MANAGING CAPITAL PROJECTS LIKE A VIP: YOUR UPGRADED VIEW FROM 10,000 FEET

BY AJ WATERS

It's been said that an owner typically has a 10,000-foot view of their capital projects, seeing things only at a high level with minimal, if any, detail. More often than not, this is not by choice but rather a byproduct of simply doing things the way they've always been done. But is this the best view? And more importantly, is it the only alternative?

With advancements in today's cloud-based capital project software, the view from above has greatly improved. From being upgraded to "first class" as a key stakeholder to reducing "travel time" with increased data speeds, cloud technology has greatly sharpened the owner's view of the entire project life cycle. Let's take a look at how these upgrades can improve capital project delivery.

PART OF THE CLUB

Traditionally, owners have struggled with limited visibility on their capital projects, only seeing what their contractors make available to them. With the potential of always-on, cloud-based software, however, owners can now become true project stakeholders. No longer burdened by disparate systems and labor-intensive paper processes, the cloud keeps things clean and up to date, giving owners a first-class membership in their own project club, valid anytime, anywhere.

A BETTER VIEW

With an upgrade to first class, why not throw in a window seat? Now owners are no longer left straining to see the finer details of their projects over others' shoulders. With data itemized right down to line-by-line costs, complete with forecasting and gain/loss, owners are now able to quickly understand exactly where they are on a project. Advancements in dashboarding and analytics give an even clearer picture of where the project is going, allowing for proactive adjustments to keep things on track.

A FASTER MODE OF TRAVEL

Conventional project management software lived on-premise, forcing owners to settle for being weeks or even months behind their contractors. Like trying to hand-crank a propeller, data often flowed in fits and starts – if it flowed at all. But

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thanks to the progress of cloud computing, owners can now fire up the jets for their project data, experiencing near-instant, smoother communication between integrated systems, all through a secure cloud database.

TAKING THE CONTROLS

What if an owner needs to add information to a project or pause it to gain a particular piece of clarity for their team? Quantities, work packages and procurement status can now be unpacked via a single source of truth, regardless of project phase. By revealing more detail when needed, owners can now see potential changes from a clearer and more workable perspective, resulting in smarter project handling.

AUTOMATIC PILOT AT YOUR SERVICE

With a keener, more reliable view of their project, owners may reach a point where they're ready to hand back project control to their contractors. With the portability of cloud-based solutions, they can do this easily, swapping control back and forth at will, viewing project details only when and where they need to. This allows for more convenient, accurate and timely on-the-fly project adjustments.

With today's advanced cloud-based capital project software, the view from 10,000 feet has become sharper than ever before, providing a new level of on-time performance for owners and contractors alike throughout the project life cycle. From integrated systems that provide secure access to every captured detail, to real-time data and analytics at their fingertips, owners can now stay on top of any and all issues their contractors may be facing, yielding better, more predictable project outcomes for all.

For more information on today's most advanced capital project management solutions, visit InEight.com.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

AJ Waters serves as Director of Industry Solutions for InEight, working with a team of engineers to develop solutions and products that increase customer profitability and agility while solving their toughest challenges. Prior to InEight, AJ led the Center of Excellence team for the Kiewit Technology Group, acting as point person for the training and adoption of new software solutions. He also served as Program Manager for Project Management Tools at Google, spearheading the digital transformation of Google's global data center construction system. AJ holds a master's degree in structural engineering from the University of Nebraska and a bachelor's degree in mathematics and physics from Doane University.

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