

USING THE CLOUD TO DRIVE PERFORMANCE: ENTERPRISE PROJECT MANAGEMENT ENGAGEMENT



By Dr. Jim Hill

At OPS, we've been developing cloud-based performance support systems for years. A question we're often asked is, "What are the core elements of an effective project management system?"

We recognize that many organizations spend millions of employee hours and millions of dollars on project management training. We also know that many organizations are substituting project management processes with chat-based platforms that provide little in the way of structure.

So, they are sometimes disappointed, and mostly relieved, when our answer is (a) short and (b) reaffirms a comfortably structured approach.

5 Core Elements to Project Management

We tell our audiences that they need just five elements to ensure organizational success:

1. An Outcome
2. A Team
3. A Schedule
4. A Way to See Progress or Status
5. A Way to Integrate Across Projects, Programs and Departments

That's it.

Beyond the core elements, they can add all types of details depending on the sophistication of the team, the complexity of the task, or the criticality of the outcome. Examples include:

- Strategic Alignment
- Relative Project Priority
- Primary and Supporting Organizations
- Sponsor, Stakeholder, Organizational Readiness
- Impact Projections (e.g., Community, Economic, Security, Political)
- Scope
- Constraints
- Facts/Assumptions
- Risk Analysis and Mitigation Planning
- Budget Development and Management
- Document Management
- Team Messaging and Collaboration
- Corporate Scorecard
- Updates and Progress Reviews

But, for most organizations and most projects, simple will work just fine.

An OPS Case Study

One OPS client had 10 regional offices, 68 field offices, and more than 5,000 employees. They were getting considerable negative exposure for their lack of accountability and were looking for a way to improve on their ability to track, measure, report on and integrate thousands of projects.

They had tried popular project management systems, localized spreadsheets and extensive—and ineffective—training programs.

Via OPS, they automated and integrated project management across the enterprise using the cloud.

Results?

Over a four-year period, more than 10 percent of the organization used the OPS Project Management Platform to accomplish over 35,000 projects. Project teams ranged in size from two to 18. The client

has also used their system to store nearly 4,000 project related documents—everything in one place for easy access.

For data scientists and analysts, the client project teams have created millions of data points that have been used to research various operational issues. And, beyond simple management, the organization has produced wide acceptance of a common method for planning, execution and reporting.

Want to take a look at OPS for Project Management?

If you are looking for ways to make project management more relevant for your team and more effective for your organization, let us know. We'll be happy to give you a tour of the system.

About the Author



*Dr. Jim Hill, EdD, is the founder and CEO of Organizational Performance Systems, based in the Silicon Valley. He is also a past president of the International Society for Performance Improvement. He is the author of many articles and book chapters, including his 2013 book, *Giving Away Power*. In 2017, he was one of two private sector executives to testify before the U.S. Congressional Committee on Evidence-based Policymaking. Dr. Hill is a graduate of The Ohio State University and received his doctorate from the University of Southern California. He can be reached at jim.hill@ops1.com.*

