# 10 Multi-team Collaboration Hacks Every Project Manager Needs to Know

*Lately, one of the most challenging tasks that project managers struggle with is collaborating with multiple teams in a project or multiple projects. So, here we are with our 10 researched and analysed ways to incorporate multi-team collaboration tactfully in any project. This article includes:*

- *A brief on multi-team collaboration in project management*
- *Challenges in collaborating multiple teams*
- *Struggles Project Managers face in collaborating with multiple teams*
- *10 actionable hacks for multi-team collaboration*
- *Additional tips for project manager in including multi-team collaboration*
- *Ways to increase productivity for a project manager while collaborating with various teams*

Every so often, a mistake project managers make is that they take almost all the control on their shoulders and fail to deliver the desired outcome despite the wonderful planning. Actually, project management has never been about individual work, even at the very beginning of its existence. However, project management is all about the best collaboration of skilled teams to produce unique outcomes for projects in the current world.

With all the digital process inclusion and more flexible work division, team collaboration becomes critical yet crucial. Hence, the project manager's triumph lies in bringing all the teams together, like composing symphonies like Mozart and creating a magical orchestra as a result! And this is to help you compose your mind-blowing symphonies in project management.

## Modern-day project management and multi-team collaboration

Previously, project management was all about a continuous process of planning and controlling a particular project to reach a definite outcome. Then, what changes have appeared in modern project management?

Mainly, massive changes have occurred chiefly in technological approaches, flexibility, specialization, and other aspects of project management. Additionally, taking greater risks in achieving competitive advantage, team and skill collaboration, networking beyond resources are moves that will take project managers ahead to efficient yet unique outcomes.

Multi-team collaboration is made to incorporate people with various skills and essential experiences, but here, instead of individuals, different, unified teams collaborate. What difference does it make? Multi-team collaboration makes it easy for the in-charge to deliver and share. It reduces exchange gaps within different independent teams while working towards the same goal.

Nonetheless, this collaboration, if not done in an organized manner, can be a nightmare for the project manager. Even in this fast paced world with all the technologies within the reach, it is quite difficult for the project manager to keep track of everything.

## Why does multi-team collaboration fail at times?

Bringing multiple teams together for collaboration will not magically provide stunning outcomes. That is why knowing the mistakes before going for the hacks will give a better understanding. But, there's another side of it. The Standish Group's annual report *Chaos Manifesto* identified that 33% of projects fail because of the lack of participation from the entire project team.

Despite all the things we discussed above, why does multi-team collaboration fail?

Some of the simple yet ruining reasons are,

- No clear picture of collaboration from management can hinder the process of collaboration. In fact, this is exactly why project managers need to master the art of managing collaboration.
- Overuse of tools and ineffective human interaction can spoil the entire purpose of collaboration.
- There is a term *'collaborative burnout'* which many collaborative settings suffer from. It means spending too much time on communication, adapting collaboration itself that thoughtful decisions, planning, and quality work fall behind.

## Struggles Project Managers Face while Collaborating with Multiple Teams

Different teams from different organizations are usually part of a project. Hence, it becomes a hefty job for the project manager to handle every aspect, along with multiple teams. Let's explain this further with a story.

Mr. X, a project manager successful project completion records for couple of years, has 10 different projects in hand right now. His company paired up with construction companies for building new manufacturing sites, NGOs for social businesses and software companies for IT ventures. While Mr. X is dexterous in handling projects, all the communication and file sharing happening in various platforms perplexes him every now and then.

NGOs are using WhatsApp for communication; they even send files there. On the other hand, construction companies use Google Drive for their project updates and Messenger for communications. The tech companies didn't fail to surprise him by introducing complex and rather technical management platforms.

With all of this going on, Mr. X is feeling like he is losing all his productivity and his team's work pace slowed down. At this point, he feels like being a super human and doing everything all alone would have been far better. Then, what has gone wrong?

## 10 ultimate hacks for successful multi-team collaboration in project management

To make sure that the above struggle story doesn't become true for you, let us get down to the 10 most useful multi-team collaboration hacks in recent project management trends. With our research-backed steps, we can tell that you will not mess up collaboration in your project anymore:

1. **Set clear objectives and distinct role for everyone**
   When you are set with a couple of teams and a project to handle, you might think that you should probably start with a meeting to include new ideas and see what others say. But no, because this will cost you a lot of time and invite lethargy and uncertainty. The

best move here as a project manager would be to write down objectives, areas of concentration, and potential roles for everyone in the team.

Keeping all the project objectives with all the teams within them in subset in one platform is the best idea to avoid losing track. NGOs like BRAC, Grameen or CARE deal a lot of projects simultaneously, project managers there would be in dire need of this.

2. **Create a master timeline and budget chart**

Set the project's requirements to everyone once your project design is done and collect the data on how much time and money each team will require to accomplish their tasks. Utilize wherever possible through shared work and collaboration. Finally, create a standard timeline and budget clarifying everything of every team, which leaves no room for argument.

Wouldn't it be great if you can integrate all this with your project management platform? Good news is, a software called **Onethread** which is compatible with all the most used software can give you that advantage.

3. **Use a single digital platform to monitor work progress and communication**

Along with the master timeline and budget, you should keep all the progress reports, team functions, task details recorded in a single software like [Basecamp](#), [ProofHub](#), or [Asana](#). This ensures clear communication within all the teams.

However, oftentimes high end project management tools cause trouble as they require a level of skill. Instead, you can use an easy to use interface like **Onethread** that can be used by anyone and includes everything from keeping note to communicating.

4. **Assign the right task to the right people, keep everyone informed**

The project manager's winning strategy is in placing the right people in the right tasks. So, in project management, you should not go for the most experienced or highly skilled people. Instead, go for people who are capable of producing the right outcome. Keep everyone updated about every small and big mistake or accomplishment. This will keep them motivated and give them a reason to hustle.

Do not forget to monitor everyone constantly. And to make this possible, make sure you are using a platform that brings everyone in front of your eyes and informs you about their progresses.

5. **Use the right technologies for your projects**

This brings us to the most accurate answer to the struggle of Mr. X. As we have a lot of technologies around us, sometimes we fall for using a lot of technologies for our work. And instead of making our work easy, we make it difficult.

Another issue is getting too much attached to social platforms like WhatsApp and use them for work, when these apps cannot provide full professional services.

That is why, the biggest hack we suggest would be to use a platform like Onethread and bring everything you're handling in a single thread.

With Onethread, say for example you have a project collaborated with Robi and BRAC. If you use **Onethread**, you can bring all the tasks, goals, progress here, filter and read designated mails through it, see what every single person is doing in one screen and even connect other software with this!

6. **Limit meetings, welcome idea submissions**

When you have multiple teams, meetings are not the best ways to ensure successful collaboration. Instead, pick two or three other leading individuals and assign idea

submissions from relevant members of different teams for their functions. This will save you hours of negotiation during a meeting and the added effort of matching everyone's schedule.

However, when important meetings are held, make sure you have that recorded and kept in your platform.

7. **Set a clear direction in using technology**

   Technology can be troublesome for progress if not handled with care. Using too much technology or being technology averse both are equally harmful. To avoid disastrous outcomes, provide all the teams with a guideline of using software and tools when needed. And if you can use an absolutely user friendly platform like Onethread, your headache here will be reduced to half. You can even keep the guidelines for using heavy or technical machinery within **Onethread** for everyone to see.

8. **Let the team leaders have control and accountability**

   When you collaborate with multiple teams for a project, it is better to assign someone to lead and represent their team because they are likely to perform similar tasks. The given people will make sure there is no lacking on their side because they would not tamper their reputation among other teams, and on the plus side, the project manager is relieved.

9. **Test and identify problems within the collaboration**

   Multi-team collaboration is meant to be the strength of a project. With all the efficient people, you can take risks for testing new methods. So, it is advised to bring new processes in work, test and identify their problems and finally improvise the entire project management.

10. **Ensure proper feedback and reward**

    Completion of a successful project demands rightful rewards to all the contributors. Make sure the reward and feedback are objective and leaves no room for question. Keep sessions within the project for inter-team appraisals where teams appreciate each other. These are crucial to future success and progress.

## Tips for Project Manager to increase productivity while managing cross-team collaboration

Upon following the above steps, you should be able to handle multi-team collaboration confidently. But let's be honest, multiple projects and multiple teams within them can take away the project manager's sanity. So, here are some quick tips for the project manager to increase productivity and handle things better:

- Keep templates for every essential and repetitive thing like email, letters, reports, and data chart
- It is wise not to use social media platforms to keep track of projects. Platforms like WhatsApp, Facebook can drive you nuts in terms of projects!
- Promote the usage of your all-in-one platform (i.e., Onethread!) to your collaborators from your company or other organizations
- Avoid taking everything on your shoulder; this only slows down the entire process and makes everyone else dependent
- Keep room for social interaction to boost productivity
- Choose a platform that allows to connect your emails (P.S: Onethread connects to emails)

- Learn to cancel out things that are not necessary
- Always keep progress data and summary ready for both internal and external stakeholders
- Ensure spread of knowledge and encouraging culture across all the teams

## Ready for the Field!

Multi-team collaboration requires some extra effort, and it is alright if you are nervous at first when you face it. But, with adept management and leading, you will receive abundant rewards of multi-team collaboration in your project outcomes. Even, Mr. X got his solution to his struggle of managing multiple projects and teams. Not to mention, the smart use of technologies like **Onethread** in making projects run smoothly. So, take a leap and get started with your research and planning, and you will be fit to play in the field with all your players!