PPM and Scrum products, and the data model will reflect and report on information from both products. For more information: www.daptiv.com.

LiquidPlanner

Project portals support online stakeholder collaboration with advanced scheduling and portfolio management.

LiquidPlanner has introduced a new Project Portals feature, which enables creative agencies, consulting practices and professional service organizations to build and share an unlimited number of project plans with clients, supported by advanced project management software that includes a scheduling engine, time tracking, and portfolio management.

At no additional cost, Project Portals offers a streamlined view of the project plan broken down into basic categories like project status, task lists, comments and files; **integrated micro-blogging**; centralized file storage up to 50GB per account for all project documents and supporting materials; customization options; and a variety of advanced reporting tools that enable project teams to visually track their progress and resource usage.

"Basecamp and other collaboration tools have changed the way we work with our clients, but we often find ourselves reaching the limit of what these tools were truly intended for," said Cory Howell, SEO manager for MorePro Marketing. "LiquidPlanner brings these two disciplines together in a seamless manner that succeeds in helping us manage complex projects in a more efficient way."

For more information: www.liquidplanner.com.

Microsoft Project for Workgroups

New program offers project managers access to pre-configured or customized Office Project Service 2007 solutions.

Microsoft Corp. has launched the Project for Workgroups program in an effort to provide project managers access to pre-configured or configured-to-order Microsoft Office Project Server 2007 solutions that improve collaboration and communication within teams and increase visibility across all projects.

Project for Workgroups solutions are intended to eliminate costly consultation time spent on requirements



gathering, design and configuration, and testing and validation. Project managers can tailor their requirements into a best fit solution for their businesses, by adding tools like report templates, workflow processes and project methodologies. This approach, coupled with flexible and rapid deployment options, can generate rollouts with predictable time and costs, shortening the time to value for project teams.

"We recognize the need for solutions which provide best practices without requiring project managers to reinvent the wheel during implementation," said Doug McCutcheon, senior product manager, Microsoft. "Through our Partners, we have enabled more customers to tap into a wealth of expertise in delivering project management solutions."

For more information: www.easierwithproject.com/workgroups.

PBworks

New collaboration and project management solution offers client and team workspaces for professional services organizations.

PBworks, formerly known as PBwiki, has introduced PBworks Project Edition, which combines hosted collaboration and project management to help professional services firms collaborate with clients, share plans, gather feedback, and better coordinate efforts across all members of their project teams, including clients, employees and contractors.

PBworks Project Edition allows users to create new workspaces for every project and manage them in a single enterprise-wide environment. Team members can freely join any workspace in the Network and can add clients, partners and contractors as "guest" users on the relevant workspaces. This allows a Project Edition customer to set up a **custom workspace** for each client, or even each client project. Users can also conduct full-text searches (including within document contents) across the entire Network, as well as within a particular workspace.

"The project management tools are very easy to use and understand," said Peter Williams, CEO of Deloitte Digital. "By combining wiki collaboration, document management, and project management, Project Edition makes PBworks an even more powerful tool for projects of greater complexity."

Other customers are making PBworks Project Edition an integral part of working on client projects. "We're executing marketing programs in New York, Paris, Singapore and San Paolo simultaneously," said John Bell, managing director, 360 Digital Influence at Ogilvy. "PBworks lets us manage those projects across borders without relying on the black hole that is email."

PBworks Project Edition is available for \$20 per user per month. Guest licenses for clients and contractors are free. Existing Professional Edition customers can upgrade to Project Edition for \$2,000; Professional Plus customers can upgrade for \$1,000. PBworks Standard Edition is available for \$8/user/month. For more information: <http://pbworks.com>.

Projecturf

New online project management software provides scalable project planning for small-to-medium-sized businesses.

Projecturf has launched a scalable web-based project management tool specifically designed to help small- and medium-sized businesses cost-effectively define initiatives and projects, automate processes, and distribute data through a secure, intuitive online environment.

Projecturf features include unlimited storage; workflow with three levels of system permissions; project completion reports and Gantt charts; and permission-based file sharing.

"Projecturf's architecture was specifically designed from the SMB end-user's perspective — someone who is seeking a Microsoft Project alternative or a go-to option when migrating from complicated and expensive online project management tools," said Chuck Pearson, CEO of Projecturf. "Our goal is to liberate SMBs and freelancers from the toil of manual processes and paperwork and give them easy, instant and cost-effective control of their projects, initiatives and deliverables."

All three Projecturf plans allow unlimited users and include all features as well as a 30-day free trial. The Start-Up Plan is \$30 per month for up to 15 projects. The Business Plan is \$60 per month for up to 40 projects. The Enterprise Plan is \$160 per month for unlimited projects. For more information: www.projecturf.com.

Previous Cool Tools: ["This Just In" \(May 2009\)](#); ["Twitter Me This" \(April 2009\)](#); ["This Just In" \(March 2009\)](#) and ["Tools of Attraction" \(February 2009\)](#)

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Projecturf

Projecturf is a web-based project management and collaboration software with a unique blend of features, design, and functionality. We are first in the industry to offer unlimited storage on all paid plans with no cap on users, project managers, or features. Each Projecturf account offers complete customization, permission based document sharing, and specific sections for design and advertising agencies. The core focus of Projecturf is in the design - we have kept it simple with easy to navigate icons on the top of the application while at the same time creating a visually appealing product. Along with prompt customer service, the new feature rollouts are based on customer requests.

tool specs

Categories:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agile | <input type="checkbox"/> Issue Tracking | <input type="checkbox"/> Requirements Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Application Lifecycle Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Metrics Tracking | <input type="checkbox"/> Resource Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Budgeting and Forecasting | <input type="checkbox"/> Process Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Risk Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change Management (Version Control) | <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Services Automation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scheduling |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaboration | <input type="checkbox"/> Program Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Service Management |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Document Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Project Accounting | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Time Keeping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Enterprise Portfolio Management | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Management | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Workflow Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expense Tracking | <input type="checkbox"/> Project Portfolio Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Workforce Management |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> File Sharing | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reporting | |

Features:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Action Item Tracking | <input type="checkbox"/> Estimating | <input type="checkbox"/> Project Accounting |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval/Workflow Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Executive Dashboarding | <input type="checkbox"/> Project Estimating |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Archiving Processes | <input type="checkbox"/> Expense Tracking | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Template Customization |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archiving Templates | <input type="checkbox"/> Fault Management | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Project Template Integration |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Assignment Tracking | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> File Sharing | <input type="checkbox"/> Project Workflow |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefits Documentation and Tracking | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Gantt Charting | <input type="checkbox"/> Quality Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Best Practices Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Issue Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Records Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Billing & Chargeback Tracking | <input type="checkbox"/> Knowledge Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Reporting (Financial) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Budgeting & Forecasting | <input type="checkbox"/> Legacy System Integration | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reporting (Progress) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change/Version Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Methodology/Process Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Requirements Management |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Collaboration | <input type="checkbox"/> Metrics Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Resource Management |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Custom User Interface | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Milestone Tracking | <input type="checkbox"/> Risk Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Customizable Fields | <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Access | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scheduling |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customizable Functionality | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Currency | <input type="checkbox"/> Software Development Kit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Customizable Reporting | <input type="checkbox"/> Multi-Language | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Task Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Data Import/Export to MS Excel | <input type="checkbox"/> Percent-Complete Tracking | <input type="checkbox"/> Template Customization Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Data Import/Export to MS Project | <input type="checkbox"/> Pert Charting | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Time Tracking |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Document Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Portfolio Management | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Total Cost Tracking |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Email Integration | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Progress Tracking | <input type="checkbox"/> Workforce Management |

Platforms:

- | | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Linux/Unix | <input type="checkbox"/> Open Source | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Software as a Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mac | <input type="checkbox"/> Other | <input type="checkbox"/> Windows |

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Survey Says

June 2009:

Which part of a project is most challenging to you?



The **business** needs apples.

IT delivers oranges.

Bad outcome

